



Annual report

2024

Content

Introduction	3
About us	4
Justice and attitude to international war crimes	5
Needs and problems of different categories of the population at war	6
Protecting the rights of people with disabilities	7
Attitude to mobilization (conscription)	8
Children rights and their needs	9
Interests and public activities of Ukrainian youth	10
Media about us	11
Our publications	12
Funding	13

INTRODUCTION

This year has been another test for Ukraine and its citizens. The full-scale war that Russia unleashed against our country continues to cause pain, destruction, and trials. In wartime, our organization continued to study public opinion on the most pressing issues - attitudes toward war crimes, transitional justice, mobilization/conscription, the needs of different segments of the population as a result of the war, etc. Separately, we continue to study the reform of the social services system in communities.

We are infinitely grateful to our Armed Forces of Ukraine for allowing us to continue our human rights activities in a free and independent state! Glory and honor to our defenders!

We also thank everyone who supports our activities and fights with us for justice, a decent standard of living, and a future where human rights are respected for everyone. We thank our partners, international organizations, volunteers, and the entire public sector. Together we can change a lot!

Sincerely,

Kharkiv Institute for Social Research Team

About us

Kharkiv Institute of Social Research is a non-profit non-governmental organization that was founded in 1999 and is engaged in the development of an open civil society and democracy, respect for human rights and freedoms, and raising the level of legal awareness of the population of Ukraine.

For 25 years, we have been conducting research on socially important topics, analyzing the needs and problems of different categories of the population and advocating for their rights. With sociologists, lawyers, analysts and involving specialized experts, we always professionally approach solving the problem from creating an idea to monitoring the impact of the results of its implementation on long-term changes in society.

Key areas we work in:

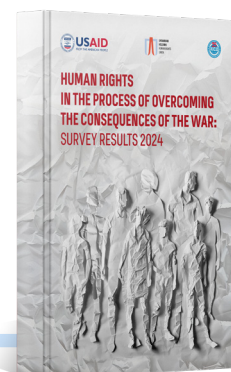
- ✓ Assessing the needs of the population at the national and local levels;
- ✓ Working with communities and populations affected by war;
- ✓ Monitoring police performance and finding effective solutions (from assessing the scale of unlawful violence to improving efficiency);
- ✓ Researching justice (transitional justice, juvenile justice, etc.);
- ✓ Reforming the social protection system;
- ✓ Upholding the rights of people in places of deprivation of liberty;
- ✓ Researching the impact of the media on society and developing constructive approaches to covering current events;
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of projects by public organizations, etc.

Our partners:

- Departments and ministries (Ministry of Interior, Office of the Prosecutor General, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Health, Ombudsman of Ukraine).
- Local municipalities in different regions of Ukraine.
- International NGOs (Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA),
- International research organizations (Hague Institute for Internationalisation of Law, HiiL Innovative Justice (HiiL), Independent Monitoring Board (IMB), Association of Members of Independent Monitoring Boards (AMIMB),
- Donor organizations (US Embassy to Ukraine, Canadian Embassy to Ukraine, European Commission, OSCE, British Council, GIZ GMBH, UNICEF etc).
- Ukrainian NGOs and charities (Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, 5 a.m. Coalition, Voices of Children, Laboratory of Public Interest Journalism, EAST— SOS, Human Rights Vector etc.

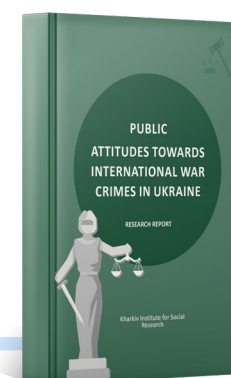
JUSTICE AND ATTITUDE TO INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES

During February-March 2024, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) within the framework of the Human Rights in Action Program, implemented by the UHHRU, the Institute conducted a study entitled **“Human Rights in the Process of Overcoming the Consequences of War”**. Residents of all regions of Ukraine participated in the survey. In total, 2,116 respondents. This study examined the possibilities of assisting war victims, the experience of internal displacement of Ukrainians, attitudes towards residents of the TOT, respondents’ awareness and assessments of coverage of information about the TOT and the war, their attitude towards collaborationism, and their opinion on reparations.



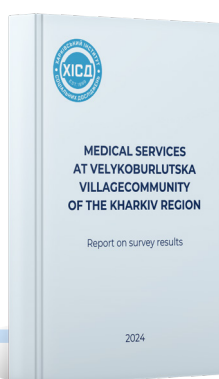
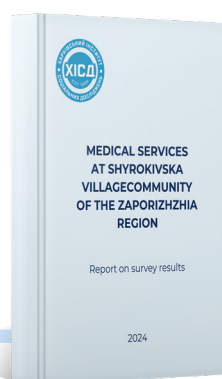
On June 5-7, 2024, the conference **«At the Turning Point of History: The Path to Justice for Victims of War in Ukraine»** was held in Lviv, where leading expert of the Institute of Human Rights and Human Rights Andriy Chernousov presented the study **«Human Rights in the Process of Overcoming the Consequences of War: Results of the 2024 Survey.»**

In the summer, a study **“Public Attitudes to International Crimes in Ukraine”** was conducted at the request and with financial support of the Ukrainian Legal Advisory Group. 1,119 residents of Ukraine were surveyed, as well as six focus group and in-depth interviews with people who were somehow affected by the war, and seven in-depth interviews with experts. The study made it possible to analyze the public’s attitude to international war crimes, find out how witnesses of war crimes assess their safety, what kind of assistance victims of war crimes need, and generally study the issues of access to and trust in national and international justice.

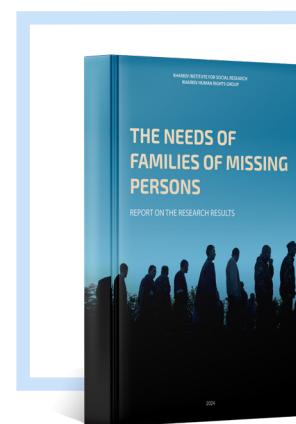


NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF THE POPULATION AT WAR

During January-February 2024, a survey of the population of the Velyky Burluk community in the Kharkiv region and the Shyrokivsk community in the Zaporizhia region was conducted at the request of the international humanitarian organization Médicos del Mundo. It concerned access to medical services and the main problems related to the health of the population. 400 residents of each community participated in the survey. In addition, in-depth interviews were conducted with the medical staff of these communities. The study allowed us to analyze the impact of the war on access to health services in rural areas and suggest ways to solve these problems.



In the summer, the Kharkiv Institute of Social Research also conducted several studies related to the needs of families of missing persons. In one of them, commissioned by the Kharkiv Human Rights Group within the framework of the project **“Development of a Comprehensive and Holistic Approach to Providing Assistance to Missing Persons and Their Families”**, a survey of 500 family members of missing persons was conducted by telephone interviews, as well as 40 in-depth interviews: with experts (representatives of state authorities, public organizations) and family members of missing persons. The key needs of families of missing persons, their awareness of the rights, guarantees and procedures for searching for missing persons; sources of information about available services and guarantees; barriers to obtaining such services; assessment of the work of state bodies with missing persons and relatives; services that exist to support the families of the deceased and those found; the most problematic issues that concern the families of the missing. Another study, commissioned by the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, focused more on the material, social, and psychological consequences of the disappearance of loved ones on adult relatives and children. It involved 14 in-depth interviews and a review of available assistance and services for families of missing persons.

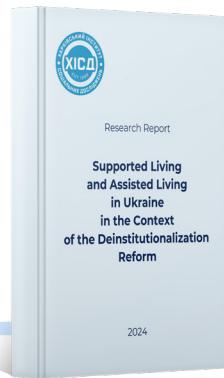


PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

In July-August 2024, a study **“Attitudes towards people with disabilities and supported living”** was conducted with financial support and commissioned by the League of the Strong. It studied the real situation with the implementation of the social service of supported living in Ukraine in the context of the war, taking into account the growth in the number of people with disabilities, single older people and the realization of their right to live in communities on an equal basis with others. Representatives of institutions and social service specialists, as well as recipients of supported living services, participated in the surveys and interviews. 2,113 respondents from all regions of Ukraine took part in the study.

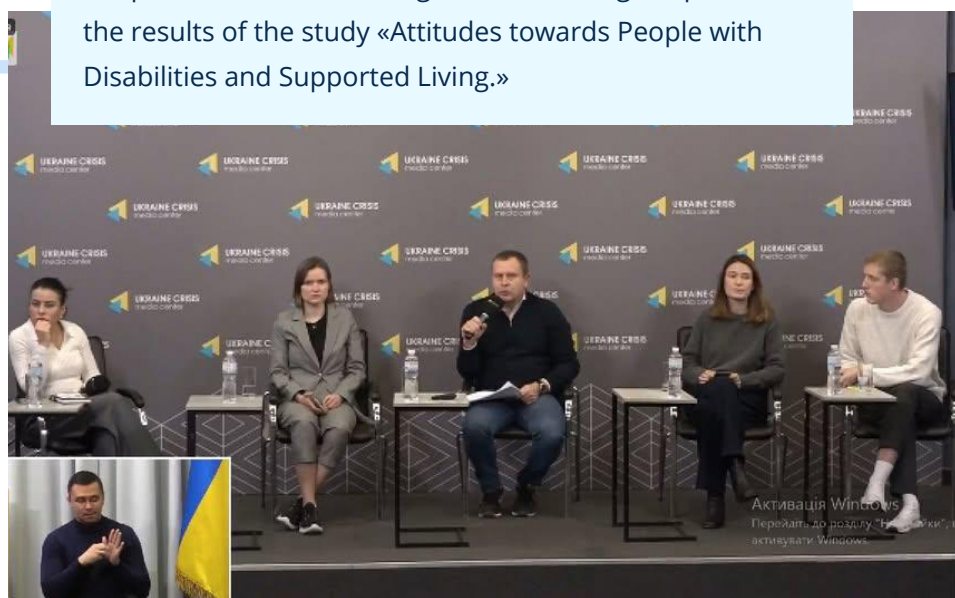


With the support of the League of the Strong, an analytical report **“Supported Living and Supported Living in Ukraine from the Perspective of Deinstitutionalization Reform”** was also published, which examined the real state of implementation of the social service of supported living in Ukraine in the context of the war, taking into account the growth in the number of people with disabilities, single older people, and the realization of their right to live in communities on an equal basis with others.



Also in the fall, a study of opportunities and barriers to employment of persons with disabilities (veterans) was implemented with the support of the Office for Economic Policy and Regional Development Ltd. 8 experts in the field of employment of persons with disabilities in Ukraine were interviewed and statistical and regulatory acts were analyzed. The results made it possible to present Ukraine in a comparative study together with a number of other European countries, as well as to actualize the painful issue of employment of persons with disabilities in Ukraine.

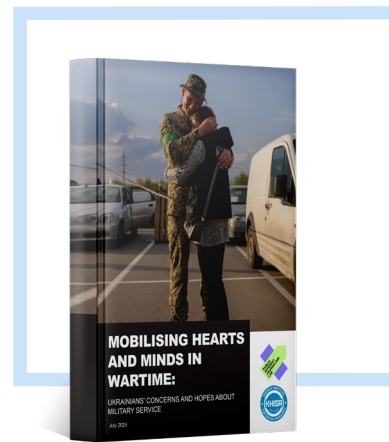
On November 1, 2024, Leading expert of the Institute of Social and Cultural Development Andriy Chernousov took part in the press conference «Deinstitutionalization and Supported Living: Is Society Ready for Change» by the public association «League of the Strong» to present the results of the study «Attitudes towards People with Disabilities and Supported Living.»



December 4-5, 2024. Andriy Chernousov reported on the results of a study of opportunities and barriers for employment of persons with disabilities (veterans) in neighboring countries and candidates for accession to the European Union within the framework of the international seminar «Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities» in Milan, which was organized by the European Commission (EU DG NEAR) and the European Training Foundation.

ATTITUDE TO MOBILIZATION (CONSCRIPTION)

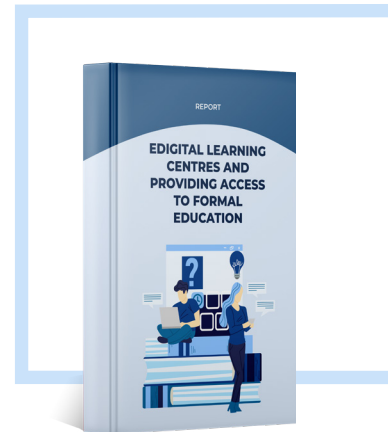
In March-April 2024, focus groups and interviews were conducted as part of the study **“Mobilization of Hearts and Minds in Wartime: Fears and Expectations of Ukrainians Regarding Military Service.”** The study was devoted to studying the attitudes towards mobilization of representatives of various groups of Ukrainian society: men currently serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, civilian men; wives and mothers of military personnel and men of draft age, veterans, and young men who have not reached draft age. The study was conducted under the leadership of the Public Interest Journalism Laboratory (PIJL).



August 2, 2024. Leading expert of the Institute of Military Service Andriy Chernousov took part in the discussion of the results of the study «Mobilizing of Hearts and Minds: Fears and Expectations of Ukrainians Regarding Military Service.»

CHILDREN RIGHTS AND THEIR NEEDS

This summer, Save the Children commissioned a qualitative study of the educational, extracurricular, and quality leisure needs of Ukrainian children during wartime. The study included focus group interviews with middle and high school-aged children and in-depth interviews with parents and guardians. The findings enabled SCI and its partners to make more informed and timely decisions about the development and delivery of education programs for children living in war-torn Ukraine.



Also this year, the leading expert of the KhISR, Andriy Chernousov, participated in the creation of the White Paper **“Protection of Children from Forcible Transfer and Deportation”**. More than 15 international experts and organizations in the field of international law worked on the White Paper. This document reveals the systematic nature of the deportation and forcible transfer of children carried out by the aggressor state. It clearly records all the evidence.



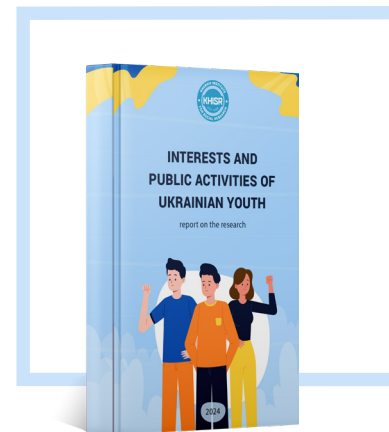
The presentation of the White Paper **«Protection of Children from Forced Displacement and Deportation»** took place on August 27, 2024. This is the first document developed by the International Expert Group Bring Kids Back UA.



In addition, Andriy Chernousov took part in a comprehensive assessment of the child-friendly justice system in Ukraine. This assessment is the result of a study conducted in September-December 2023 by a team of international and national experts within the framework of the Council of Europe project **“Protection of Children’s Rights during War and Post-War in Ukraine”**. The assessment contains information on the observance of the rights of children in conflict with the law, victims of crimes or witnesses of them, as well as on cases involving children in civil and administrative proceedings. The study examines the implementation of child-friendly justice standards, identifies the main trends and key problems in ensuring the procedural rights of the child in criminal, civil and administrative cases involving children and protecting their rights and interests, and offers recommendations on the main areas of child rights protection, including practical solutions to the identified problematic issues.

INTERESTS AND PUBLIC ACTIVITIES OF UKRAINIAN YOUTH

In the fall of 2024, the KhISR conducted a survey of young people aged 18-26. The sample consisted of 763 people. The results showed that today young people are not very actively joining various youth movements, both formal and informal, are poorly informed and not very interested in this activity. However, young people are quite actively involved in public activities, mainly of a volunteer / charitable or sports nature. At the same time, there are few youth work centers - clubs, circles, student self-government, youth centers / spaces, youth councils, etc. A greater variety of forms and proposals is needed, taking into account the interests of modern youth. Among the most priority areas are sports, professional orientation and assistance in employment, creativity, psychological support, learning foreign languages, entertainment and educational activities (concerts, excursions, hikes), etc.



MEDIA ABOUT US

«At the Turning Point of History: The Path to Justice for Victims of War in Ukraine». UHHRU Conference.

«Those affected by war often do not admit it»: results of a public opinion poll.

More than three-quarters of Ukrainians have suffered from the war. Survey results.

International events as an opportunity to convey the voices of Ukrainian children abroad.

Interests and social activities of young people. Report on the results of the study.

Presentation of the study «Interests and social activities of youth in Ukraine.»

Readiness of schools for the academic year in frontline regions: monitoring by the Vostok SOS Foundation.

November 26 — presentation of the study «Interests and social activities of youth in Ukraine.»

What do families of missing persons need and what obstacles do they overcome?

The Lviv State University of Internal Affairs discussed the latest trends in state policy in the field of combating human trafficking and illegal migration.

The project to support and strengthen the capacity of the Rokada Charitable Foundation in implementing effective mechanisms for the integration of IDPs has been completed.

Damaged buildings, unrepaired shelters, and lack of water and electricity: what problems are schools facing after de-occupation?

The Verkhovna Rada is being urged to allow journalists into its meetings and on the sidelines.

Ukrainian NGOs call on the ICC to respond to the UN Secretary General's meeting with Putin.

"I want to go to my own": human rights activists are convinced that the project threatens the country's information security.

35 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Tested by war.

Public representatives demand an end to the persecution of anti-corruption activists and investigative journalists.

The «On the Contact Line» Coalition supported a public statement to the President regarding the preservation of the Ministry of Reintegration.

Deinstitutionalization and supported living: is society ready for change?

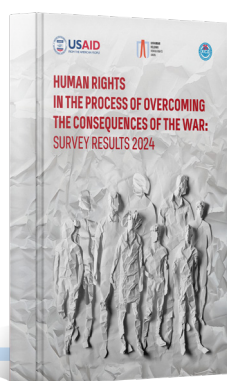
Ukraine’s Struggle for Justice: Balancing Hope and Realism for War Victims.

From boarding schools to the community: why deinstitutionalization reform is important for Ukraine.

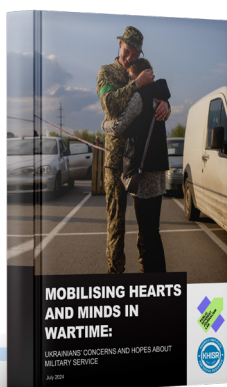
The war could end in the fall: what exactly is Zelensky preparing? — EFE.

Occupation, Russia, Europe and boarding school? How stolen children are returned and what Ukraine is not ready for.

OUR PUBLICATIONS



Human Rights in the Process of Overcoming the Consequences of the War: Survey Results 2024



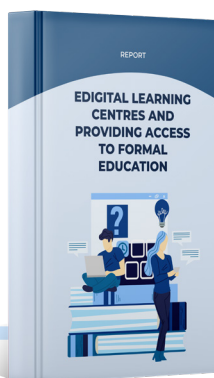
Mobilising hearts and minds in wartime: ukrainians’ concerns and hopes about military service



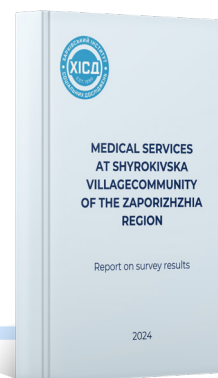
Research Report “Supported Living and Assisted Living in Ukraine in the Context of the Deinstitutionalization Reform”



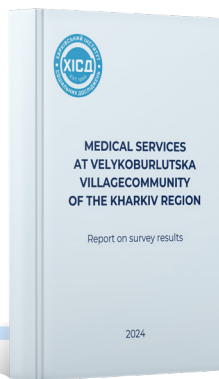
Attitudes towards people with disabilities and assisted living



Digital learning centres and providing access to formal education



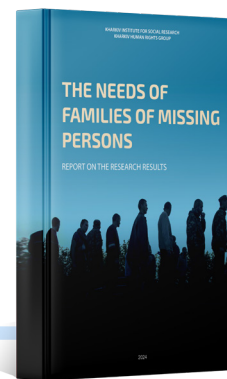
Medical services at Shyrokivska village community of the Zaporizhzhia region



Medical services at Velykoburlutska village community of the Kharkiv region



Healthcare system in Ukraine: a test of resilience in times of war



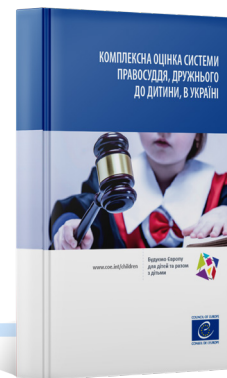
The Needs of Families of Missing Persons. Report on the Research Results



Public attitudes towards international war crimes in Ukraine. Research results.



Interests and public activities of Ukrainian Youth. Report on the research



The Analysis of the System of Justice for Minors in Conflict with the Law in Ukraine Practical Aspects

FUNDING

As part of the implemented projects, the Institute received financial support in the amount of UAH **5,494,650.00**.

More information on our web-site:

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