



# UnMode

## REPORT

***according to the results of the project of assistance to Ukrainian prisoners abducted and forcibly displaced from the colonies of the Kherson region of Ukraine to correctional institutions of the Russian Federation in November 2022.***

# I. Introduction

## **The Problems Of The Project.**

In the context of the current project, our organization focused on the serious and alarming situation that arose in October-November 2022. During this period, according to the information received, there was an illegal transfer of about 2,500 Ukrainian prisoners from the Holopristanska Colony N7, located in the Kherson region. These actions led to serious human rights violations, particularly the loss of prisoners' contact with their families and loved ones.

### **Key aspects of the issue:**

#### **1. Illegal evacuation of prisoners:**

- The transfer of prisoners took place through the territory of Crimea to the territory of the Russian Federation;
- The actions were carried out without the consent of the prisoners and their relatives, which constitutes a violation of basic human rights and international law.

#### **2. Interruption of communication with relatives and loved ones:**

- As a result of the transfer, the prisoners lost the ability to maintain contact with their families and close ones, causing significant anxiety and stress for both the prisoners themselves and their relatives.

#### **3. Health Issues and Medical Services:**

- Many of the transferred prisoners suffered from serious illnesses;
- The relocation and change in detention conditions could have led to a deterioration in their health, especially in the absence of proper medical care.

### ***Response of the Organization.***

Based on these issues, our organization has taken the following steps:

- Conducting data collection and monitoring of the situation to obtain reliable information about the condition and location of the prisoners;
- Collaborating with international human rights organizations and bodies to exert pressure on the relevant authorities to ensure the safety and rights of the prisoners;
- Developing and implementing information campaigns to draw the attention of the public and international community to this issue;

- Providing psychological and legal support to the families and close ones of the transferred prisoners.

***Expected Results and Impact:***

- Increased awareness among the public and the international community about the human rights violations in this case;
- Exerting pressure on the relevant authorities to improve the conditions of detention and ensure the rights of the prisoners;
- Easing the psychological and emotional state of the families and close ones by providing them with necessary information and support;
- Promoting compliance with international legal standards regarding the treatment of prisoners and their transfer.

***Project Goals.***

The primary goal of the UnMode project was to assist Ukrainian prisoners illegally detained in Russian prisons and their relatives. This included legal, medical, psychological, and social support, as well as assistance in returning to their homeland.

***Project Implementation***

Implementation Period: December 2022 - September 2023.

***This part of the project emphasizes our commitment to human rights protection and supporting those who face violations of these rights, particularly in situations of armed conflict and crisis.***

## **II. Activities**

As part of the project to address issues related to the illegal transfer of Ukrainian prisoners, the following key areas of activity were implemented:

Information collection and volunteer engagement included:

- Recruiting volunteers to gather data on the situation with Ukrainian prisoners, with special attention to collecting information through contacts among Russian prisoners;

- Analysis and systematization of the collected information to determine the location, health status, and conditions of detention of Ukrainian prisoners.

Legal support included:

- Comprehensive legal assistance;
- Providing legal support to prisoners and their families, including consultations and representation in courts;
- Assisting in gaining access to necessary medical procedures and legal processes.

Social and material support:

- Providing basic necessities;
- Offering transportation, housing, clothing, and food for the families of prisoners;
- Assisting in employment and socialization to support adaptation to changing life circumstances.

Psychological assistance:

- Collaborating with volunteer initiatives;
- Referring victims and their families to specialized volunteer initiatives and organizations that provide psychological support;
- Organizing individual and group sessions with professional psychologists to process experiences related to displacement and detention conditions.

Medical assistance:

- Referral and accompaniment to medical institutions;
- Organizing access for prisoners and their families to medical services, including diagnostics, treatment, and rehabilitation;
- Collaborating with medical institutions and charitable foundations to ensure quality medical care.

***Conclusions and Results of the Activities.***

As a result of implementing these measures, significant progress was achieved in providing support and protecting the rights of Ukrainian prisoners and their families. The collection of information contributed to a better understanding of the situation and the effectiveness of the assistance provided. Legal support ensured the protection of their rights and interests, including in legal proceedings. Social, material, psychological, and medical assistance helped many to cope with current difficulties and adapt to new life conditions.

***These actions highlight our organization's unwavering commitment to facilitating the protection of rights and well-being of people in complex and crisis situations, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts and collaboration in solving global problems such as the illegal transfer of prisoners and the violation of their rights.***

### **III. Statistics**

Within the framework of the project, the following key indicators were achieved:

#### **1. Unique Beneficiaries**

Total Number of Beneficiaries:

- In total, 432 individuals utilized the services of the UnMode project.

#### **2. Release and Repatriation**

Released from Russian prisons and transferred to Georgia:

- 101 individuals were released and transferred to Georgia;
- of these, half subsequently returned to Ukraine.

#### **3. Provided Services:**

- Humanitarian support: 15%
- Legal support: 30%
- Social support: 38%
- Medical support: 12%
- Psychological support: 5%

#### **4. Categories of beneficiaries**

By Gender:

Women - 20%

Men - 80%

By Age:

Age category 18-25 years - 17%

Age category 25-40 years - 43%

Age category 40-60 years - 41%

Age category 60-75 years - 9%.

### By Nationality:

Ukrainians - 79%

Russians - 8%

Georgian citizens - 10%

Other countries - 3%.

### 5. Data on Georgia:

- 101 people were released from Russian prisons and met by the Organization in Georgia;
- 44 people were successfully resocialized in Georgia;
- 28 received humanitarian status;
- 27 documented violations of the right of access to social and medical services of beneficiaries in Georgia;
- 1 statement and positive decision of the ECHR on the application of urgent measures against a group of beneficiaries, demanding the Georgian government to eliminate the threat to the life and health of the beneficiaries;
- 2 lawsuits within Georgia in support of beneficiaries.

### 6. Data on Ukraine

- 51 Ukrainian citizens, former prisoners of the Kherson colonies, abducted by Russian services and forcibly taken to Russian prisons, were returned to their homeland, Ukraine
- 26 people received comprehensive social and legal support for the Organization;
- Of these, 6 are housed in social dormitories;
- 20 people live at home with their families;
- 12 people have received social statuses and receive support from the state;
- 8 are employed and provide for themselves;
- 74 individual applicants to the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine on the fact of illegal forced transfer from Ukrainian prisons to Russia and recognition as a victim;
- 11 individual applications to the ECHR;
- 52 individual complaints to the relevant UN committees.

### **Conclusions**

These indicators reflect the effectiveness and the scale of the project's impact on various beneficiary groups. They demonstrate the importance and significance of

the assistance provided in different areas, including legal, social, medical, and psychological support. Special attention is given to the group released from Russian prisons and transferred to Georgia, highlighting the complexity and multifaceted nature of the challenges faced by the project.

***The diversity of services provided and categories of beneficiaries underscores the comprehensive approach of the project in addressing issues related to the illegal transfer of prisoners and the violation of their rights. This statistics not only demonstrate the results of the work done but also indicate the main directions for further development and improvement of the project.***

## **VI. International Recognition**

### **Wide attention from the media and expert community**

The issue of illegal transfer of Ukrainian prisoners has attracted significant attention in the international community, becoming the focus of leading global media outlets, government bodies, and respected experts. This attention has played a key role in raising awareness about the situation and has contributed to the intensification of international efforts.

#### **The role of the media in highlighting the issue:**

- International and local news agencies actively covered the situation, providing detailed reports and analyses.
- Reports and articles in the media drew the attention of the public and authorities to the seriousness and scale of the issue.

#### ***Involvement of government bodies and international institutions:***

- Issues related to the transfer of prisoners were raised at a high level within the governmental structures of various countries.
- Discussions of the problem at international forums and within diplomatic circles contributed to the formation of international pressure on the responsible parties.

#### ***Participation of international experts:***

- Active involvement of international human rights experts and analysts in the process of highlighting and analyzing this issue.

- Conducting independent research and publishing reports that emphasize violations of human rights and international law.

***Influence of international attention on problem resolution:***

- International attention contributed to increased pressure on the parties responsible for the transfer of prisoners, demanding compliance with international norms and standards.
- Media coverage of the situation and the activity of experts facilitated a quicker and more effective response to violations.

***Promoting international cooperation:***

- The issue served as a catalyst for strengthening international cooperation and the coordination of efforts among various states and international organizations.
- The increased attention to the problem led to enhanced joint efforts to resolve the situation at both national and international levels.

***Results of international recognition:***

Awareness of the situation significantly increased among the international community, which contributed to stronger support for the affected individuals and their families.

- International recognition of the issue heightened the importance of the problem in the eyes of the global public and political leaders.

***This aspect of the project's activities underscores the importance of information work and international cooperation in addressing global issues related to human rights violations and international law breaches. International recognition and attention to the problem have significantly contributed to the intensification of efforts to resolve it at the highest level.***

## **VII. Problems and Challenges**



During the project implementation, we encountered a range of problems and challenges that had a significant impact on its effectiveness and required the adaptation of strategies and approaches. Key problems included:

**1. *Logistical difficulties and security concerns:***

- The increase in the number of beneficiaries necessitated the rental of additional residential spaces. This created difficulties in ensuring an adequate supply of safe and affordable housing.
- Organizing the accommodation and transportation of beneficiaries in Georgia required additional efforts and resources to ensure their safety and meet their basic needs.

**2. *Diverse needs of beneficiaries:***

- Beneficiaries had various social, medical, and psychological needs, which required a flexible and individualized approach to providing assistance.
- The need for a variety of services and approaches increased the complexity of resource coordination and distribution.

**3. *Interaction with government structures:***

- Difficulties related to documentation and the paperwork required for beneficiaries, especially regarding their expectations of returning to Ukraine.
- These issues resulted in dissatisfaction among beneficiaries and drew the attention of Georgian security services, adding additional complexities to the project's operations.

***Conclusions and Measures Taken***

These problems and challenges required swift responses and adaptation of strategies. We took the following measures:

1. Strengthening Security and Logistics:

- Reviewing logistical plans and enhancing security measures at beneficiaries' residences.
- Increasing the number of coordinators and volunteers to efficiently manage the flow of beneficiaries and their needs.

2. Customizing Approaches to Beneficiary Needs:

- Developing and implementing individual assistance plans that consider the specific needs of each beneficiary.
- Ensuring access to various forms of support, including medical, legal, and psychological assistance.

### 3. Improving Collaboration with Government Entities:

- Establishing effective dialogue with local and government structures to address documentation and legalization issues for beneficiaries.
- Collaborating with governmental and non-governmental organizations to facilitate the repatriation and social integration of beneficiaries.

*These steps helped alleviate the challenges that arose, contributing to a more effective resolution of the project's objectives and improving the living conditions and well-being of the beneficiaries. This experience also provided valuable lessons for future planning and implementation of similar projects.*

## VIII. Conclusion and Future Plans

The UnMode project has achieved significant success in providing comprehensive support to Ukrainian prisoners and their families. It has played a critically important role in improving their living conditions and providing necessary assistance in challenging circumstances.

### Key Problems and Challenges:

1. **Logistical Challenges:** Managing the flow of beneficiaries and ensuring their safety and basic needs remained significant tasks.
2. **Diversity of Beneficiary Needs:** The necessity for an individualized approach and a variety of services increased the complexity of resource coordination.
3. **Interaction with Government Structures:** Issues related to documentation and legalizing the status of beneficiaries required additional efforts and resources.

### Future Plans

1. **Development of strategies and working methods:** UnMode intends to improve the quality and efficiency of services provided, as well as develop new approaches to solving the problems of vulnerable groups in difficult conditions. The basis for solving the various problems of the beneficiaries was the active involvement of the beneficiaries themselves in self-help processes, the development of volunteer initiatives of the beneficiaries and, as a result, assistance in the creation of an independent and independent NGO (UNMODE-LIVE) by the former beneficiaries of the Organization.

2. **Establishing Service Quality Standards:** Developing quality standards will help enhance transparency and accountability in the process of providing assistance.
3. **Strengthening partnerships:** it is planned to expand cooperation with international and government organizations to enhance the impact of the project at the international level. At the local level, the Organization will continue mentoring the new NGO UN MODE-LIVE (an initiative of the former beneficiaries of the project) in building partnerships with local and international NGOs.

### **Contribution to Human Rights Protection and Humanitarian Support**

The UnMode project has left a significant impact in the field of human rights protection. The effectiveness and importance of this project underscore the significance of coordinated efforts and international cooperation in addressing global humanitarian issues. The work conducted within the project serves as a prominent example of the importance of a comprehensive approach to protecting rights and providing support to those in extreme circumstances.

*A link to a document where all the links to articles in international media about our activities within the project are collected.*

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L4H1zvyqp1S-qXJLH4fyhh5ZmDDjsi92hcNnFovT1dM/edit?usp=drivesdk>

*A link to the database of beneficiaries and services in Georgia.*

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wXMd0dxUSx378w9zCD3L\\_fugdBu-OZonT/edit?usp=drivesdk&ouid=118096451966010960981&rtpof=true&sd=tru](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wXMd0dxUSx378w9zCD3L_fugdBu-OZonT/edit?usp=drivesdk&ouid=118096451966010960981&rtpof=true&sd=tru)

*Link to the folder with documents on strategic cases*

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14ypCTMawBmusB421hWTZTaWTfXHPI\\_9t](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14ypCTMawBmusB421hWTZTaWTfXHPI_9t)