



ASSOCIATION OF REINTEGRATION
OF CRIMEA

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To UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

**Russian Aggression in Ukraine and
Ongoing Challenges for Human Security of Women and Girls in Context of
Poverty and Inequality**

Our Association of Reintegration of Crimea (ARC)¹, is non-governmental expert and human rights organisation, with activities devoted to Crimea's issues. ARC's expert researches are related with human rights of Crimean residents and ethnic groups, including social and economic rights. Since 2020 we sent more than 50 submissions and proposals to UN human rights' strictures, major part of them were published in the UN web-sources, including the issues of women rights²³⁴⁵

Since 24th of February 2022 Russia committed broad and open military aggression to all Ukraine's territory against Ukrainian mainland from own territory, and from the Russia-occupied Crimea, Belarus, Black and Azov seas.

Due last seven monthes Russia occupied some territories of Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhya regions and active hostilities were in Chernigiv, Kyiv, Sumy, Zhitomir regions of Ukraine. Strong fights are going near cities of Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, and others with total population more than 10 millions persons near the frontline.

In last half of year Russia-controlled troops and mercenaries committed in Ukraine, during this operation, gross violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights' law already, including broad crimes against women⁶.

Russia commenced an unprovoked invasion throughout Ukrainian territory, which is already causing catastrophic harms to Ukraine and its people, including gross violation the international humanitarian law and destruction the fundamental human rights⁷⁸⁹¹⁰¹¹¹². Human Rights Watch has documented several cases of Russian military forces committing laws-of-war violations against civilians in occupied areas, including persons with disabilities¹³.

All war crimes, committed by Russian invaders during ongoing hostilities, are connected with absolutely clear Russia's war targets in maximal destruction the civil infrastructure, including objects, essential for human security¹⁴.

¹ https://www.journal-officiel.gouv.fr/associations/detail-annonce/associations_b/20210005/1348

² <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/OlderPersons/OlderWomen/submissions-csos/Association-reintegration-Crimea.docx>

³ https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/DGD24June2021/Oral_statements/Part1/31.DOC

⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Women/SR/Femicide/2021-submissions/CSOs/association-of-reintegration.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Association%20of%20Reintegration%20of%20Crimea.pdf>

⁶ <https://sofrep.com/news/russian-soldiers-gang-raped-ukrainian-woman-as-her-child-was-crying-in-the-next-room/>

⁷ <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/182/182-20220307-PRE-01-00-EN.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/features-60888528>

⁹ <https://hromadske.radio/en/news/2022/03/09/members-of-the-wagner-group-have-been-killed-in-ukraine>

¹⁰ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60547807>

¹¹ <https://arc.construction/26892>

¹² <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1113652>

¹³ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/03/ukraine-apparent-war-crimes-russia-controlled-areas>

¹⁴ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2022/ukraine-before-after-destruction-photos/>

As major of Kharkiv stated in 31st of March, 2022 Russian troops destroyed more than 1290 apartment buildings in this one-million city, most of them were multi-floor ones¹⁵. Up to this date 90% of apartment building in Mariupol, city with 400 thousands inhabitants, are destroyed¹⁶ Among 3300 multi-storey residential buildings in Mykolaiv 400 were destroyed partially and 60 - totally¹⁷; those data are proved by UNOSAT maps¹⁸.

So millions of Ukrainians, including women, who are extremely vulnerable in conditions of the interstate conflict, lost their houses and save access to medical and social services due to Russian aggression and related hostilities. The World Health Organization said that since February 24 to May 6, 306 attacks had taken place on health facilities in Ukraine in contravention of international humanitarian law and human rights law¹⁹.

Due to such gross violation the human rights Ukraine filed an application with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 25 February 2022²⁰ and to the European Court of Human Rights²¹. Russian government refused to execute the demand of the ECtHR and the order of ICJ to immediately suspend the military operations that it commenced on 24 February 2022.²² On March 16 2022, Russia was excluded from the Council of Europe and refused officially to execute the demands of European Convention on Human Rights²³, which guarantee the right to receive and disseminate the information.

UN Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted its resolution 49/1 on 4 March 2022 where it expressed grave concern at the documented harm to the enjoyment of many human rights, resulting from the aggression against Ukraine by Russia²⁴.

On 8 March 2022 UN human rights experts called on Russia to immediately end its invasion of Ukraine to avoid further bloodshed; experts recalled that intentional attacks against civilian objects amount to war crimes²⁵. In other UN experts' statements the negative impact of Russia's aggression on persons with disabilities and older persons was condemned²⁶, and relevant risks for women's right to life were pointed²⁷. "We welcome the actions of many States, particularly those neighbouring Ukraine, that have admitted people fleeing the conflict into their territories, particularly the recent decision of the EU to grant to offer temporary protection for those fleeing the invasion of Ukraine," the experts said.

The experts said particular attention needs to be paid to the plight of women and children, who have been forcefully displaced. The vast majority those fleeing from Ukraine are women children and many families have been separated at the border, they added. "We reiterate the importance of meaningfully including women in all processes that affect their lives, security, freedoms and fundamental rights, particularly the humanitarian response but also the political and peace negotiations, as well as accountability processes," the experts said.

In such statements UN experts pointed their concern by the appalling humanitarian situation of older people and people with disabilities, including women²⁸.

UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Dr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal,

¹⁵ <https://nv.ua/kharkiv/harkov-obstrelly-skolko-domov-razrusheno-dannye-31-marta-novosti-harkova-50229919.html>

¹⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2022/03/31/7336102/>

¹⁷ <https://www.liga.net/politics/interview/mer-aleksandr-senkevich-rakety-do-nas-doletayut-za-tri-minuty-pod-pritselom-ves-nikolaev>

¹⁸ <https://unitar.org/maps/map/3540>

¹⁹ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/russia-ukraine-war/128m-people-displaced-in-ukraine-since-russia-launched-war-un-human-rights-experts/2580552>

²⁰ <https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/182>

²¹ <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng-press?i=003-7282553-9922068>

²² <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/182/182-20220316-ORD-01-00-EN.pdf>

²³ <https://arc.construction/26897>

²⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session49/Pages/ResDecStat.aspx>

²⁵ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28231&LangID=E>

²⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28200&LangID=E>

²⁷ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28201&LangID=E>

²⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/05/ukraine-millions-displaced-traumatised-and-urgently-need-help-say-experts>

expressed on 9th of March the grave concerns about the serious violations of the right to adequate housing in Ukraine after Russian forces invaded the country, that also has direct influence to the rights of the persons with disabilities.

UN official stated that indiscriminate use of weapons such as cluster munitions, multiple launch rocket systems, tactical missile systems and artillery systems have been reported in multiple areas of Ukraine including in and around the cities of Chernihiv, Kyiv, Kherson, Mariupol, Okhtyrka, Zhytomyr and several others. Many homes, civilian infrastructure including fuel depots, water and power stations are under attack or threat of attack. UN Rapporteur pointed regarding Russia's invasion that "directly or indirectly, the aggression will have a massive toll on the access to and habitability of housing in Ukraine"²⁹.

The European Disability Forum called in open letter for all parties to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in Ukraine, especially regarding women³⁰.

UN General Assembly in its resolution ES-11/1 on 2 March 2022 recognized that the military operations of Russia inside the sovereign territory of Ukraine are on a scale that the international community has not seen in Europe in decades and that urgent action is needed to save this generation from the scourge of war.

In article 9 of this resolution UN General Assembly demanded that all parties to allow safe and unfettered passage to destinations outside of Ukraine and to facilitate the rapid, safe and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance for those in need in Ukraine, to protect civilians, including persons in vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities and to respect human rights³¹.

UN General Assembly in its resolution ES-11/2 on 24 March 2022, articles 5 and 8, demanded again full respect for and protection of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population and civilian infrastructure that is critical to the delivery of essential services in armed conflict; stressed that the sieges of cities in Ukraine further aggravate the humanitarian situation for the civilian population and hamper evacuation efforts, and therefore demands to put an end to these sieges³².

On 7 April 2022 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution ES-11/3³³ calling for Russia to be suspended from the Human Rights Council³⁴.

There are no peacekeeping missions in Ukraine; as such initiatives were blocked by the Russian government. Activities of UN Monitoring Mission in Ukraine are extremely low now and OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine de-facto stopped its activities since 7th of March;³⁵ later Russia blocked the prolongation such Mission's activities.

The UN Human Rights Council adopted on 12th of May a resolution on the deteriorating human rights situation in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression, in which the Council reiterated its demand for an immediate cessation of military hostilities against Ukraine and requested the Independent International Commission of Inquiry to conduct an inquiry, consistent with its mandate and international standards, and in coordination with other national and international mechanisms. UN Human Rights Council pointed that Russia should immediately cease its aggression, withdraw all its forces from the whole territory of Ukraine, and provide international human rights and humanitarian institutions with unhindered, immediate and safe access to persons transferred from conflict-affected areas of Ukraine³⁶.

²⁹ <https://arc.construction/26902>

³⁰ <https://www.edf-feph.org/protection-and-safety-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-ukraine/>

³¹ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3959039?ln=ru>

³² <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3966630?ln=en>

³³ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3967950?ln=ru>

³⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1115782>

³⁵ <https://www.osce.org/ru/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/513430>

³⁶ <https://arc.construction/31039>

All Ukraine's attempts for the peace-building, including peace talks and negotiations with Russian government were unsuccessful and Russia rejects all peace propositions and it refuses to execute the demands of ICJ and ECtHR orders to stop the aggression and hostilities that are directly pointed against right to adequate housing.

Our Association believes that next urgent, immediate steps of the UN official and working groups in Ukraine, in condition of ongoing interstate conflict and hostilities, must be done, including all observation procedures and visit to Ukraine.

We hope that above-pointed special statements of the UN experts and rapporteurs regarding situation in Ukraine must be supported by next official position of UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls. Our Association believes that urgent, immediate steps of the UN OHCHR bodies must be done; monitoring procedure, mentioned in UN HRC resolution 49/1, must be enforced immediately.

3rd of October, 2022

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