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HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN UKRAINE IN WAR CONDITIONS

The authors of the study, funded by the Council of the EU, concluded that the population of Ukraine could decrease by 24-33% depending on the duration of the war. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the number of refugees from Ukraine from February 24 to the beginning of autumn amounted to 6.6 million people. The commission also estimated that only 30% of refugees returned to the country during this time [1].

The main reasons for such a rapid population decline are occupation and migration due to the beginning of a large-scale war. Among other things, birth rate plays an important role. We are already seeing a decrease in the number of new pregnancies and births. Many pregnant women have left the country and have already given birth or will give birth in the near future in the host country [2].

As a result of the war in Ukraine, surrogate mothers and intended fathers who are participants in surrogacy agreements found themselves in a difficult situation [3, 4]. Serious questions arose for all parties to such agreements: should the surrogate mother leave the territory of Ukraine to protect herself and the child? Should she seek asylum in a third country, such as Poland, Moldova or Hungary, where paternity laws create legal complications for prospective parents? Or should the surrogate mother seek refuge in a country like the Czech Republic, where the laws are more flexible in terms of establishing the paternity of the intended parents of the newborn child?

Persons who were forced to leave the country face obstacles in exercising their reproductive rights abroad. Difficulties arise with access to services not only due to the limitations of the health care system, but also due to the differentiation of the legal regulation of the receiving countries, which can involve significant restrictions compared to the countries of origin of refugees and migrants [5]. During the war, thousands of people found refuge and safety in Poland. The efforts of the Polish people to accommodate war victims and refugees are remarkable and deserve great respect. However, while abortion in Ukraine is legal and available between 12 and 22 weeks of pregnancy for a wide range of reasons (including medical, social and personal reasons), Poland's abortion law is one of the most restrictive in the world. Abortion in Poland is allowed only in cases where the pregnancy is the result of a prohibited act or when the pregnancy directly threatens the life or health of the woman [6, 7].

International statistics show that restricting legal access to abortion, including in crisis situations, does not reduce the need for abortion, but only increases the number of women resorting to illegal and dangerous abortion procedures, increases the number of diseases and the mortality rate. Legal restrictions also force many

women who have the means to seek such services in other countries/states, which delays access, creates social inequality, requires significant costs and is generally an unavailable option for refugees and migrants [8, 9].

It is necessary to pay attention to the reproductive rights, health and safety of population groups that have suffered negative consequences in connection with the war. It is urgent to ensure protection from violence, abuse and ill-treatment, and to ensure access to humanitarian aid. The international community must take into account the vulnerability of those most at risk, including women and children. It is necessary to take all possible international measures designed to protect and ensure the realization of a person's reproductive rights.

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