

International Mechanisms for the Protection of Children’s Rights in Armed Conflict

Svitlana Khodak¹, Natalia Khmelevska², Oleksii Tymchuk³,
Iryna Turchyn-Kukarina⁴ & Olena Skrylnyk⁵

Abstract

The relevance of the work is determined by the need to improve the protection of children’s rights as the most vulnerable category of the population during the military conflict. The study aims to analyse the existing international mechanisms for the protection of children’s rights during the armed conflict and their effectiveness using the case of Ukraine. The work employed a doctrinal approach, the method of comparative law, a statistical method, and a content analysis. The research established that at the international level, there is an extensive system of legal documents and relationships between countries and international organisations aimed at protecting children’s rights during military conflict, but this system cannot provide the expected results. Using the case of Ukraine, it was proved that children’s rights are regularly violated in the war with Russia: 512 children were killed, and 1,158 were injured as of December 14, 2023. In Ukraine, numerous measures are taken to protect the children’s rights during the armed conflict. International cooperation plays an important role, but protective mechanisms still need significant improvement. The research results are useful in improving government measures related to protecting children’s rights in armed conflict.

Keywords: protection of children’s rights, armed conflict, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Geneva Conventions, war in Ukraine

¹ The author is a Candidate of Law Science, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Law and Public Administration, Faculty of Social and Applied Sciences, King Danylo University, Ukraine. She can be reached at the email svitlanakhodak86@gmail.com

² The author is a PhD in Law, Associate Professor of the Department of Criminal Law and Procedure, Leonid Yuzkov Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law, Ukraine. She can be reached at the email stamp.ua@gmail.co

³ The author is a Candidate of Sciences in Law, Associate Professor of the Department of Criminal, Civil and International Law, National University “Zaporizhzhia Polytechnic”, Ukraine. He can be reached at the email ljiosa2010@gmail.com

⁴ The author is a Candidate of Law Sciences, Lecturer of the Department of Social Work and Management of Socio-Cultural Activities, Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatiuk National Pedagogical University, Ukraine. She can be reached at the email kivik@gmail.com

⁵ The author is a Candidate of Juridical Sciences, Associate Professor of the Department of Public Administration and Law, Educational and Research Institute of Finance, Economy, Management and Law, National University “Yuri Kondratyuk Poltava Polytechnic”, Ukraine. She can be reached at the email elenaskrylnyk@gmail.com

Introduction

During armed conflicts, children are the most vulnerable category of persons and, accordingly, need the highest degree of protection. Modern international mechanisms for the protection of children's rights (CR) in the context of a military conflict have been developing for over a century — from the establishment of the International Save the Children Union in 1923, which became the first organisation to focus on the problem (Borland & Schencking, 2020). In 2024, it has been 35 years since the signing of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a universal document on the provision of such rights by signatory states (Simon et al., 2020). To date, the mechanisms for protecting CR in military conflicts constitute a complex system of conventions, resolutions, declarations, relations between states, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and other actors (Bramwell, 2021). However, as evidenced by global practice, the CR during armed conflicts continue to be violated, and the problem is gaining scale. The consequences can be direct physical harm, deep psychological and emotional trauma, inability to fully develop and adapt in society (Shenoda et al., 2018; Garry & Checchi, 2020; Singh et al., 2021).

The case of Ukraine, which has been resisting Russian aggression for two years, testifies to numerous violations of all fundamental children's rights by the occupiers (Deputy et al., 2022). International cooperation and the activities of international organisations cooperating with the Ukrainian government and the community have contributed to certain positive developments in solving the problem, but this is not enough (Calam et al., 2022; Khen, 2023). Current mechanisms for protecting and restoring CR in armed conflict require further improvement. At the same time, Ukrainian practice can already provide several positive lessons for countries seeking to improve approaches to ensuring CR in armed conflict. Existing achievements can become a background for further steps for Ukraine and as an example for other states.

The aim of the work is to analyse existing international mechanisms for the protection of CR in armed conflict and their effectiveness using the case of Ukraine.

Research objectives:

- Identify the existing international mechanisms for the protection of CR in armed conflict;
- Describe the current state of the situation regarding the violation of CR in armed conflict in Ukraine;
- Study the Ukrainian practice regarding the protection of CR in armed conflict.

Methodology

Research Design

In the first stage of the research, international mechanisms for protecting CR in armed conflict are described. First of all, the historical development of such mechanisms is revealed at this stage, noting important milestones, particularly the adoption of several international documents related to the protection of CR in armed conflict. In addition, the importance of the activities of international non-governmental organisations and the application of the norms of customary international humanitarian law was noted at this stage.

The second stage involves the study of the current situation regarding the violation of CR, which developed in Ukraine after the beginning of armed aggression in the east of Ukraine in 2014, and later —after the full-scale invasion of Russia into its territory. The scale and forms of violation of CR in Ukraine by Russia are described at this stage. In particular, the number of dead and injured children in the regions of Ukraine, with the highest number of injured children as of the morning of December 14, 2023, as well as the number of children who became victims of the Russian-Ukrainian war as a whole, was indicated.

The third stage provided for outlining the steps taken by the government of Ukraine regarding the protection of CR in the context of armed conflict. In addition, the participation of non-governmental organisations, and communities and the influence of various initiatives on the state of the studied issue are described. Legislative documents containing provisions on children's protection in armed conflict are noted, and innovations in the legislative framework are also outlined.

Sample

The sample for the study consists of documents containing the norms of international law regarding the protection of CR in armed conflict. The choice of Ukraine for the study is connected to the fact that the country has an acute problem of violation of CR in the armed conflict caused by Russia's military aggression. Accordingly, the study used legislative documents of Ukraine containing provisions on the protection of children in the armed conflict.

Methods

The doctrinal approach was the main research method. This method was used to explain the main provisions of the studied regulatory documents. Using the comparative method made it possible to compare individual provisions of the regulatory documents with each other, identify differences, and reveal the aspects that improved over time. The statistical method was used to provide a visual

description of the scale of the violation of CR in armed conflict in Ukraine. Content analysis was used to analyse the content of the sources used in the research, including regulatory documents, academic articles, reports, and news.

Literature Review

Many researchers deal with the problem of ensuring the CR in armed conflict. This topic became especially relevant with the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, which led to massive violations of CR by the occupiers.

Chernobuk (2023) defines military actions in Ukraine as one of the most difficult conflicts today, considering the qualification of the conflict and its grave consequences. The researcher notes that the tactics of military action by the aggressor country involve eliminating the opponent's economic potential. As a result, the civilian population, in particular, children, as its most vulnerable category, suffer significant losses. Shatilo and Musiienko (2023) consider CR under martial law divided into three levels: CR in a broad sense as human rights as a whole, CR in a narrow sense determined by age, as well as CR under martial law (the right to refugee status, protection and prohibition of involvement in hostilities, prohibition of deportation, etc.). Studying the state of ensuring CR in the context of the armed conflict in Ukraine, Dzhuhan (2022) notes that war is a factor that significantly weakens the mechanisms for protecting CR. Despite the norms of international humanitarian law, the CR in Ukraine continues to be violated. Bila (2023) holds the same opinion, noting that Russia is acting contrary to its signed international conventions. The researcher emphasises violating children's basic rights, such as the right to life, health, family and community, development, and protection. Lehka (2023) concludes that despite the constant development of the international legal framework regarding the protection of CR, legal norms regarding the protection of such rights in Ukraine are not sufficiently developed, and their number is very limited.

Pereira et al. (2022) study the impact of Ukraine's conflict on achieving sustainable development goals, noting the consequences for Ukrainian children. In addition to the most tragic consequences of crimes, such as murder, sexual violence, and injury to children, researchers note the devastating consequences for the education of the entire future generation.

Hashimova (2022) examines the problems of ensuring the protection of CR in armed conflict using the case of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The researcher notes the importance of international organisational mechanisms in this area.

Analysing the individual studies, it can be noted that the mechanisms for protecting CR in the context of military operations may differ depending on the country. Al-Saadoon et al. (2021) note that in Oman, certain challenges exist to

effectively implement child protection legislation, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Such challenges are determined by international best practices developed within individualistic societies, so they are likely to be adapted accordingly in collectivist societies.

Akbariavaz and Tehrani (2020) explore children's educational rights in armed conflict. As in several other works, the researchers emphasise that modern armed conflicts are often deliberately directed against civilians, especially children. These conflicts hinder the development of children by affecting the educational process, in particular in such countries as Nigeria, Turkey, South Sudan, Yemen, Congo, Palestine, Egypt, the Philippines, and Syria.

Asokan (2021) noted that armed conflicts traumatise children physically, mentally, and emotionally. The number of child victims of armed conflicts is constantly increasing, and this is not hindered by international and national efforts to protect CR.

Seatzu (2021) notes the establishment of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) in 2005 as an important step in combating violence against children in armed conflict. The MRM aims to identify the actual number and forms of violence against children related to armed conflicts. At the same time, fifteen years since the creation of the MRM, the expected benefits of reducing such heinous forms of violence remain unattainable.

The conducted literature review gives grounds to state that the researchers mostly agree that modern mechanisms for ensuring CR in armed conflict are imperfect and ineffective. At the same time, there are opportunities to improve such mechanisms using the experience of war-torn countries. The study proposes to consider the practice of ensuring CR using the example of Ukraine, where one of the most extensive armed conflicts in terms of its consequences is taking place.

Thus, the main research questions are:

What are the mechanisms of protection of CR in the conditions of military conflict, and are these mechanisms effective in modern conditions?

What is the state of compliance with CR in the conditions of the military conflict in Ukraine, what measures are being applied, and what can be improved?

Results

International mechanisms for the protection of CR in armed conflict

Fundamental human rights include the right to a decent standard of living, a proper social and legal system, protection against the state's illegal actions, and others guaranteed by national and international legal norms. A special place in the human rights protection system is occupied by mechanisms for protecting CR,

which require special conditions to ensure their development and proper living conditions.

The main sources of international law for ensuring CR in armed conflicts include declarations, conventions, and treaties of the United Nations (UN). There are also sources at the regional level, humanitarian and customary international law provisions, and some special purpose documents.

The International Save the Children Union was one of the first organisations to focus on ensuring the CR in armed conflict. The organisation adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1923), approved by the fifth session of the League of Nations next year.

The four Geneva Conventions of 1949 played an important role in improving the protection of CR in armed conflict. The role of the IV Convention in protecting the civilian population during war is worth noting. It is intended to ensure both general and special protection of children in occupied and unoccupied territories. Besides, the document contains provisions for children separated from their families or orphaned before age fifteen (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2023b).

An important milestone in developing mechanisms to protect CR was the adoption of the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict (United Nations, 1974). According to this document, states must do everything possible to protect women and children as the most vulnerable categories of the population from the devastating effects of war. These efforts should include taking all necessary measures to prohibit harassment, punitive measures, torture, violence, and degrading treatment (United Nations, 1974).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted in 1989 is one of the key documents related to the protection of children in armed conflict. Article 38 of this document refers to the obligations of states to take all possible measures to protect children suffered from armed conflicts, as well as ensuring that persons younger than 15 years do not participate in armed conflicts. Article 39 deals with the obligations of States to facilitate the rehabilitation and social integration of children suffering from armed conflict (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2023a). The Optional Protocol to the Convention (2000) contains rules on preventing direct participation in a military conflict of persons under the age of 18.

In addition to the outlined documents, the importance of the norms of customary international humanitarian law, numerous resolutions of the UN Security Council, and the activities of international non-governmental organisations (for example, UNICEF) are worth noting. The effectiveness of the modern mechanism for the protection of CR in the context of armed conflicts can

be assessed by studying its impact on one of the most large-scale and destructive conflicts — the full-scale invasion of Russia of the territory of Ukraine.

The state of the problem of violation of CR in wartime in Ukraine

UNICEF estimated the number of children who had to leave their homes because of conflicts and other crises as of the end of 2021. This number was about thirty-six and a half million people, the highest figure since World War II. The indicated data do not include Ukrainian children who were re-displaced in 2022 (Sorokopud, 2022).

According to official information, 1,670 children were injured in Ukraine as a result of the war started by Russia as of the morning of December 14: 1,158 of them received injuries of various degrees of severity, 512 died (Bohdanyok, 2023) (Figure 1).

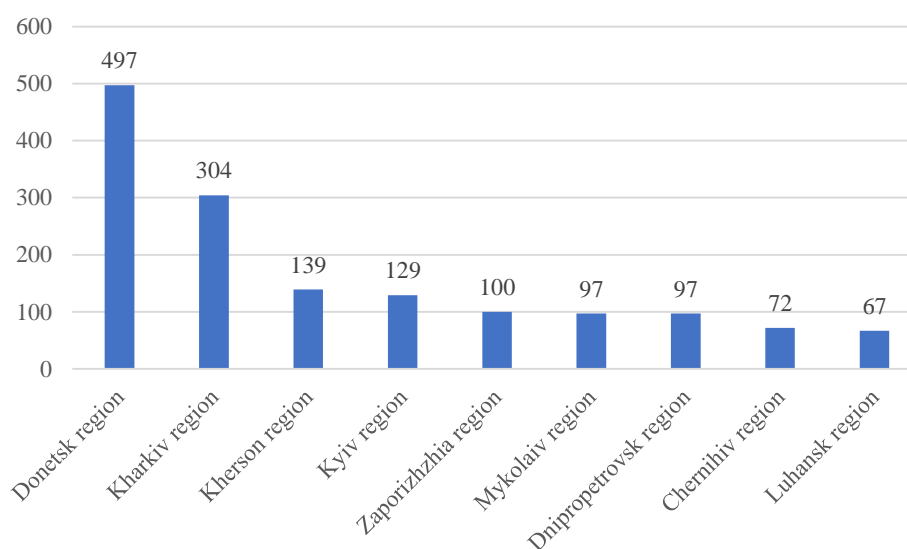


Figure 1. The number of dead and injured children by regions of Ukraine with the highest number of injured children as of the morning of December 14, 2023 (built by the author according to (Bohdanyok, 2023))

The CR in armed conflict in Ukraine continue to be violated, which is evidenced by the given data. Besides, the figure shows only children who have suffered direct physical harm, without taking into account psychological injuries and violations of other rights (access to comprehensive education, forced resettlement, etc). In particular, the number of children deported by Russia is

worth noting, which is over 234,000 since the beginning of Russia's aggression in eastern Ukraine in 2014. For the illegal abduction of children from Crimea, Russia was excluded from the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children, but apparently, this did not have the necessary impact. Moreover, the aggressor state accelerated the process of adoption of Ukrainian children, most of whom have parents (Lehka, 2023). Despite appeals by human rights commissioners to the UN Committee and other international bodies, only about 400 children out of the total number managed to be returned to Ukraine as of October 18, 2023 (Slovo i Dilo, 2023).

There is a lot of evidence of Russia's systematic violation of the norms of the Geneva Conventions and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The main violations include the use of prohibited means and methods of waging war, in particular, concerning children; denial of access to humanitarian aid; abduction and illegal taking out of children; recruitment and use of children; murders and mutilations; rape and other forms of sexual violence; attacks on educational institutions and persons associated with them; preventing the evacuation of children from the combat zone; violation of the right to physical and mental recovery, etc. (Dzhuhan, 2022).

Mechanisms for ensuring CR in wartime: the experience of Ukraine

Ukrainian legislation enshrines human rights, in particular, CR, in such documents as the Constitution of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2020), the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of Childhood" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2023c), and others. Before the full-scale invasion, no single central body would coordinate efforts in the system of state authorities regulating issues related to the protection of CR. However, after the start of the war, the special Coordination Headquarters was established (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2023d). Its powers include coordinating executive authorities in matters of evacuation, creating safe conditions for children, ensuring the rights of orphans and children deprived of parental care, including those with disabilities, and a number of other tasks. Issues related to deportation and forced transfer of children belong to the competencies of the Council for Life and Safety of Children in Wartime and Post-war Times. The Children of War platform was also created with the aim of finding and rescuing children from places of deportation or forced displacement.

At the end of March 2022, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine amended some regulatory legal acts regarding the protection of children under martial law (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2022). Such changes concern the temporary placement of children in family-type children's homes, temporary placement in foster families, temporary placement in other 24-hour facilities, and simplifying

the procedure for taking into custody. Among the individual measures, it is possible to note the creation of The Child Is Not Alone Chatbot, which allows sending applications from Ukrainian families willing to adopt children who have become victims of military operations.

Other measures include evacuation from dangerous areas, the delivery of humanitarian aid, and the construction of protective facilities. An important area is recording all offences against children and keeping records of internally displaced persons.

Active educational activities are also important. Social services organise special meetings where training is held for adoptive parents. It is also necessary to note the work of volunteers who deliver children who have lost parental care to safe places, as well as collect funds and humanitarian aid for families affected by hostilities.

The conducted review shows that the rights of children in armed conflict continue to be violated, considering the case of Ukraine. Moreover, occupiers can use it as a weapon of manipulation. Despite the efforts and individual successes in the fight for CR, the problem requires further effective steps are needed from the Ukrainian government and the international community because the protection of children is the primary task of humanity.

The main recommendations for improving the situation include:

- update of the international legal framework in the field of protection of CR in the conditions of military conflicts, taking into account the specifics of hybrid war;
- harmonisation of national legislation with international norms;
- introduction of a special body whose competence will include the protection of CR, in particular in war conditions;
- strengthening of cooperation and international participation in the protection of CR in the conditions of war in Ukraine regarding the documentation of violations and prosecution.

Discussion

The research gives grounds to conclude that modern mechanisms for protecting children in armed conflict are imperfect. CR is violated, as evidenced by the example of Ukraine. The majority of Ukrainian researchers emphasise the problems and obstacles that prevent the violation of CR during the war in Ukraine and bring the aggressor country to justice for crimes. Dzhuhan (2022) emphasises that Russia's crimes against Ukrainian children are international and do not have a statute of limitations. At the same time, it is difficult to implement mechanisms to protect CR because the aggressor country does not fulfill its obligations stipulated

in international norms. Bila (2023) also notes that it is currently impossible to prosecute Russian servicemen and commanders who have committed crimes against children. This should not, however, stop the development of the mechanism for the protection of CR in wartime — violations should be recorded, and CR should be restored and protected through the involvement of both national and international institutions. Lehka (2023) emphasises the insufficiency of legal norms regarding the protection of CR in armed conflict in Ukraine, the imperfect law enforcement practised and the low responsiveness. The researcher proposed creating a government body to protect children's rights during military operations and in peacetime — the Office of the Children's Ombudsman.

Furthermore, urgent harmonisation of Ukrainian legislation with international legislation is necessary. Shatilo and Musiienko (2023) note that the Ukrainian legislative framework generally corresponds to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, there is a need to improve some issues regarding the physical and psychological recovery and social integration of children who became a victim of an armed conflict. Chernobuk (2023) points to the need for international cooperation in matters of protecting the CR in wartime in Ukraine, in particular, not only under international treaties and international governmental organisations but also including non-governmental movements and organisations, such as Amnesty International, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, etc. Thus, the need for cooperation at all levels is emphasised in the works of other researchers and in the author's research.

Pereira et al. (2022) take into account both the physical consequences of the conflict in Ukraine for children (murder, violence, injuries), and potential psychological disorders, as well as catastrophic damage to the field of education. The researchers note that 48 schools were destroyed in Kharkiv alone (as of 2022), and pupils and students are forced to receive their education online. At the same time, educational losses continue to grow, and according to UNICEF, "the conflict in Ukraine is destroying an entire generation of children." Akbariavaz and Tehrani (2020) emphasised that ensuring the educational rights of children in military conflict requires specialised international conventions, supervisory bodies and educational obligations. In this context, the work of Ukrainian educational institutions and personnel is worth noting. Even in such difficult conditions, they continue to provide education — at least online. Therefore, the transition to online education in certain regions of Ukraine can be considered one of the mechanisms for ensuring CR in armed conflict.

Studying the problems of ensuring the protection of CR in armed conflict using the example of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Hashimova (2022) concludes

with the need to improve international control. Activities related to the implementation of appropriate domestic measures are also important. Such conclusions are also relevant for Ukraine, as was established in the author's research.

Al-Saadoon et al. (2021) explore aspects of child rights enforcement using the case of Oman. The researcher found that making law changes to improve CR protection can be simple. At the same time, implementing certain provisions in practice can contradict the socio-cultural conventions established in society. Projecting these conclusions on Ukrainian realities, it can be noted that the problem of "conventions established in society" problem is also relevant to the war conditions in Ukraine. In particular, violence against children and women is often seen as a tactic of war, something that is self-evident, including in the interpretation of the Russian military committing crimes on the territory of Ukraine.

Asokan (2021) points out that ensuring the protection of CR by parties to the conflict requires more political will and resources to prevent violations of such rights. At the same time, the researcher finds that among the 431 studied peace agreements, only less than 18% contain provisions for the protection of children. The researcher concludes that children should be the focus of any peace agreements. This view should be considered during the development of possible peace agreements and in the context of the war in Ukraine. However, today, Russia's position excludes the possibility of a conclusion to any peace agreements.

Assessing the MRM's activities to reduce violence against children in armed conflicts, Seatzu (2021) points to insufficient effectiveness. The researcher believes that improving the work of the MRM (Monitoring and Reporting on Grave Violations) is possible by giving this body the authority to issue court decisions. One can fully agree with this opinion because only the fear of inevitable punishment is often effective in stopping any illegal actions.

Conclusions

The research gives grounds to state that international mechanisms for protecting CR in wartime have been developing for a long time. However, they are not perfect, and the scale of violations, as evidenced by the case of Ukraine, continues to grow. The Ukrainian government, international organisations, and the international community continue to actively fight for CR and are looking for new ways to improve existing mechanisms. It is possible to repel aggressive forces and protect children only by joint efforts.

The conducted analysis determined the most significant international documents, the provisions of which consider the protection of CR in armed

conflict. It was also established that, despite these and other international norms, the scale of violation of CR in Ukraine is significant, and the consequences are catastrophic. At the same time, the country has its mechanisms for protecting CR in armed conflict. Noting individual successful measures, it should be concluded that neither national nor international measures have achieved the desired effects in full. Further research should focus on identifying the most effective areas of protection of CR in armed conflict outside the legal field.

References

- Akbariavaz, K., & Tehrani, P. M. (2020). The role of international law in protection against attacks on children's education rights in armed conflict. *Journal of Politics and Law*, 13, 90. <https://doi.org/10.5539/jpl.v13n3p90>
- Al-Saadoon, M., Al-Adawi, M., & Al-Adawi, S. (2021). Socio-cultural constraints in protecting child rights in a society in transition: A review and synthesis from Oman. *Child Indicators Research*, 14, 239-267. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12187-020-09759-z>
- Asokan, A. (2021). The United Nations children and armed conflict agenda: Integrating child protection issues and children's voices in peace processes. *Journal of Public and International Affairs*, 1. Retrieved from <https://jpia.princeton.edu/news/united-nations-children-and-armed-conflict-agenda-integrating-child-protection-issues-and>
- Bila, V. M. (2023). Mechanism of protection of children's rights under martial law. In *Protecting the rights of the child in conditions of military aggression* (pp. 16-18). Yurydyka Publishing House. Retrieved from <https://dspace.oduvs.edu.ua/server/api/core/bitstreams/ac362d6f-b9fc-4770-9aad-da77ec9c1e39/content>
- Bohdanyok, O. (2023). The number of children wounded by Russian shelling has increased - OGPU. *Suspilne. News*. Retrieved from <https://suspilne.media/639038-zrosla-kilkist-ditej-poranenih-vnaslidok-rosijskih-obstriliv-ogpu-4/>
- Borland, J., & Schencking, J. C. (2020). Objects of concern, ambassadors of gratitude: children, humanitarianism, and transpacific diplomacy following Japan's 1923 Great Kantō earthquake. *The Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*, 13(2), 195-225. <https://doi.org/10.1353/hcy.2020.0035>
- Bramwell, V. (2021). Children as Soldiers or Civilians: Norms and Politics in the United Nations Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Children Affected by Armed Conflict. In: J. M. Beier, & J. Tabak (Eds.), *Childhoods in Peace and Conflict. Rethinking Peace and Conflict Studies* (pp 23–41). Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-74788-6_2
- Calam, R., El-Khani, A., & Maalouf, W. (2022). Editorial perspective: How can we help the children of Ukraine and others affected by military conflict? *Child and Adolescent Mental Health*, 27(3), 294-296. <https://doi.org/10.1111/camh.12581>

- Chernobuk, V.V. (2023). International legal standards for the protection of children's rights in the conditions of armed conflicts. *Analytical and Comparative Jurisprudence*, (3), 437-440. <https://doi.org/10.24144/2788-6018.2023.03.79>
- Deputy, S. R., Khakoo, Y., & Gospe, S. M. (2022). Adverse effects of war and armed conflict on Children. *Pediatric Neurology*, 130, 69-70. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pediatrneurol.2022.03.006>
- Dzhuhan, V. O. (2022). Violation of children's rights during the hostilities in Ukraine. In *Sixty-six economic and legal discussions. Series: Social sciences and humanities* (pp. 50-56). NGO "Scientific community". Retrieved from http://www.spilnota.net.ua/data/downloads/file_1661282119.pdf#page=50
- Garry, S., & Checchi, F. (2020). Armed conflict and public health: into the 21st century. *Journal of Public Health*, 42(3), e287-e298. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pubmed/fdaa036>
- Hashimova, L. (2022). Actual problems of mutual protection of children's rights and cultural heritage during military conflicts. In *Interesul superior al copilului: abordare socio-culturală, normativă și jurisprudențială* (pp. 73-82). Chișinău. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7635890>
- Khen, H. M. E. (2023). Restoring children's right to education during and after War: The case of Ukraine. *The International Journal of Children's Rights*, 31(1), 225-267. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15718182-31010005>
- Lehka, O. V. (2023). International legal regulation of the protection of children's rights under the conditions of the legal régime martial law. *Legal Position*, 2(35), 41-45. <https://doi.org/10.32836/2521-6473.2022-2.7>
- Pereira, P., Zhao, W., Symochko, L., Inacio, M., Bogunovic, I., & Barcelo, D. (2022). The Russian-Ukrainian armed conflict impact will push back the sustainable development goals. *Geography and Sustainability*, 3(3), 277-287. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geosus.2022.09.003>
- Seatzu, F. (2021). The monitoring and reporting mechanism for grave violations of children's rights: Promoting the protection of children's rights in armed conflicts through adjudication? *Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law Online*, 24(1), 362-398. https://doi.org/10.1163/18757413_02401012
- Shatilo, V.A., & Musiienko, A.D. (2023). Constitutional rights of children and international standards for their protection under the conditions of the state of martial. *Law Review of Kyiv University of Law*, 2, 64-67. <https://doi.org/10.36695/2219-5521.2.2023.13>
- Shenoda, S., Kadir, A., Pitterman, S., Goldhagen, J., Suchdev, P. S., Chan, K. J., ... & Arnold, L. D. (2018). The effects of armed conflict on children. *Pediatrics*, 142(6), 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2018-2585>
- Simon, J., Luetzow, A., & Conte, J. R. (2020). Thirty years of the Convention on the rights of the child: Developments in child sexual abuse and exploitation. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 110, 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104399>
- Singh, N. S., Atallahjan, A., Ndiaye, K., Das, J. K., Wise, P. H., Altare, C., ... & Wise, P. (2021). Delivering health interventions to women, children, and adolescents in

- conflict settings: What have we learned from ten country case studies? *The Lancet*, 397(10273), 533-542. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)00132-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)00132-X)
- Slovo i Dilo. (2023). How many children deported by Russia are returned home every month. Retrieved from <https://www.slovoidilo.ua/2023/10/18/infografika/suspilstvo/skilky-deportovanyx-rosiyeyu-ditej-vdayetsya-shhomisyacya-povertaty-dodomu>
- Sorokopud, N. (2022). Almost 37 million children are now displaced globally - more than ever [Press release]. *Unicef*. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/ukraine/press-releases/copy-nearly-37-million-children-displaced-worldwide-highest-number-ever-recorded>
- United Nations. (1974). Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict. Retrieved from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-protection-women-and-children-emergency-and-armed>
- Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. (2020). Constitution of Ukraine. Retrieved from <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/254к/96-бп#Text>
- Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. (2022). Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 349: On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Regarding the Protection of Children's Rights During a State of Emergency or Martial Law. Retrieved from <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/349-2022-п#Text>
- Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. (2023a). Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations Convention. Retrieved from https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/995_021#Text
- Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. (2023b). Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, United Nations Convention. Retrieved from https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/995_154#Text
- Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. (2023c). Law of Ukraine No. 2402-III: On the Protection of Childhood. Retrieved from <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2402-14#Text>
- Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. (2023d). Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 302: On the Establishment of the Coordination Headquarters for the Protection of Children's Rights under Martial Law. Retrieved from <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/302-2022-п#Text>