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HUMAN TRAFFICKING AS A THREAT TO CIVILIZATION IN THE REALITIES OF MILITARY AGGRESSION IN UKRAINE

Human freedom is one of the main values of modern civilized society, and ensuring the inviolability of the person is, in turn, one of the most important functions of our state. Trafficking in human beings is one of the most dangerous forms of human rights violations in modern conditions because it violates a set of fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, stipulated by the Constitution of Ukraine, as well as by international acts.

It should be noted that the legal international definition of "human trafficking" was formulated by the United Nations and adopted by the General Assembly in 2000. According to Article 3 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, "trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation [1].

It should be emphasized that the military aggression of the Russian Federation has become a serious challenge for Ukraine and has exacerbated the problems related to human rights violations, including the problem of human trafficking, as the risks of illegal movement of people for the purpose of their exploitation and human trafficking in various forms have significantly increased due to the hostilities. In addition, some acts and crimes related to human trafficking in the context of armed conflict may be war crimes.

In accordance with Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings", trafficking in human beings is the implementation of an illegal transaction, the object of which is a person, as well as the recruitment, transfer, concealment, transfer or receipt of a person committed for the purpose of exploitation, including sexual exploitation, with the use of deception, fraud, blackmail, vulnerable state of a person or with the use or threat of violence, with the use of official position or material or other dependence on another person, which are recognized by the Criminal Code of Ukraine [2].

It should also be noted that with the beginning of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into the territory of Ukraine and the introduction of martial law by the Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 64/2022 of 24.02.2022 "On the introduction of martial law in Ukraine", approved by the Law No. 202-IX of 24.02. 2022, information about missing citizens is increasingly published in the media, social networks and messengers, as well as numerous cases of traffickers taking advantage of the vulnerable situation of Ukrainian refugees, especially women and children, to exploit them in various forms, including exploitation of prostitution by third parties or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or removal of organs or tissues for transplantation, etc.

The Ukrainian online edition "BBC News.Ukraine" reported that according to Karolina Wierzbinska, who is the coordinator of the human rights NGO "Homo Faber" in Lublin, children who leave Ukraine unaccompanied are extremely vulnerable now, and due to unstable registration processes in Poland and other border regions, especially at the beginning of the war, many children simply disappeared and their whereabouts are unknown. The news department of the American television and radio service CBS informed that according to the statistics of the UN Refugee Agency about 8 million Ukrainians were forced to leave their homes. And the impact of the war on Ukrainian youth is particularly devastating, and according to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, Ambassador Barbara Woodward, the mass displacement has led to children being trafficked and sexually exploited [3].

It is worth highlighting that the territories and borders uncontrolled by Ukraine are used by the Russian Federation not only for the supply of weapons, ammunition and militants, but also, in particular, for the illegal movement of people for the purpose of their exploitation - for human trafficking. Currently, Ukrainian citizens, mostly men, are exploited by using them in armed conflicts to perform combat tasks related to the overthrow of the state power and violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, with the use or threat of violence against them.

That is why the problem of trafficking in human beings in the realities of large-scale military aggression is becoming extremely acute and poses a serious threat to society, causing concerns of the state authorities and the international community.

The Letter of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine dated 25.03.2022 No. 1/3663-22 "On the prevention of human trafficking in the context of military aggression" states, in particular, that women and children who are now forced to leave Ukraine due to Russia's military aggression and are heading to neighboring countries face the risks of human trafficking. At the same time, men who remain inside the country can also become prey to human traffickers. The loss of jobs and income as a result of the war and the limited capacity to provide for the basic needs of internally displaced persons, refugees and war-affected populations will increase the risks. The criminal world adapts to the changing reality, hunting for new victims, traffickers are preparing to take advantage of the vulnerability of those who are forced to leave Ukraine [4].

At a briefing in Kyiv at the Ukrainian Crisis Media Center on 09.05.2022, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Lyudmyla Denisova said that more than 1 million 185 thousand citizens of Ukraine, including more than 200 thousand children, had been forcibly transferred to the territory of the Russian Federation since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. According to her, people from the occupied territories are first taken by Russia to the so-called "filtration camps", some of which house more than 20 thousand people. However, nothing is known about those citizens who have not passed the so-called "filtration" (Analytical portal "Slovo i Dilo"). After passing through the "filtration camps" Ukrainians are sent

to economically depressed areas of the Russian Federation, and the final destination is a number of northern regions, including Sakhalin. In addition, Ukrainians are offered official employment in the Russian Federation through employment centers, and those who accept this offer receive documents banning them from leaving Russian regions for two years. As a result, this increases the risk of labor exploitation of Ukrainians. Advisor to the Head of the Presidential Office Oleksiy Arestovych in his interview to the TV channel "TSN" notes that the forced deportation of Ukrainians to the territory of Russia is a violation of all principles of international law, and compared such actions of Russia with Nazi Germany and guest workers, because there the fate of Ukrainians is very similar to that which Nazi Germany offered to our guest workers - they are registered in Russia as forced labor.

In conclusion, human trafficking is a complex problem, the scale of which is constantly changing depending on the development of the economic, social and political situation in the country. Human trafficking as a phenomenon violates the fundamental principles of morality and justice, infringes on the rights and legitimate interests of people, generates social tension and increases conflict within society.

Moreover, trafficking in human beings undermines the rule of law and contributes to other forms of transnational organized crime, which can exacerbate conflict, exacerbate insecurity and instability, and undermine the development of not only Ukraine but also foreign countries. With the beginning of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into the territory of Ukraine, the problem of human trafficking has become extremely urgent and extremely acute, and is of serious concern not only to the state authorities, but also to the international community, as it poses a serious threat to society as a whole.

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