



INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING MOVEMENT  
**WOMEN DIALOGUE**

Address: st. 3<sup>rd</sup> Tverskaya – Yamskaya, house 42/8, office VII; Postcode: 125047  
Phone.: +7(495)773-76-63 e-mail: [ipmwdialog@gmail.com](mailto:ipmwdialog@gmail.com) [vppwd@mail.ru](mailto:vppwd@mail.ru)

Report of the Chairman of the International Public Peacekeeping Movement  
“Women’s Dialogue” Elena Semerikova for the 95th session of the UN  
Committee on the Rights of the Child.

**Protecting children's rights in armed conflict.**

In modern international humanitarian law, it is necessary to take a substantive approach to the legal status of children who, by their own or someone else’s will, participated in the war on the side of the opposition and were taken into military captivity.

The importance of the protection of children in public international law in general and in international humanitarian law in particular determined, as was shown, the combination of universal and special institutions of this legal mechanism of protection. According to article 38, paragraph 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child obliges States Parties to respect and ensure compliance with the principles and norms applicable in military conflict and relevant to children.

State bodies must also take measures to provide material and medical assistance to children sent to medical dispensaries and boarding schools, and provide assistance in finding their relatives (Article 30 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).

Thus, international legislation indicates the presence of a set of measures aimed at protecting the civilian population, children in particular.

In combat situations, children's rights must remain the dominant of generally recognized values and the basis of humanitarian cooperation between states, enshrined at the international legal and national levels.

The issue of responsibility of persons who recruit and use children during armed conflicts also remains acute. An example is the cases recorded in Ukraine when children, contrary to all principles and regulations of international law, were used as human shields during armed conflicts.

According to the UN human rights monitoring mission, in Ukraine, during the entire period of the conflict from April 14, 2014 to April 30, 2021, 152 children were killed (including 102 boys and 50 girls), another 146 children were injured (including 120 boys and 26 girls). We don't remember any big information campaign in the West to protect both civilians and children.

Recently, the Ukrainian and Western media have been flooding with information about the "children's theme" related to Ukraine. Surrogacy, although an illegal source of income, is not the worst. Much more terrible is the news about the confiscation of children from Ukrainian refugees from the East, who then disappear in an unknown direction, even entire orphanages mysteriously disappeared, whose students then suddenly found themselves in the West.

The information about "black transplantologists" is even worse. Let us recall the recent scandal in Transcarpathia, when a Ukrainian teacher was detained at the border with someone else's baby. It is known that the man has already completed three transactions. However, there was no punishment for the violator: he posted bail and was released from arrest.

There is a huge amount of information in the Western press about the transfer of minor children to underground brothels in Europe.

So who finances the information company in the West and whose interests are protected by the International Criminal Court in The Hague by issuing an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Russian Commissioner for Human Rights Maria Belova-Lvova? We all know how and by whom various kinds

of lobbying circles and information companies are formed, and how the International Criminal Court works, which is more an instrument of political interference in countries than a judicial body.

At the same time, we realize that in conditions of armed conflict, our children are the most unprotected and the most affected. Since February 2022, Russian regions have received more than 5 million residents of Ukraine and the Donbass republics, of which more than 730 thousand are children. Among them are about two thousand children from orphanages, who arrived together with the heads and teachers of the institutions at the request of the leaders of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic.

“About 1,300 children returned back to their orphanages. Due to the fact that their institutions are constantly under fire from the Ukrainian side, 400 children were sent to Russian orphanages in different regions. And 358 children were placed in families under the preliminary ministry, 22 of them were handed over from Mariupol. The adoption form was also not applied to them. In addition, the Office of the Ombudsman for Children's Rights is actively working to reunite families separated by combat situations.

“To date, there has not been a single specific request from that side, not even a single specific story. We are ready to handle every case. For now, we see only implausible accusations in the media and social networks. We have no doubt that this is part of an information campaign to discredit our country and an attempt to hide their irresponsible actions towards children.” For eight years, Ukraine has not taken any action to protect the rights of children in Donbass.

Russia believes that children should be safe, have access to education, healthcare, and social guarantees. We are talking about the evacuation of children from Donbass, about measures taken for their safety, livelihoods and well-being. The world has been ignoring the protection of children since 2014; now Kyiv is cynically using the topic of children in an anti-Russian information war. The truth is that there is no forced adoption... Russia does not interfere with the maintenance of contacts and communication between children and their relatives and loved ones.

Moreover, Russia strives for their reunion. But I don't remember a case where the Ukrainian side contacted the Russian side through state channels on this issue. Only public organizations tried to raise this issue, including with my help. At the same time, everyone knows that channels of interstate communication exist; we know about prisoner exchanges that have been carried out more than once through these channels.

Thus, neither the Ukrainian side used all the opportunities available to it, nor did the ICC properly study the circumstances of the case. From which we draw one conclusion, the decision of the above-mentioned court is politicized and directed not in the interests of children, but in the interests of political circles in the West, which are not ready to search for compromises.