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GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE REALITIES OF RUSSIA’S WAR AGAINST UKRAINE: LEGAL ASPECTS

The problem of gender-based violence during the armed conflict is not new for Ukraine, and since the beginning of the full-scale military invasion of the Russian Federation into the territory of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, it has become especially urgent. Thousands of bodies of fallen military heroes and civilians, including women, men, and children, are being exhumed in the territories of Ukraine just liberated from Russian troops. Most of the bodies have signs of violent death, rape, torture. War and armed conflicts pose the main danger to the civilian population, namely violation of human rights and freedoms. Gender-based violence is considered to be one of the most widespread human rights violations that occur around the world. Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine has led not only to large-scale destruction of entire cities of our country, deaths of both military and civilians, but also to numerous cases of GBV. Prevention of GBV is now important not only from the point of view of theoretical science and protection of the constitutional rights and interests of victims, but is also the center of ensuring the national interest of every democratic state, as it contributes to the economic and social development of society, respect for the rights and freedoms of every citizen in this state, in particular in the gender context.

The full-scale armed aggression and military invasion of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine was a shock for the country and the whole world, which created significant risks, including the risk of GBV. The war in Ukraine and the deteriorating security situation have dramatically increased the risk of various forms of violence, including sexual violence, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and trafficking. According to the results of our research, no one is immune from the risk of GBV. Women and girls, men and boys in Ukraine need urgent measures to prevent GBV and respond to its life- and health-threatening consequences.

Keywords: gender-based violence, defending the rights of women and girls, sexual violence, civil conflict, war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

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