



**30th session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 14 September – 2 October 2015
Item 10: Ukraine**

Mr. President,

The International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE), the NGO Coalition “Children Rights in Ukraine” and Women Consortium of Ukraine (WCU) would like to address the situation of internally displaced families and children.

Indeed, reports by the High Commissioner for Human Rights¹ and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons² expressed concerns about the impact of the situation in Ukraine on the human rights of the most vulnerable persons, including children and persons with disabilities. Mr. Chaloka Beyani emphasized that “there is a disproportionate number of children among those displaced”.

Over 10% of the Ukrainian population is affected by the conflict in various ways, including 1.7 million children³. Since March 2014, at least 68 children have been killed and 182 wounded in Eastern Ukraine as of 8 July 2015⁴. UNICEF expressed concern over the grave child rights violations, including children remaining in State institutions in conflict zones and other areas. All the children in the institutional care facilities were not evacuated from areas of conflict. As of July 2015, it is the case of the Children Boarding Hospital for people with disabilities of the regional department of the Rovenky (27 children) and the Krasnodon Regional Orphanage in Lugansk region (80 children). Some children could be found involved in conflict in various capacities, including with weapons in hand.

The October 2014 Law on the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons (LIDP) is not in line with the January 2014 resolution n°509 on registration of IDPs in terms of the requirement of documents that prove the legal guardian’s authority over the hosted child (Article 4 § 7 in fine, LIDP), whilst most of ID families have been accommodated by relatives or friends. As a result, children, especially unaccompanied or separated ones who do not have legal representatives certified by a notary are unlikely to be registered as IDPs and consequently deprived of their rights

Child birth registration by Ukrainian authorities appears until recently to be a critical problem as the child is deprived of access to urgent services without birth certificate. The draft resolution before the parliament aiming at establishing a system of 24 hours consideration for such cases must be promptly adopted. Our organizations are concerned that the government response remains uncoordinated as no single focal point to address the problems of IDPs and other conflict affected population in the Government was appointed to date.

Almost one year after the registration process started, IDP families and children are still facing challenges, including limited access to psychosocial support and counseling services and social benefits. In addition, legal and institutional gaps prevent family reunifications, and orphans and children deprived of parental care remain vulnerable. Due to financial and security problems, children are unable to attend after-school educational services (art classes, dance groups, sports sections, etc.), depriving them from their right to leisure. Furthermore, IDPs lack access to essential medicines as well as primary health-care needs.

Recommendations:

- **Establish a clear integrated IDPs monitoring strategy and agenda, data collection, a comprehensive needs assessment in each displacement location, and steps for the evaluation of the 2014 law on IDPs;**
- **Provide financial and logistical supports to regional Government entities where IDPs are concentrated as the current NGOs and voluntary efforts cannot sustain the overall assistance IDPs need;**
- **Remove obstacles regarding registration of ID families and children;**
- **Promptly ensure the safe return of IDPs to their homes or find alternative durable solutions.**

Thank you Mr. President.

¹ [OHCHR Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine](#), 16 February to 15 May 2015.

² A/HRC/29/34/Add.3 (2015).

³ UNICEF, [Humanitarian Action for Children](#) in Ukraine.

⁴ WHO, Baseline, March 2014