

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS UNDER MARTIAL LAW

During the war in our country, every Ukrainian child, without exception, in any case suffered violations of their legally enshrined rights. Even if the child is not physically harmed, the child has not been subjected to sexual violence, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, there is a violation of his fundamental rights. As a result of military aggression, every minor citizen of Ukraine has suffered violations of his basic rights enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine and the norms of international law, such as: the right to have private life, the right to have healthcare, the right to have rest and leisure time, the right to have education and family. Therefore, it is important that the state adheres to international standards for the protection of children's rights in times of war. In particular, it is necessary: to ensure the ratification of the Statute of the International Criminal Court and to ensure the introduction of relevant changes to the Constitution of Ukraine, namely to Article 124; approve norms in the legislation of Ukraine that will clearly prohibit the recruitment and use of minors in armed conflicts; to make changes to the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of Childhood", which must meet international standards. However, in the conditions of martial law, which has been introduced throughout the country, it is extremely difficult to implement the functions entrusted to the state to ensure the protection of children's rights.

One of the steps to ensure the protection of children's rights was the formation of the Coordination Headquarters for the Protection of Children's Rights in Martial Law. Resolution No. 302 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine entered into force on March 17, 2022. The coordination headquarters is a temporary consultative and advisory body of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, which was created to facilitate the coordination of activities of central and local bodies of executive power, other state bodies, local self-government bodies on issues of protection of children's rights under martial law. Thanks to the efforts of the representatives who were part of it, a significant amount of work was carried out, namely:

- agreed decisions were made regarding the definition of the tasks of state bodies involved in the implementation of the policy on the protection of children's rights;
- evacuation of children from dangerous areas and coordination of their safe transportation to places of temporary accommodation was carried out;
- coordinated the work of regional military administrations and local self-government bodies to prepare and organize safe places for temporary accommodation of evacuated children and meeting their needs;
- registration of children who left for the safe territory of Ukraine or outside of Ukraine is ensured.

Another significant step for the protection of children during martial law was the introduction of the nationwide program "The child is not alone". This program was introduced by the Office of the President of Ukraine together with the United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF Ukraine and the Ministry of Social Policy. The program is a chatbot "The child is not alone" - a resource for helping children in wartime, the content

of which can be found on the Internet. This resource contains a lot of useful information for people who are not familiar with how to protect the rights of children in martial law, namely:

- a number of norms and standards that form a legal framework for the protection of children's rights in conditions of armed conflict, consisting of Ukrainian legislation and norms of international law, are given;

- contacts of services and bodies for the protection and support of children are indicated depending on the situation (violation of children's rights, provision of psychological support to a child, etc.);

- the main questions and answers on the topic: "What to do and where to go if a child's rights have been violated in wartime" are covered.

Today, our state adequately implements the functions entrusted to it to ensure the protection of children's rights. At the same time, it is extremely difficult, therefore, in this difficult period for our country, every caring citizen of Ukraine should protect and realize the rights of the most unprotected category of people - children.

REFERENCES

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