



**FIGHT  
FOR  
RIGHT**



On March 11, 2022, at night, the enemy hit the five-story building of the Oskol psychoneurological boarding school in Izium district, Kharkiv region.

The explosion destroyed the building structures on the 2nd and 3rd floors, as well as caused local fires in several places. State Emergency Service in Kharkiv region reported that all 30 employees of the institution and 330 patients (mostly older persons and people with disabilities, including 50 people who can't move without assistance and 10 people using wheelchairs) were in the shelter during the attack."



# Position Paper

For the period: February 24 – March 31, 2022

## Problems Ukrainians with disabilities are facing right now because of the full-scale invasion of RF and mass war crimes RF troops are committing:

- inability to hide in shelters during the bombing (these are mainly inaccessible and in old buildings);
- information is available only in accessible formats, many persons with disability can not find and understand the information about evacuation or shelling in an accessible format and need assistance to take urgent safety decisions;
- lack of access to basic goods and healthcare in temporary occupied areas;  
inability to evacuate due to lack of accessible roads, transportation and humanitarian assistance (both national and international);
- continuous shelling of numerous Ukrainian cities, deliberate bombing of hospitals and civilian shelters;
- the danger of becoming a hostage in psychoneurological boarding schools and nursing homes.

## Persons with disabilities who need support and evacuation in Ukraine:

- 01** People with disabilities living in so-called closed institutions and in need of round-the-clock care (those who need assistance to evacuate and can not reside alone in safe places);
- 02** Persons with disabilities living with relatives who have guardianship over them (may need assistance to make an informed decision about evacuation and to evacuate to a safer area, and cannot remain alone in a safe place).
- 03** Persons with disabilities, whether living with relatives or independently, with full legal capacity, who don't need assistance to decide on evacuation to a safer area, but may not be able to accomplish such an evacuation independently or may need assistance due to the inaccessible infrastructure of Ukraine.
- 04** Besides them, there are persons with limited mobility who also need help: palliative patients, older people without relatives, pregnant women, wounded soldiers and civilians.

# Position Paper

For the period: February 24 – March 31, 2022

## Problems Ukrainian civil society faces that make organised evacuation not possible:

- lack of information about the number of persons with disabilities and their needs (there is no publicly available information about the number of institutions and number of residents there);
- lack of information about threats and the criteria under which the evacuation of institutions should start;
- complicated and incomplete evacuation protocols adopted by the government and local authorities;
- lack of cooperation between the local authorities, war temporary administration and civil society organisations.

## Complex challenges requiring immediate solutions which involve international aid:

- Safety and basic food, hygiene, and medical needs for those unable to evacuate for any reason;
- Assistance in arranging individual evacuation for those unable to do so on their own;
- Financial assistance for those lacking sufficient funds /or having lost a breadwinner (or caregivers);
- Developing solutions for ordered mass evacuation of adults under state care to safer places abroad;
- Assistance in finding affordable housing and developing long-term solutions for people with disabilities and persons with limited mobility who have crossed the border and stayed in the EU;
- Prompt and rapid response to the need for changes in national and international legislation to create a system of effective protection for persons with disabilities and persons with limited mobility;
- Thorough recording and investigation of all war crimes and offences against humanity committed by the Russian forces against persons with disabilities and persons with limited mobility, including bringing all those responsible for such crimes to international justice.

