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UDC 342.78-056.2

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# CHILDREN DURING HOSTILITIES AND ARMED CONFLICTS AS A SEPARATE CATEGORY OF SUBJECTS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

International human rights law protects children as a distinct category in armed conflict in a number of instruments, including prohibiting specific crimes against children. The main such document is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,

© Alieksieieva Olha, Chysnikov Volodymyr, Lelet Serhii, Kozhukhar Oksana, Yakubchyk Tetiana, 2022 DOI (Article): https://doi.org/10.36486/np.2022.3(57).20

Issue 3(57) 2022

DOI (Issue): https://doi.org/10.36486/np.2022.3(57)

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which the Russian Federation is also obliged to fulfill. Protection of children's rights during hostilities – Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilian Population and IV Hague Convention on the Laws and Customs of War on Land. The peculiarities of children as a separate social group of the civilian population, as well as as a special category protected by special norms of international humanitarian law, are considered. It is obvious that the rights and interests of children affected by armed conflicts deserve special attention and special protection, because: children, growing and maturing during the period of military operations or conflicts, feel the influence and suffer from war much more than adults; it is extremely difficult for children to adapt to a conflict situation or react to its consequences; they need protection to a much greater extent than adults, which in peacetime is provided by the family, society, the state and the law. The main documents that enshrine the main principles of international law regarding children (in particular Child's Best Interests) during armed and military conflicts have been analyzed, and the reasons for certain actual ineffectiveness of its norms have been clarified, which, in turn, leads to the emergence of a number of problems in the protection of children's rights, who found themselves in the circumstances of war. An attempt was made to specify the legal status of children who suffered as a result of hostilities and armed conflicts, by distinguishing them as special subjects of international humanitarian law. An analysis of the proposals of modern scientists regarding the improvement of the mechanism of protection of children's rights during the war was carried out.

**Keywords:** children, humanitarian law, subject, international legislation on children, principles and postulates, violation of children's rights in conditions of war.

Отримано 12.10.2022

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