

<b>FORUM:</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>ISSUE:</b>	Measures to Protect Forcibly Displaced People from the Russia-Ukraine War
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<b>POSITION:</b>	President of Human Rights Council

## Introduction

In 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed, and Ukraine declared independence. Since then, there has been rising tension between Russia and Ukraine. On 24 February 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin officially declared a full-scale war against Ukraine. The Russia-Ukraine war has drawn worldwide attention, as it might lead to another world war by the union of alliances. The war even became serious when indiscriminate attacks toward citizens started. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), since the Russian invasion on 24 February 2022, 4,648 civilians have been killed, and 9,797 civilians have been injured in Ukraine due to the Russia-Ukraine War. Primarily, such weapons are causing harm to civilians: assault rifles, missiles, and cluster munitions. These weapons only caused harm to citizens but also destroyed essential infrastructures. Due to demolished public facilities, citizens lack necessities as the materials are unable to be afforded.

The people in Ukraine and Russia still live under severe tension, where drones and missiles have already destroyed many essential infrastructures, and ceaseless casualties are reported. The estimated cost of damage to Ukraine's infrastructure is 63 billion dollars, including the attack on the water system, according to the Kyiv School of Economics. According to United Nations (UN) estimates, the casualties reached 1100 civilian deaths due to indiscriminate attacks. With that being said, Ukrainian refugees and Russian reservists suffer from the life-threatening war.



*Tracking the War with Russia*

Many Ukrainian refugees who left their country strive to fit into a new society with the help of international organizations. Although many organizations support their lives, the fear of separation from the family, mental damage, or even the loss of family members are unforgettable tragedies for them. The desire to invade a neighboring country caused harm to Russian citizens; the national duty reservists had to



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let the young men fight in a war, and many of someone's dads, sons, and lovers were dead. In addition, ceaseless indiscriminate attack on citizens threatens people's daily lives. The Russia-Ukraine war has more meaning than just a war. It is a break from a long alliance, companionship, and family. Apparently, the humanitarian crisis should stop, and those forcibly displaced people should be protected.

## Background

Since the independence of Ukraine in 1991, there was a rising tension between Russia and Ukraine. In 2008, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit began with a debate about extending a Membership Action Plan (MAP) to Ukraine. The initial step to gain membership to NATO is first to have a MAP, which Vladimir Putin opposes NATO leaders, stating that "Ukraine is not even a real nation-state." In 2014, Russia seized Crimea, a Ukrainian peninsula where the Russian population is predominant. The annexation induced international outrage and was condemned by the European Union and the United Nations. These rising political and diplomatic events eventually caused the massive invasion by Putin in 2022, which began in the eastern Ukrainian territory of Donbas.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy declared martial law in Ukraine and officially broke the amicable relationship with Russia. Unlike Putin's scheme to invade Ukraine within a few days, Ukraine's forces pushed back the Russian military. In September 2022, Russia lost its territories over a thousand square miles. In response, Russia attacked fundamental infrastructures in Ukraine, leading Ukrainians to lack water, food, and weapons. As mentioned above, the cost of infrastructure damage in Ukraine is roughly 63 billion dollars, and workers and citizens who were in or stood near the facility got casualties. In addition, Russia called up reservists, around 300,000 troops, to reclaim their lost territory. Among those thousands of young reservists, many of them were unable to return to their country.

Meanwhile, Zelenskyy visited the White House and received two billion dollars in new military assistance for Ukraine. Then, in 2023, when US President Joe Biden visited Kyiv, he further supported Ukraine with five hundred million dollars in additional military aid. The support was for Ukraine's defense needs as well as for the world's peace and security. It is an action to find



*Army combat engineers train on the operation of the M60 Armored Vehicle*



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peace as soon as possible and to save the refugees and citizens suffering from the war.

## Problems Raised

### *Separation of Families*

One of the influential people in each individual's life is their family. Family provides unconditional love that is hard to be replaced by others. Many families had to separate through the Russia-Ukraine War when their country called up for reservists. Millions of young men had to fight in a war, although they might be unable to return to their families. In addition, parents of different nationalities had to separate for a while due to the war. The separation of families made Russians and Ukrainians physically and mentally suffer from the war.



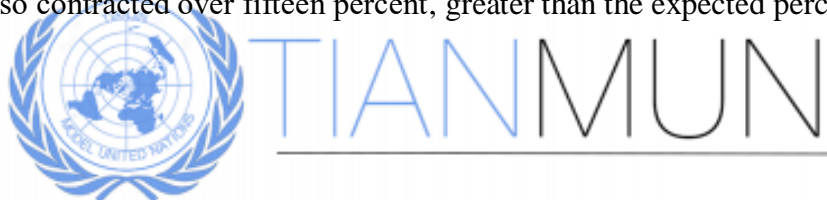
*Separation of Families*

### *War Crimes/ Indiscriminate Attacks on Citizens*

The ongoing war threatens individuals since no one knows each other's plan to attack. Recently, serious war crimes, tortures, and indiscriminate attacks on infrastructure are becoming severe. According to the United Nations Commissions, Russia has committed numerous unlawful and unethical instances against Ukrainian citizens, who are usually not involved in fighting. They further reported that the contact between citizens makes war crimes susceptible. The missiles and bombs from Russia to the cities of Ukraine cause numerous casualties of innocent citizens. According to United Nations statistics, more than nine thousand civilians were killed by the indiscriminate attacks throughout the war.

### *Shock to the Global Economy*

According to the United Nations (UN), the world's overall economy is having slower economic growth than that is anticipated in 2022. The Russia-Ukraine War has affected all around the world, causing energy and commodity prices to be higher than before. The inflation in the economy worsens the food shortages and lowers the purchasing power of consumers. The war not only caused Russia, Ukraine, and their alliances to suffer but also caused the world's overall economy to be downgraded. World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2023 estimated that Ukraine's economy contracted by over thirty percent in 2022, and after the end of the war, they will need large-scale reconstruction efforts. Russia's economy also contracted over fifteen percent, greater than the expected percentage.



## *Energy Shock*

The availability of energy and its price is essential to the global economy. Due to the Russia-Ukraine War, the world's energy cost increased as energy shock intensified. When a war occurs in a country, energy and resources are the critical factors needed. The fighting during the pandemic also exacerbates the humanitarian crisis in both countries. After Russia invaded Ukraine, coal prices increased as high as electricity costs. Although investments in renewable energy from Europe and North America are encouraged, the change would not happen within a few days. Energy is a fundamental source for human beings; therefore, the energy supply shock and the rise in its cost make their lives rigorous.

## **International Actions**

### *Support to the Refugees by the United Nations*

The Russia-Ukraine war forced millions of people to flee from their hometowns. Among millions of refugees, most of them need to stay with inferior facilities and hunger. Many citizens endured hardships after Russia destroyed the essential facilities. The United Nations is helping Ukrainians with food, water, shelter, and medical care regardless of age and gender. The UN is also holding a fundraising campaign to support further those impacted by the war. They deliver emergency aid and assistance to people as refugees seek safety and peace.



*UN Providing Foods to Refugees*

### *The Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRPs)*

Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRPs) aim to respond to the needs of specific refugee populations found in the region's neighboring countries. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is mandated to provide international protection to refugees and support the host government with funding. This plan was first developed in 2012 and is currently actively working to support Ukraine refugees. It works with national authorities, UN agencies, NGOs, and civil society organizations, focusing on full access to forcibly displaced people's rights.

### *The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Planned Ukraine Country Program*



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The OECD collaborated with the Ukrainian government and planned a four-year Country Program that supports Ukraine's recovery from the war. The program aims to help Ukraine to join the European Union (EU) and OECD, ensuring the economic development and well-being of the citizens. The Country Program is an OECD tool that envisages Ukraine's development and participation in seventy OECD instruments over four years. The program will strengthen and build the capacity for successful policy reforms in Ukraine's economy.

## Key Players

### *Russia*

Russia is a country that started the Russia-Ukraine War, causing millions of people to suffer for a couple of years. Russian President Putin is a person who leads the war. Initially, Russia expected the invasion to end within a few days. However, Ukraine did not just succumb to the Russian army. When Ukraine President Zelenskyy actively called upon other nations for support, Russia began seeking weapons, leading to a larger and longer ongoing war. Since Russian territory was unstable and even some internal conflicts were taken at this point, Russia would continuously assert its position toward the situation but not step back from the war.

### *Ukraine*

Ukraine is a country that declared sovereignty, closely located as bordering Russia. Russia first attacked Ukraine in 2022, then officially announced that the alliance with Russia was over and they would start the war. Ukraine is still searching for military forces and weapons by seeking other partnerships. The United States is one of the strong supporters both financially and politically. The additional support that Ukraine has received helped Ukrainians. Other fundraising activities also helped Ukraine by providing necessities essential for human beings' survival. Although the current situation in Ukraine is not ideal, they will also keep standing against Russia to protect their country.



*UN President Joe Biden visits in Kyiv on surprise visit*

## Possible Solutions



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### *Vocational Training/ Support Employment of Refugees*

The Russia-Ukraine War caused millions of people to lose their jobs and flee to other countries for their safety. Although they flee to other countries temporarily for security, it is important to work and find a job for people. With that being said, while Ukrainians flee away from their hometown, international organizations supporting forcibly displaced individuals with job opportunities would be helpful. If a person is healthy, of legitimate working age, in a safe situation, and willing to work, asking an international organization to help find jobs for those people would be another solution to help out refugees. Through this campaign or action, people who could not continue working can resume their careers and make money to be involved in economic activity.

### *Education*

Education is necessary for humans to sustain their lives in society. It is an undeniable fact that the right to be educated cannot be undermined, although children are currently suffering from the war. To protect the right to learn for Ukrainian or Russian students, those who were forcibly displaced from the war and could not continue learning, implementing educational online programs supported by financial and non-profit organizations would be helpful for them. Once children settle in a safe place and receive educational materials, including books and writing utensils, it would be beneficial for them to take time and learn for their future. Asking international organizations, neighboring countries, and governments for additional academic support is one of the possible solutions that can protect forcibly displaced people's human rights.



*Destroyed Classroom in Ukraine due to the war*

## **Glossary**

### *Reservists*

Reservists are soldiers who are not serving in the regular army of a country but who can be called to help whenever needed. There have been hundreds of thousands of Russian reservists in the Russia-Ukraine War, those who had to be separated from their families.

### *Vocational Training*



Vocational training refers to instructional programs or courses focusing on the skills required for a particular job. In training, education prepares students for specific careers so that an individual can get close attention to a particular job category and become specialized.

### *Annexation*

Annexation is one country forcibly asserting sovereignty and control of another country's territory, which commonly follows military occupation. In the Russia-Ukraine War, Russia's annexation was condemned worldwide.



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