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## STATE POLICY PRIORITIES IN THE FIELD OF HUMANITARIAN SECURITY OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS UNDER CONDITIONS OF WAR

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**Abstract.** This article explores the transformation of Ukraine's public governance priorities in ensuring the protection and resilience of persons forcibly displaced within the country as a result of the full-scale armed conflict. The study addresses the urgent need for a comprehensive policy response to large-scale internal displacement, which has become a critical challenge for social stability and national resilience.

The research applies general scientific methods (analysis, synthesis, induction, and deduction) alongside special legal methods, including comparative legal and normative analysis. These methods make it possible to assess the existing regulatory framework and institutional mechanisms governing humanitarian responses to internal displacement.

The findings demonstrate that effective policy responses must move beyond emergency assistance toward integrated and long-term solutions. Priority directions include strengthening legal regulation, ensuring equitable access to education, healthcare, and employment, expanding psychosocial support, enhancing local-level institutional capacity, and fostering cooperation with international and non-governmental actors. The study also identifies persistent challenges, such as limited financial resources, administrative barriers, uneven service provision, and risks of social exclusion.

The article concludes that addressing internal displacement requires a human-centered, cross-sectoral policy model aimed at sustainable integration and long-term societal resilience. The results may be used to improve public strategies and institutional practices in the context of recovery and reconstruction.

**Key words:** forced displacement; public governance; national resilience; social integration; legal regulation; psychosocial support; institutional capacity.

**Introduction.** As a result of the full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation, Ukraine has faced unprecedented challenges that have brought the issue of humanitarian security to the forefront of state policy, particularly in the context of protecting the rights and legitimate interests of internally displaced persons (IDPs). According to official data from the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, the number of registered internally displaced persons has exceeded five million, and this figure continues to change due to ongoing hostilities, the destruction of housing, social and humanitarian infrastructure, as well as educational and healthcare institutions (Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, 2023, p. 56). Consequently, the state has encountered an exceptionally complex task – ensuring comprehensive humanitarian security for a significant portion of its population under wartime conditions.

In Ukrainian academic discourse, the concept of humanitarian security is interpreted as an integral component of national security, encompassing the protection of human life and health, rights and freedoms, as well as the preservation of the educational, cultural, and information space of the state (Lukianets, 2021, pp. 47–49; Haiduk, 2020, pp. 11–13). This concept acquires particular significance with regard to internally displaced persons, who, as a result of armed conflict, lose not only their homes and employment but also their habitual social environment, social ties, and opportunities for full personal development. Therefore, the humanitarian security of IDPs requires a comprehensive approach that combines legal, social, economic, and psychological instruments of state policy.

International standards for the protection of internally displaced persons are primarily enshrined in the **Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement** adopted by the United Nations in 1998, as well as in documents of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and other international organizations. These instruments emphasize that the state bears primary responsibility for ensuring security, dignified living conditions, and the protection of the rights of citizens who have been forced to leave their places of permanent residence due to armed conflict (United Nations, 1998, pp. 5-6). By ratifying key international agreements, Ukraine has undertaken obligations to develop and implement state policy in the field of IDP protection in line with internationally recognized human rights standards.

National legislation of Ukraine also establishes the legal framework for ensuring the humanitarian security of internally displaced persons. In particular, the Law of Ukraine «*On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons*» of October 20, 2014 defines the legal status of IDPs and guarantees their rights to housing, employment, education, healthcare, and social protection (Law of Ukraine, 2014). At the same time, practical implementation of this law demonstrates the existence of significant institutional, financial, and administrative challenges that complicate the effective integration of IDPs into host communities and hinder their full participation in the social, economic, and cultural life of the country (Petrenko, 2022, pp. 90-92; Kolisnyk, 2022, pp. 60-62).

**Relevance of the Study.** The relevance of the research topic is determined by several important factors. First, internal displacement in Ukraine has become one of the largest in Europe since the Second World War, both in scale and in its socio-humanitarian consequences. Second, humanitarian security is directly and intrinsically linked to the preservation of the state's human potential, which is of critical importance for Ukraine's wartime resilience and post-war recovery. Third, ensuring adequate living conditions for internally displaced persons is a key factor in strengthening public trust in state institutions and serves as a prerequisite for maintaining social stability within society (Petrenko, 2022, p. 92).

**Purpose of the Article.** The purpose of this article is to identify the main priority directions of Ukraine's state policy in the field of humanitarian security of internally displaced persons under wartime conditions and to outline the key challenges that require urgent and comprehensive solutions.

**Objectives of the Study.** The main objectives of the scientific research are to:

- analyze the theoretical and legal foundations of the concept of «humanitarian security of internally displaced persons»;
- examine contemporary challenges and threats in this sphere;
- review Ukraine's national policy regarding the protection of the rights of internally displaced persons;
- identify priority directions and effective mechanisms for ensuring the humanitarian security of IDPs;
- formulate practical recommendations aimed at improving state policy in the field of humanitarian security of internally displaced persons.

Scientific novelty of the article lies in a comprehensive analysis of humanitarian security of internally displaced persons as a strategic priority of Ukraine's state policy aimed at preserving human resources under wartime conditions and during post-war recovery.

Within the national security system, humanitarian security as a scientific category occupies a special place. In academic literature, it is defined as a set of measures and mechanisms aimed at protecting individuals and society from threats related to fundamental rights, freedom of self-realization, access to education, culture, healthcare, social benefits, and the information space (Haiduk, 2020, pp. 14–16). Therefore, humanitarian security is considered a basic, human-centered dimension of national security.

The active development of the humanitarian security concept in international practice began in the late twentieth century, particularly after the publication of the Human Development Report by

the United Nations Development Programme in 1994. This report introduced and systematized the concept of human security, which encompasses economic, food, environmental, personal, political, and humanitarian dimensions (UNDP, 1994, p. 23). In the context of internally displaced persons, humanitarian security implies not only the provision of basic survival needs but, above all, the creation of conditions for social integration, preservation of human potential, and restoration of social stability.

Ukrainian scholars interpret humanitarian security as «a state of protection of individuals and society from internal and external threats in the humanitarian sphere, including education, culture, information space, social development, and human rights» (Lytvynenko, 2021, pp. 51-52). Accordingly, the content of humanitarian security directly correlates with the needs of internally displaced persons, who often face the loss of housing, social ties, and opportunities for the full realization of their rights.

In Ukraine, the regulatory and legal framework for the protection of internally displaced persons is based on a combination of international legal standards and national legislation.

At the international level, the key legal instruments include:

- the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998), which define the fundamental rights of internally displaced persons and the obligations of states to ensure their protection (United Nations, 1998);
- the European Convention on Human Rights (1950) and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, which consistently emphasizes the obligation of states to protect individuals affected by armed conflicts;
- documents of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) concerning internally displaced persons, which highlight the importance of a comprehensive approach to their social integration;
- the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (United Nations, 2018), which, although primarily focused on migration, contains provisions relevant to internal displacement caused by armed conflicts (United Nations, 2018, p. 44).

At the national level, legal regulation in the field of protection of internally displaced persons is represented by a set of constitutional norms, laws, and strategic documents.

In particular, the Constitution of Ukraine (Articles 3, 24, 47, and 48) establishes the principle of the priority of human rights and freedoms, equality of citizens before the law, and guarantees the right to housing, work, and social protection. The Law of Ukraine «On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons» (2014) defines the legal status of internally displaced persons and guarantees their right to social services, education, and healthcare (Law of Ukraine, 2014). In addition, the Law of Ukraine «On National Security of Ukraine» (2018) identifies humanitarian security as an integral component of national security.

An important role is also played by state strategic documents, in particular the Strategy for the Integration of Internally Displaced Persons and the Implementation of Long-Term Solutions to Internal Displacement until 2025, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 831-r of July 28, 2021.

The protection of internally displaced persons is not only a social function of the state but also an essential element of national security. Even partial loss of control over the humanitarian sphere may lead to serious social disruptions, increased regional disparities, and rising social tensions. In this context, humanitarian security of internally displaced persons becomes a determining factor of internal stability and social consolidation of Ukrainian society under wartime conditions (Kolisnyk, 2022, pp. 61–62).

The analysis of Ukraine's state policy in the field of humanitarian security of internally displaced persons demonstrates that it is formed at the intersection of social policy, security strategies, and humanitarian approaches (Vlasenko, 2022, p. 47). Under conditions of war and large-scale population displacement, the state has faced the need for comprehensive adaptation of legal, institutional, and socio-economic mechanisms (IOM, 2023, p. 12).

The key regulatory document in this area remains the Law of Ukraine «On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons» (2014), which guarantees the right to social protection, housing, education, and employment (Law of Ukraine, 2014, p. 15). However, empirical evidence indicates that the existing legal framework requires continuous updating in order to respond to emerging challenges, particularly with regard to ensuring sustainable integration programs and long-term support mechanisms (OSCE/ODIHR, 2022, p. 24).

Housing and employment remain the most acute problems in the social protection and integration of internally displaced persons. Current state programs for rental compensation and preferential housing loans are implemented to a limited extent due to critical shortages of financial resources (Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 2022, p. 12). At the same time, positive examples can be observed at the local level, where integration programs implemented by host communities contribute to mutual adaptation and strengthening social cohesion (Troshchynskyi & Syniak, 2021, pp. 84-85).

Modern technologies have expanded access to education for children and youth among internally displaced persons, and overall access is ensured; however, significant regional disparities persist (UNHCR, 2023, p. 15). In the healthcare sector, limited access to specialized medical services remains a key challenge, particularly in rural communities. On the labor market, internally displaced persons often face discrimination and a shortage of employment opportunities, which necessitates the introduction of state incentives and motivation mechanisms for employers (IOM, 2023, p. 18).

Psychological and humanitarian support constitutes one of the most important vectors of state policy toward internally displaced persons, as mass displacement, loss of housing, separation from family members, exposure to violence, and prolonged experience of war have generated an unprecedented level of psychological trauma among IDPs (UNICEF, 2023, p. 6). Numerous studies confirm that forced displacement is associated with increased risks of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, and social disadaptation, particularly among children, women, and elderly persons. In this context, humanitarian security cannot be reduced solely to material assistance, as psychological well-being is a fundamental precondition for social integration, employment, education, and active civic participation.

International organizations, including UNHCR, UNICEF, and the International Organization for Migration, play a crucial role in providing psychological assistance through specialized programs aimed at trauma recovery, psychosocial counseling, child protection, and community-based mental health support. These initiatives have significantly mitigated the most acute consequences of displacement and contributed to maintaining social resilience among affected populations. However, despite this extensive international engagement, the national system of psychosocial support in Ukraine remains fragmented, insufficiently institutionalized, and unevenly distributed across regions (OSCE/ODIHR, 2022, p. 36). The lack of trained specialists, stable funding mechanisms, and coordinated state strategies significantly limits the sustainability and long-term effectiveness of psychological assistance for IDPs.

International cooperation and civil society organizations provide a substantial share of humanitarian resources for internally displaced persons (UNHCR, 2023, p. 19). At the same time, a closer examination of the situation demonstrates that Ukrainian civil society plays a critically important role in the implementation of humanitarian support for IDPs. Through volunteer initiatives, non-governmental organizations, community centers, educational and cultural projects, civil society actors often respond more rapidly and flexibly to the needs of displaced persons than formal state institutions (Vlasenko, 2022, p. 53). These initiatives not only deliver direct assistance but also foster social cohesion, mutual trust, and participatory practices within host communities.

Civil society engagement contributes to strengthening humanitarian security by facilitating informal networks of support, promoting inclusive community development, and empowering IDPs as active participants rather than passive recipients of aid. Educational and cultural projects implemented

by non-governmental actors help preserve identity, prevent social isolation, and support the psychological recovery of displaced persons, particularly children and youth. Thus, cooperation between the state and civil society should be regarded as a strategic asset in the field of humanitarian security.

Nevertheless, a number of systemic challenges continue to significantly hinder the effective provision of humanitarian security for internally displaced persons. Among the key obstacles are insufficient funding and uneven distribution of resources between regions and communities (Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 2022, p. 12). Bureaucratic barriers in accessing social services further complicate the situation, often resulting in delays, exclusion errors, and additional stress for vulnerable populations (OSCE/ODIHR, 2022, p. 40). Moreover, the absence of comprehensive long-term integration programs limits opportunities for sustainable inclusion of IDPs into host communities.

Another serious risk is secondary marginalization and social exclusion of internally displaced persons, which manifests in discrimination on the labor market, restricted access to housing, and weakened social ties (Troshchynskiy & Syniak, 2021, p. 88). Without targeted policies addressing these risks, humanitarian assistance may remain temporary and fail to transform displacement into a process of social reintegration.

The conducted research confirms that state policy in the field of humanitarian security of internally displaced persons requires a fundamental transformation—from short-term emergency support measures toward comprehensive long-term strategies focused on social integration, resilience building, and human capital preservation (IOM, 2023, p. 30). Such strategies should include coordinated housing policies, labor market integration, accessible healthcare and education, psychosocial support, and mechanisms for monitoring the evolving needs of IDPs.

**Conclusion.** Therefore, humanitarian security of internally displaced persons should be regarded not merely as a social obligation of the state but as a strategic priority of Ukraine's public policy under conditions of war and post-war recovery. The large-scale and prolonged nature of internal displacement has demonstrated that the humanitarian dimension of security directly affects national resilience, social cohesion, and the preservation of human capital, which are critical for the country's sustainable development.

The study confirms that effective state policy in the field of humanitarian security of IDPs must be systemic, coordinated, and human-centered, integrating legal, institutional, social, educational, informational, and psychological components. Addressing only the material needs of internally displaced persons cannot ensure their genuine security without guaranteeing access to education, healthcare, information, cultural heritage, employment opportunities, and mechanisms for meaningful participation in public life. In this regard, humanitarian security functions as a multidimensional framework that connects social protection with long-term integration and empowerment of displaced populations.

The analysis has shown that the legal and institutional integration of humanitarian security with other areas of state policy—particularly economic, social, information, and regional development policies—is a key prerequisite for overcoming fragmentation and inefficiency in the protection of IDPs. Strengthening coordination between central authorities, local self-government bodies, international organizations, and civil society actors is essential for transforming humanitarian assistance from short-term emergency support into sustainable solutions focused on integration and resilience.

Consequently, the theoretical and legal foundations of humanitarian security of internally displaced persons in Ukraine are based on a combination of international standards and national legal frameworks, which conceptualize humanitarian security as an integral component of national security. This approach requires a comprehensive, cross-sectoral, and rights-based policy model that prioritizes human dignity, social inclusion, and long-term stability.

The scientific value of this research lies in substantiating humanitarian security of internally displaced persons as a priority direction of state policy and in identifying key vectors for its transformation in response to wartime challenges. The findings of the article may serve as a basis for

further academic research, as well as for the improvement of national strategies, legislation, and practical mechanisms aimed at ensuring long-term humanitarian resilience and sustainable recovery of Ukraine.

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