



**United Nations Commission  
on Crime Prevention and  
Criminal Justice**



**AGENDA:**

Addressing the Human Rights Situation Post Russia  
Ukraine Crisis in the Russia Occupied Ukraine Territories  
focussing on Pillar IV

**UNCCPCJ**

**STUDY GUIDE**



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## LETTER FROM THE BUREAU

Dear Delegates,

We are thrilled to welcome you all to the 10th iteration of Shishukunj Model United Nations. We are as excited as you all for this year's conference and look forward to having spirited discussions on the agenda- 'Addressing the Human Rights situation post Russia-Ukraine conflict in the Russia-occupied Ukraine territory, focusing on Pillar IV.'

With this agenda, the delegates will get a deeper insight into the humanitarian costs of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the IVth pillar of the Kyoto Declaration on advancing crime-prevention. The discussions in the committee will proceed in the form of the three thematic sessions on Pillar IV from 2-4 December 2024 with the aim of focusing on the impacts of such conflicts in the life of civilians, how international cooperation can help rebuild post-conflict Ukraine and evolving forms of war crimes.

We have created this study guide to help the delegates have a better understanding of the agenda and it is to be used only as a reference while researching. We encourage and expect original work and creativity from the delegates and would like to emphasize that we value quality rather than quantity when it comes to thinking of original solutions.

We look forward to fruitful debates and discussions and occasionally some fun during the conference. We wish you all the best for your research and hope to see you soon!

Regards,

**Rashi Soni**- CO-Chairperson

**Shakambhari Karnik**- CO-Chairperson

**Riddhi Goyal**- Vice- Chairperson



## INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (UNCCPCJ) was established in 1992 by the Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/1, upon request from the General Assembly as one of ECOSOC's functional committees. Its primary mandate is to guide the UN in the policy-making related to crime-prevention and criminal justice. ECOSOC provided CCPCJ's mandate in the resolution 1992/22 which include improving international action to combat national and transnational crime and the efficiency and fairness of criminal justice administration systems.

The CCPCJ develops policy on crime through resolutions, decisions, standards and norms, and thematic discussions. It has 40 member states, chaired by the bureau and elected by ECOSOC, each serving a three-year term including 12 African states, 9 Asian states, 8 Latin American and Caribbean states, 4 Eastern European states and 7 Western European and other states. It convenes annually in Vienna, gathering member states, experts, and NGOs.

In 2006 the GA adopted resolution 61/252 to expand the mandates of the CCPCJ to enable it to function as a governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and to approve the budget of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. The Commission also actively contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda.



## INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

The agenda: “**Addressing the Human Rights Situation post the Russia-Ukraine conflict in the Russia-occupied Ukraine territory, focusing on Pillar IV**”, mainly focuses on all the criminal aspects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, rebuilding of Ukraine’s criminal justice system and how the crime of violation of human rights and destruction of the environment affects the population and its surroundings.

### **THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR BACKGROUND:**

The ongoing Russia-Ukraine war that had subtle roots in February 2014 with the secretive invasion of Crimea by the Russian forces, escalated and came into full force when Russia launched a full scale invasion on February 24th, 2022. Why the war began in the first place has a lot of geopolitical reasons and tensions between the two countries. The 2014 annexation of Crimea revolved around Russia wanting to keep control over its important naval base in Sevastopol which is a major port city located in Crimea, near The Black Sea. Meanwhile the full scale invasion of 2022 was carried out because of Russia’s opposition to NATO’s (The North Atlantic Treaty Organization) eastward expansion and the possibility of Ukraine becoming a member. Currently, Russia controls about 20% of Ukrainian territory which includes- Most of Crimea, Luhansk and Donetsk, and parts of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. As a primary impact, the war has snatched many innocent lives and livelihoods. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) verified a total of 45,001 civilian deaths due to the war, as of April 2025.

### **KYOTO DECLARATION AND THEMATIC SESSIONS:**

The Kyoto declaration on advancing Crime Prevention and Criminal justice, was adopted by the fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The Pillar IV says: ‘Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime’.

The subtopics of this agenda have been linked to the Three Thematic Discussions based on the 4th Pillar of the Kyoto Declaration, that were held from 2-4 December, 2024.

The subtopics under the first thematic session study the ‘impacts of terrorism on the lives of the civilians in terms of health and social life during the conflict’.

The subtopic linked with the second thematic session explores the ‘evolving form of environmental crime and resource destruction during the war’.



The subtopics under the third thematic session explore ‘how international cooperation through capacity building and technical assistance can help address the current situation of the criminal justice system in Ukraine, and discrimination.

All the acts covered in the agenda are considered war crimes and severely impact the political, economic and social spheres and crucial infrastructure of the occupied country.

This guide also covers the case study of The destruction of Kakhovka dam, to make the agenda easier to understand.



## KEY TERMS

1. **Conflict:** A conflict is a strong disagreement or argument regarding an important topic.
2. **War Crime:** A war crime is a serious violation of international laws during a conflict. This includes intentional killings, torture of civilians or unlawful destruction of their property.
3. **Thematic Session:** A thematic session is a discussion revolving around a specific theme or a subject and delves deeply in that topic.
4. **International cooperation:** is when nations, international organizations or governments collaborate to help each other or to achieve a common goal.
5. **Capacity-Building:** It is the process through which individuals or organizations develop or upgrade their skills.
6. **Prosecution:** It is a process of a trial, where someone is officially accused of committing a crime and the lawyers try to prove him/her guilty.
7. **Caseload:** Caseload is the amount of work with which a doctor or lawyer has to deal with in a period of time.
8. **Displacement:** It is the migration of civilians to another country, caused by armed conflict and political and economic unrest.
9. **Humanitarian Rights:** These are the rights applicable to all individuals in each and every country like Right to Equality, Right to Education etc.
10. **Mental health:** This refers to the health of an individual with respect to his/hers psychological well being.
11. **Infrastructural damage:** It is the damage caused to man - made physical structures such as buildings, schools, hospitals etc.
12. **Terrorism:** It refers to acts of violence committed with the intention of inflicting pain or death on civilians in order to achieve a particular political or religious propaganda.
13. **Combatants:** This term refers to people engaged in war.
14. **Shelling:** An act of firing, generally seen during armed conflict.



**15. Sustainability:** it is the responsible and judicious use of natural resources in order to save them for the future.

**16. Criminal Justice System:** A criminal justice system refers to the series of legal government bodies responsible for delivering justice in criminal cases.

**17. Civil Rights:** They are the rights of citizens to political and social equality.





## THEMATIC SESSION 1: IMPACT OF TERRORISM IN ALL ITS FORMS

This thematic session of the 4th Pillar of the Kyoto declaration explores how terrorism during war times has impacted the lives of the civilians in many aspects such as health and infrastructure.

### **IMPACT ON HEALTH OF VICTIMS OF WAR**

It is a proven point that human life suffers the most during war times due to extensive terrorism activities such as deliberate killing of civilians and holding them as hostages. From permanent physical injuries to serious psychological trauma, all pose grave danger to the lives of ordinary citizens even long after the happening of such events. All of this is worsened when there are focused attacks on medical facilities by the terrorist organisations. Ukraine is already a vulnerable country when it comes to the health sector. The continuous attacks by Russian terrorists on Ukraine's medical facilities have further worsened the condition. The statistics from February 2022 to November 2024 have reported almost 12,612 deaths and 26,919 injuries. All these atrocities have taken a severe toll on not only the physical well being of the civilians but also their mental health. According to the recent statistics 22% of the total population has been diagnosed with depression, 18% have been suffering with anxiety, and 30% had severe psychological distress and other disorders<sup>1</sup>.

#### **1. Permanent Physical Injuries**

Permanent physical injuries are like an everlasting mark that will forever remind the victims of the kind and extent of atrocities they had to go through. These kinds of injuries are usually a result of armored warfare. The use of modern warfare technology and the easy access of such lethal weapons to the terrorist has resulted in casualties in high numbers in a short period of time with maximum intensity. Injuries such as amputations, blast wounds, head injuries and untreated fractures are highly vulnerable to life threatening infections and lead to deterioration in health care. The factors which determine the intensity of the injuries are:- weaponry in use, number of combatants exposed, and the time period of their exposure.

Russia using the modern technology weapons can be held responsible for the large scale of severe injuries such as critical abdominal, head and vascular injuries. Snares like grenades, RDX and HMX often cause burns, traumatic brain injuries and pulmonary trauma. According to the statistics provided by UNHRC, 4,000 deaths and almost 5,000 people had been injured within the first 3 months of the war. All of these injuries if left untreated can lead to widespread infections which would just further

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<sup>1</sup> Health statistics: <https://ijmhs.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13033-023-00598-3>



worsen the condition of the victim as well as those around them.

## 2. Impact on Mental Health

War often leads to severe distressing events such as death which severely impacts the victims' mental health and well-being. The mental trauma suffered by the victims due to terrorism is much more permanent and deep than the physical wounds. The mental effects of war can be direct as well as indirect. Furthermore the war has developed feelings of anxiety, helplessness, insecurity, trauma, shame, guilt, humiliation, nightmares, the loss of lives of those who were important to them, distress, depression and so much more in the victims. So far very few studies have been undertaken to examine the mental health of the citizens in Ukraine. One study suggests that the prevalence of stress in Ukraine increased from 45% before the war started in 2021 to 50% after the war started, this 5% increase within 1 year is a triggering issue in itself. High prevalence (77.7%) of war anxiety among Ukrainian refugees in Poland has been reported. Students and personnel in Ukraine are found with high prevalence of the emotional states of anger (76.9%), depression (84.3%), nervousness (84.4%), loneliness (51.8%), and exhaustion (86.7%)<sup>2</sup>. Therefore there is a growing need to address these severe mental issues.

## 3. Lack of Timely Medical Assistance

The regular attacks by Russia on Ukraine's medical facility have largely contributed to instability in its health sector. According to the UN so far almost 4000 targeted attacks have been recorded on Ukraine's health facilities. Such targeted attacks on critical infrastructures like healthcare is clearly an evidence of the ongoing blatant breach of humanitarian rights in this conflict. An article by the UN in Ukraine has found out that every fifth person in the country faces problems in accessing basic medical facilities while in areas under Russian occupation every third person struggles with the same. Moreover, the high prices of medicines have also contributed to their inaccessibility and have become one of the most significant reasons for the financial instability faced by the civilians. This rise in the prices of the medicines have also impacted the ongoing treatments of patients with chronic diseases such as cancer, tuberculosis etc. The most significant issue is that of the gap in the healthcare personnel. As already mentioned Ukraine was a very vulnerable country when it comes to the health sector. This was largely due to the lack of sufficient health care workers in the country. This gap is now further widened as a result of the following factors:-

<sup>2</sup> - Mental health impact- <https://journals.sagepub.com/>



- a. The healthcare personnel have been forced to face death and pain of their own countrymen on a daily basis and all of this misery has greatly taken a toll on their mental health due to which many of them have voluntarily stepped down from their jobs.
- b. The war has caused large scale displacement of the health workers.
- c. The extensive destruction and attacks have also led to the health workers' deaths in alarmingly high numbers.
- d. Large scale destruction of medical facilities and hospitals, making it much more inaccessible than before. It has been found that the healthcare sector has suffered \$4.3 billion in damages

## **EFFECTS OF THE OCCUPATION ON CIVILIANS**

Aside from the damage to human life which is considered a mere “collateral damage” by the states to the extent that it openly breaches human rights, there is also the point of destruction due to occupation on the civilians which ranges from infrastructural damage to impact on education to disruption in the family lives. This invasion by Russia in Ukraine has impacted the civilians' lives from all directions and it would take more than a decade for the civilians to rise from this whole traumatic experience.

### **1. Damage to Infrastructure**

The full scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia so far has caused infrastructural damage amounting to almost \$170 billion (stats according to November 2024) due to constant missile attacks and malevolence. This includes the most suffered sector of residential buildings with destructions estimated at \$60 billions, Industry, construction, and services have sustained \$14.4 billion in damages. The agricultural sector has suffered damages of \$10.3 billion meanwhile the cultural, sports, and tourism infrastructure has suffered \$4 billion in damages<sup>3</sup>. These damages have had a domino effect on the whole of the economy with each of the damage shaking the stability of the economy to its crux, for example: the damage inflicted on energy related sectors like electricity or fuel has slowed down the pace of the industrial sector which as a matter of fact is highly dependent on the energy sector for its operations, now this decrease in pace has plummeted the production rate of the country due to which there is a gap in the demand supply chain in other sectors such as healthcare, education etc. Due to this there is an alarming surge in the prices which has led to layoffs ( the temporary or permanent discharge of workers due to economic conditions) resulting in large scale unemployment. This also forced the employers to decrease the wages and salaries

<sup>3</sup> Infrastructural damage-<https://kse.ua/>



paid to the workers, this reduced wage was insufficient to sustain the workers and their families. The financial impact includes a shocking loss of value of the Ukrainian currency Hyrvnia, international sanctions on the economy which led to economic isolation of the country. The government also started to divert its funds to the defence and started taking international loans for the same, leading to huge debt burden on the economy and foreign investors started to withdraw.

## 2. Impact on Education

The war has had a huge impact on education. There is a worrying backlog in their studies due to constant deterioration in the quality of education as a result of regular power outages, large scale resignations by teachers because of unstable mental health caused by the uncertainty of the war, destruction of school buildings, mental trauma suffered by students, the large scale displacement leading to increase in school dropout rates and parents hesitating to send their children to school because of safety concerns. Moreover, demolition of facilities such as the internet and inaccessibility to technology has also made it difficult for the schools to conduct online classes. These factors are not only limited to schools but also to higher education in universities. Across Ukraine, 3,373 educational institutions have been damaged, including 385 destroyed, accounting for more than 10 percent of the education infrastructure at a cost of \$13.4 billion, according to the latest Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA4)<sup>4</sup>. This alarming number shows the intensity of this pressing issue and how it is affecting the future generations.

## 3. Disruption of Families

On top of the infrastructural damage and the unfortunate loss of human life, there also exists tension in the family framework. A number of families have been forced to abandon their homes and due to large scale displacement many families have broken up and many loved ones have either been reported missing or have been martyred in the war. All of this takes place alongside the incessant trauma caused to parents leading to changes in parenting practices due to continuous financial pressure and the responsibility to safeguard their children's lives. Many reports claim that the war has caused the biggest and the largest displacement crisis after World War 2. This data forces one to wonder about the number of families that must have broken up during such a large scale displacement. Since the men of the families are engaged in military service during the war there is a growing pressure on the women to maintain the households and arrange for the basic necessities such as food whilst suffering through

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<sup>4</sup> Impact on education - <https://www.worldbank.org/>



financial insecurity and growing anxiety for their loved ones at the border. One out of five (20.0 %) Ukrainians experienced the loss of a known person, 12.7 % the loss of a loved one; 2.1 % reported the loss or destruction of their building; 6.0 % experienced displacement within or outside Ukraine.

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## THEMATIC SESSION 2: EVOLVING FORMS OF CRIME

This thematic session explores the impact of evolving forms of crimes like environmental crime.

### ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME AND ECOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION

#### **Air Pollution**

Air pollution is extremely harmful for humans and animals. It can cause serious health issues like respiratory diseases, strokes and even death. It increases during war and has a fatal impact on the ecosystem. The major causes of air pollution in Ukraine are heavy bombing, wildfires, military operations including destruction of fuel storage facilities, industrial infrastructure and movement of military equipment. Increases in the level of pollutants-mainly Nitrogen Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxide, Sulphur Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide have occurred. Biomass burning and increased greenhouse gas emissions have led to respiratory problems and cardiovascular diseases. Huge amounts of particulate matter (PM2.5) released in the atmosphere due to explosions, fires and collapse of buildings. During the first 12 months of the war an estimated 21.9 million tons of carbon dioxide was released. War Firing resulted in an additional 17.7 tons of carbon dioxide. The air pollution caused by all this destruction doesn't only pose short term side effects but also carries with it life threatening, long-term diseases like asthma, lung cancer etc leaving a prolonged impact on the citizens.

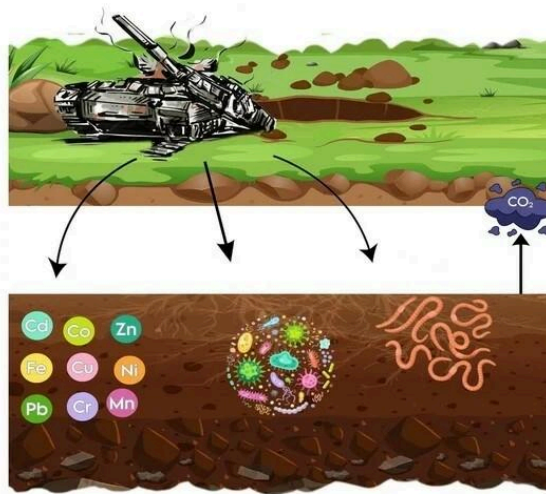
#### **Water Pollution**

Clean drinking water is something that each of us should have access to, in order to remain healthy, but the war has made it very difficult to find clean, uncontaminated water. In April 2022, about 6 million people (15% of the population) in Ukraine, had limited or absolutely no proper drinking water facilities. Access to safe drinking water has been denied to an additional 1 million people due to water contamination through shelling, explosives and other chemicals. Large volume of water released from Kakhovka Dam into the black sea contained toxic sediments which are a threat to the coastal ecosystems. The breach has caused damage of nearly 4 billion dollars and the expected amount of total reconstruction and recovery is estimated to be at 11 billion dollars for 2023-2024. The flood water was contaminated with untreated sewage and dead wildlife. Destruction of water infrastructure like irrigation canals, pumps and reservoirs has an unspeakable impact on agricultural production. The war worsened the pre-existing sanitation and drainage problems of Ukraine, and moreover, the

aquatic life has also suffered a great deal.

## Land Pollution

Land is among the most useful resources on earth, and if contaminated, it can also affect other resources like groundwater and soil. The heavy armed conflict in Ukraine has caused loss of biodiversity due to extensive chemical contamination through use of high caliber ammunition in the weaponry. The soil has been contaminated with lead, uranium and RDX, which has caused damages of about 10.3 billion dollars to the agricultural sector. 1,30,000 units of agricultural machinery, 4 million tons of grain storage capacity and 16,000 hectares of perennial crops have been lost. The forests too have sustained major losses with 2,98,000 hectares being destroyed by hostilities and fires. 30% of Ukrainian Land has been contaminated with land mines. 20% of protected areas of Ukraine have been captured by the Russian army which housed 8 natural parks. 10 national parks in Ukraine are at a huge risk of loss of precious wildlife. This has not only led to loss of the ecosystem but also resource and land depletion.



## Resource Destruction

The Russia-Ukraine war can be named as an environmental disaster as it has caused the destruction of numerous resources essential to life like land, water, air, humans, money etc. Since 2022 Russia is putting efforts to either destroy or capture natural resources of Ukraine. The seizure of Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in March 2022 is the biggest example. Heavy airstrikes on energy resource centres to damage Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Russia has also captured the Kruta Balka Site which has rare earth deposits like Zirconium,



Uranium, Graphite and Titanium. Russia has seized resources worth 350 billion. By the end of 2022, Russia had control over 50%-100% of Ukraine's metal reserves; namely lithium, tantalum, cesium and strontium which are critical for green energy. This environmental impact will take decades to heal, but the inclusion of the environment's recovery in rebuilding efforts might help in speeding up the process.

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## THEMATIC SESSION 3: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

This thematic session of the 4th Pillar of the Kyoto declaration focuses on how countries working together, helping and providing each other with the required technical assistance can help in achieving a major aim of the declaration, which is- 'Advancing Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice'.

### **REBUILDING UKRAINE'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

This thematic session is appropriately linked to a very important aspect when it comes to criminal justice and protecting civil rights in post-war Ukraine while also rebuilding Ukraine as a country.

Criminal Justice systems, devastated by years of conflict, generally face:

- A lack of resources and damaged legal infrastructure due to the tensions and constant attacks between the concerned countries.
- Absence of legally trained professionals due to war-related reasons like displacement or death or a lack of knowledge in the existing officials in properly handling war-crime cases.
- Huge caseloads which lead to a backlog



All of these challenges make it very difficult for the system to function smoothly. Hence rebuilding such systems is important in leading conflict-affected countries back on track and restoring confidence in their governments.

Just like any other conflict-torn region, every part of Ukraine's justice system is under strain. Out of more than 156,000 war crime investigations launched since its full-scale invasion by Russia, only about 150 verdicts have been reached<sup>5</sup>. Clearly, legal professionals are struggling to manage such heavy caseloads, while also trying to ensure fair and legal punishment for war criminals and equal legal access:

#### **1. Ensuring Fair and Legal Punishment for War Criminals**

War criminals are people who seriously violate the international humanitarian law during a war. These people are individuals like military personnel, political leaders or any one who commits such a crime. This act involves holding hostages, torturing or

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[www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukrainian-victims-of-war-crimes-need-new-approaches-to-justice/](http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukrainian-victims-of-war-crimes-need-new-approaches-to-justice/)



killing innocent civilians etc. and justice or closure to the victims of such acts will only be served when the system ensures fair and legal punishment and accountability. This process in Ukraine is slow due to the huge caseloads, as mentioned above, alongside the rate of delivering the verdicts that has slowed due to many factors. Apart from not having full access to occupied regions, there are certain gaps in the legal frameworks as well. Until October 2024, Ukraine did not have any provision for a crime against humanity, which is an act committed against civilians as part of a systematic attack. This means that any such act committed before this date will not be registered as a crime against humanity, and this will definitely weaken the process of a fair and legal trial, to a large extent. These factors make it even more important for Ukraine to address the issue, along with the international community and maintain fair and legal trials.

## 2. Equal Legal Access

The rebuilding of the system is meaningless if the citizens do not have equal access to it. Legal access here, is the right or concept that everyone affected by the war should have the right to seek justice. This is important because it is already difficult to keep track of all the injustice that takes place during war and becomes even more important when people are discriminated against or denied aid based on their ethnic background. In the case of Ukraine, civilians in the occupied areas, like Crimea do not have access to the system or even safe ways through which they can report a war crime. This is an obstacle in the process, but can be eliminated, or reduced with the help of the international community.

In both Russian-occupied and Ukrainian-controlled areas, there were instances where individuals were denied access to legal aid or faced biased judicial processes. This undermines the right to a fair trial and equal access to justice.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, due to lack of education, documentation, infrastructure and accessibility, people are unintentionally denied legal access and are hence prone to the denial of basic rights and requirements, highlighting why equal legal access is important in a country.

## 3. Contribution of the International Community

- a. **UNODC**- Recently, high level consultations were held in Kyiv, to address this issue. Harsheth Virk, Head of the UNODC Programme Office for Ukraine, and Aimée Comrie, Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section led them<sup>2</sup>. It included various other international organizations as well. These consultations

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[wpr.net/global-voices/ukraines-2025-challenges-justice](https://wpr.net/global-voices/ukraines-2025-challenges-justice)



identified important areas for technical cooperation and improvement in Ukraine's criminal justice system<sup>7</sup>.

b. **Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine:**

“Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” 2023-26:

Two important projects under this programme are:

- Project ‘HELP<sup>8</sup> for Ukraine-(Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals), including during wartime’. This is a project aimed at upgrading the skill sets of current and future legal officers to apply the European Human Rights standards efficiently during and post wartime.
- ‘Fostering Human Rights in the Criminal Justice System in Ukraine- (Phase II)’<sup>9</sup>This project’s objective is to help Ukraine build a criminal justice system that works smoothly, follows European Human Rights standards even during and after the war with Russia and is trusted and respected by people.

While some progress is observed due to such projects, there remain certain gaps that still need to be addressed better. The huge amount of war crime cases and its burden on the weak judicial system, remains a challenge. This large number combined with the lack of access and control over the crime scenes in Russian-occupied territories makes it very difficult to identify suspects and gather reliable evidence. The system also lacks a very important part of a successful criminal justice system, which is a proper victim and witness protection system. This aspect becomes even more crucial in war scenarios where the safety of witnesses is constantly challenged and at the same time they are one of the most solid pieces of evidence during such a trial.

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[https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/ukraines-justice-system\\_laying-the-foundations-for-reconstruction.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/ukraines-justice-system_laying-the-foundations-for-reconstruction.html)

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<https://www.coe.int/en/web/kyiv/project-help-human-rights-education-for-legal-professionals-for-ukraine-including-during-wartime>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.coe.int/en/web/kyiv/fostering-human-rights-in-the-criminal-justice-system-in-ukraine>



## TACKLING DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination during war is unequal or even harsh treatment with people on the basis of their background or identity. It often increases during a conflict and can be in the form of silencing people's voices, discrimination based on ethnic background or political opinion like unequal access to justice, medical and humanitarian aid, etc. For example, the policy of 'Russification'<sup>10</sup> of the occupied territories is a systematic policy or effort by Russia to increase Russian national, political and cultural dominance in the occupied Ukrainian territory.

This can be broken down into two aspects-

### **1. Suppression of Rights of Freedom of Speech and Expression:**

The Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression has been laid down in the Article 19 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is the right that each human has to express their views freely through any mode.

Among the many buildings and homes of civilians, the rights of freedom of expression were also attacked in the Russian-occupied Ukraine territory. In 2023 the Institute of Mass Information (IMI) experts recorded 150 freedom of speech violations in Ukraine and 67 of those violations were committed by Russia during its full-scale invasion into Ukraine.<sup>11</sup>

Some reports mention that media outlets have been forcefully shut down, and journalists have been threatened or harassed. Russian authorities have also limited internet access, blocked content, and cut off Ukrainian communication services. All the mobile networks have been replaced with Russian ones where only filtered news that Russian authorities display, is available. These are not just violations of freedom of speech and expression but also of the basic 'Right to Information' of a citizen.

### **2. Discrimination against Ethnic groups:**

The main Ethnic group of Ukraine is the Ukrainians. They make up about 77.5% of its population<sup>12</sup>, and that of Russia is Russians, making up 81% of its population<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> Russification policy- [www.britannica.com/place/Russia/Russification-policies](http://www.britannica.com/place/Russia/Russification-policies)

<sup>11</sup> [imi.org.ua/en/news/imi-records-150-freedom-of-speech-violations-in-ukraine-in-2023-nearly-half-committed-by-russia-i58407](http://imi.org.ua/en/news/imi-records-150-freedom-of-speech-violations-in-ukraine-in-2023-nearly-half-committed-by-russia-i58407)

<sup>12</sup> [www.worldatlas.com/articles/major-ethnic-groups-of-the-ukraine.html](http://www.worldatlas.com/articles/major-ethnic-groups-of-the-ukraine.html)

<sup>13</sup> [www.worldatlas.com/articles/largest-ethnic-groups-in-russia.html](http://www.worldatlas.com/articles/largest-ethnic-groups-in-russia.html)



This war has brought many cases of ethnic discrimination to light. The Roma community, which is a minority ethnic group in Ukraine, suffered a lot because of the war. A survey among Roma displaced from Ukraine revealed that 48% experienced discrimination when attempting to rent apartments, and 45% witnessed discrimination in accessing humanitarian aid.<sup>14</sup> In occupied areas, aid may be provided to the civilians based on their ethnicity or political beliefs, rather than need.

The Crimean Tatars, a native Muslim community in Crimea, are still discriminated against—like sudden home searches and arrests under vague terrorism accusations or suppressing their culture<sup>15</sup>. Under the Russification policy, pro-Ukraine sentiments were criminalized alongside banning the use of Ukrainian languages in education.

Since actions like suppression of free speech and ethnic discrimination are obvious violations of international humanitarian laws made to protect citizens during conflict and uphold basic human rights, and many human rights conventions; it is required that the shifting global attention be targeted back and better towards this crisis because tackling discrimination in conflict-affected regions doesn't just require reforms in the law.

And this is where the role of the Thematic Session 3 comes into play, which is international cooperation through capacity building and technical assistance.

While the international community is actively engaged and providing aid, like sharing monitoring tools to assess the situation, there remain several gaps in addressing discrimination in Russian-occupied Ukrainian territories, with lack of access and control over the occupied areas being one of the biggest limitations in properly addressing all aspects of any form of war crime.

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<sup>14</sup>

[reliefweb.int/report/poland/long-marginalized-roma-displaced-ukraine-have-faced-further-exclusion](https://reliefweb.int/report/poland/long-marginalized-roma-displaced-ukraine-have-faced-further-exclusion)

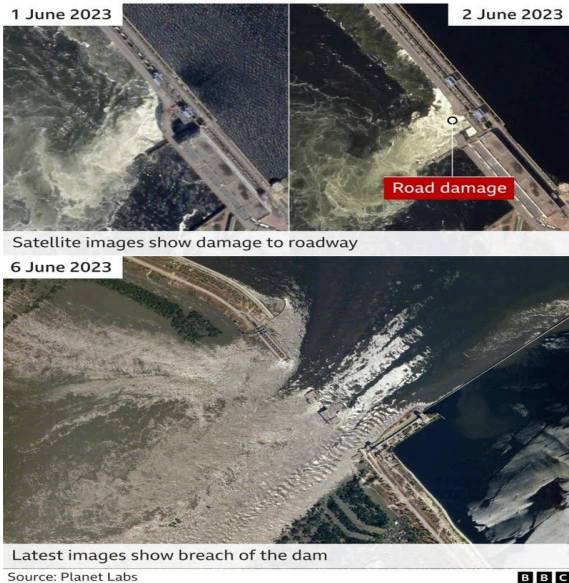
<sup>15</sup> Discrimination against Crimean Tatars-  
[theconversation.com/do-claims-that-crimean-tatars-are-worse-off-under-putin-than-stalin-stand-up-an-expert-examines-the-evidence-217333](https://theconversation.com/do-claims-that-crimean-tatars-are-worse-off-under-putin-than-stalin-stand-up-an-expert-examines-the-evidence-217333)

## CASE STUDY

### THE DESTRUCTION OF KAKHOVKA DAM (2023)

On the morning of June 6, 2023 the Russian forces allegedly destroyed the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant which was made on the river bank of Dnipro river. The Ukrainian military and NATO accuse Russia of the destruction, meanwhile Russia blames Ukraine.

#### Damage to Ukraine's Nova Khakovka dam



Nonetheless, it had a huge impact on the environment and population of Ukraine. Due to this, water began to flow heavily from the reservoir and surrounding area. Around 1000 square km of the reservoir bed was seen and ground water levels which were very important for irrigating the region's farmlands dropped significantly. The major significant impact on the environment was the sudden release of agricultural, industrial waste and pollutant runoff that was trapped under the dam. It swept past villages and farms which caused large-scale destruction. The river has been contaminated with 150 tonnes of industrial lubricant and another 300 tonnes were at risk of mixing with the same. Agricultural land has been washed away as the major consequences of the flooding

on local farmland. Around 12,000 hectares of forest land was flooded. The population of that area is thus vulnerable to dangerous chemical substances like pesticides, fertilisers and other pollutants.

In the blame games and geopolitical dynamics of this incident, the environment is the one that has suffered primarily. This incident impacted the water quality and biodiversity of Ukraine. Experts are still studying further ecological harm and its wartime environmental justice aspect.



## CONCLUSION

As we come to the end of this study guide, it is important to examine the multi-dimensional issues as a cause of the human rights situation in the Russian occupied Ukraine territory post Russia Ukraine war with a special emphasis on Pillar IV. This agenda demands thorough reflection upon the violations of basic human rights and calls for international cooperation to address the miseries of the civilians stuck in the war affected areas.

Through this agenda, we have explored the various dimensions of war crimes with respect to the Russia-Ukraine war, the systems that need rebuilding, how such terrorism during war affects the civilians, and the environmental destruction as a crime that was carried out during the course of the war.

The committee should emphasise on making international cooperation, upholding justice and ensuring accountability by states as a moral obligation.

This study guide has been carefully prepared to include all aspects that will be covered in the committee in detail and hence it is a wonderful base for the delegates to start their research with. It is also required that the delegates are thorough with their research and explore the agenda aside from the guide as well. After all, delegates are the ones who make the committee fruitful and interesting.



## EXPECTATIONS FROM THE DELEGATES

MUNs are a platform to develop one's critical thinking and imagination, aside from the leadership aspect. Hence, we expect you to think of creative solutions and research on all their aspects including-

1. Its practical potential, i.e. if it is implementable;
2. And if it is already implemented.

This simple method will help you come up with, and present the best of your ideas to us. We expect the delegates to approach this agenda with diplomacy while addressing the political, social, legal, ethical and environmental implications of the ongoing human rights violations in the war.

Delegates should make sure that their ideas are practical and concrete and should align with their country's policies. We also expect that while researching, you should also have a learning outcome and be sensitive to the issue at hand.

We hope that the delegates have their most enriching and memorable experience during this conference. Moreover as the bureau of UNCCPCJ we expect our delegates to make the most of their first MUN experience.





## HOW TO RESEARCH

Researching for any MUN involves three aspects:

1. Country-specific: This is when you research all about the foreign policy, history, geography and stance of your country on the agenda, which is- the allies and enemies of your country, its background and how it is being affected by the agenda at hand.
2. Agenda-specific: This is the research you do on all aspects of the agenda, which will help you in the actual preparation of what you will speak in the committee. The agenda research will start with the study guide but delegates must do a thorough and comprehensive analysis of other aspects as well. Some trusted sites are linked below for your convenience.
3. Committee-specific: A delegate needs to be thorough with the committee background as well. This is where you get to know about what comes under your committee's instruction and what doesn't. An introduction to the committee has been provided in the guide for you to start.

Here are some trusted websites you can use:

1. UNCCPCJ's official website:  
[www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/index.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/index.html)
2. BBC news: [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)
3. Amnesty international: [www.amnesty.org/en/](http://www.amnesty.org/en/)
4. Ukraine's official website [ukraine.ua](http://ukraine.ua)
5. Britannica- [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)
6. Russia's official site: [The Russian Government](http://The Russian Government)
7. And all official UN websites

Here are some websites which should not be used at all:

1. Wikipedia
2. Personal blogs ( A type of website which provides the author's personal opinion on a certain topic)
3. WikiLeaks
4. Magazines
5. Biased news sites like Al-Jazeera.

Delegates must note that while researching, the use of any AI platform like ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini etc. and while writing your speeches, Plagiarism; that is directly copying content from a website, into your speech, is strictly prohibited. **If a speech by any delegate is found to have plagiarism or AI content, he/she will face severe repercussions.**



## QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

1. How can international cooperation help in addressing the issues related to discrimination?
2. What are the ways through which access to occupied areas of Ukraine can be improved?
3. How can digital tools help in case management in Ukraine's Criminal Justice system?
4. How can better documentation of discrimination cases be ensured while maintaining the safety of victims?
5. How can access to technology address the issue of backlog in the education of children?
6. What are the plausible ways to mitigate the impact on mental health of the victims?
7. How can access to medical facilities of the civilians in war ridden areas be enhanced?
8. Suggest an eco-friendly plan for the redevelopment of Ukraine's infrastructure?
9. What plausible plans can be introduced for addressing the pollution in Ukraine's natural resources such as water, air and land?
10. How can International cooperation help in addressing the destruction caused by pollution in Ukraine and what preventive measures can be adopted to mitigate the effects in the future?



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