

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT AS A TOOL FOR STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOLIDARITY IN WARTIME

O MOVIMENTO VOLUNTÁRIO COMO FERRAMENTA DE FORTALECIMENTO DA SOLIDARIEDADE CIVIL EM TEMPOS DE GUERRA

Tetiana Madryha

ORCID 0000-0001-7761-9811

Candidate of Political Science/PhD, Associate Professor

Department of Political Institutions and Processes, Faculty of History, Politology and International Relations, Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University
Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine
tmadryha.vspnu@hotmail.com

Kateryna Fedoryshyna

ORCID 0000-0001-8050-6594

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science, Associate Professor

Department of Journalism and Advertising, State University of Trade and Economics
Kyiv, Ukraine
galaktinaa@gmail.com

Iryna Krasnodemska

ORCID 0000-0001-5552-9073

Candidate of Historical Sciences, Head of the Department

Department of Ethnology and History of Ukraine, Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University
Kyiv, Ukraine
krasnodem2@gmail.com

Daria Bozhko

ORCID 0000-0002-2244-1515

PhD in Law, Senior Lecturer

Department of State and Legal Disciplines, School of Law of V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University
Kharkiv, Ukraine
dvbozhkor@karazin.ua

Veronika Chekalyuk

ORCID 0000-0003-1223-6646

PhD in Social Communications

Institute of Journalism, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Kyiv, Ukraine
vnika@ukr.net

Abstract. The volunteer movement is an important tool in strengthening civil solidarity, especially in times of war. **The aim** of the study is to determine and analyze the role of the volunteer movement in strengthening civil solidarity in times of war. The research used **methods** such as normative dogmatics, historical analysis of law, comparative law, the method of alternatives, as well as the method of analysis and synthesis. **The research found** that volunteer initiatives help to mobilize citizens to provide assistance and support to combatants and victims, as well as to strengthen social solidarity. Ways and examples of strengthening the volunteer movement, improving it in line with world standards, were considered. **Conclusions.** Successful coordination and cooperation between volunteers, civil society and the state are essential to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of efforts in responding to military conflicts and in shaping the image of the state.

Keywords: volunteer movement; civil society; image of the volunteer; emergency situations; war; volunteering.

Resumo. O movimento voluntário é uma ferramenta importante no fortalecimento da solidariedade civil, especialmente em tempos de guerra. **O objetivo** do estudo é determinar e analisar o papel do movimento voluntário no fortalecimento da solidariedade civil em tempos de guerra. A pesquisa utilizou **métodos** como dogmática normativa, análise histórica do direito, direito comparado, método de alternativas, bem como o método de análise e síntese. **A pesquisa descobriu** que as iniciativas voluntárias ajudam a mobilizar os cidadãos para fornecer assistência e apoio aos combatentes e vítimas, bem como a fortalecer a solidariedade



social. Formas e exemplos de fortalecimento do movimento voluntário, melhorando-o de acordo com os padrões mundiais, foram considerados. **Conclusões.** A coordenação e a cooperação bem-sucedidas entre voluntários, sociedade civil e o estado são essenciais para maximizar a eficácia e a eficiência dos esforços na resposta a conflitos militares e na formação da imagem do estado.

Palavras-chave: movimento voluntário; sociedade civil; imagem do voluntário; situações de emergência; guerra; voluntariado.

1. INTRODUCTION

Armed conflicts and humanitarian crises continue to cause suffering for millions of people around the world. In this context, the volunteer movement plays a key role in providing help and support to those who need it most. Volunteerism is significant in many areas of life, such as diplomacy, state-building, military affairs, science, business, economy, public relations, political science, medicine, culture, art, show business, social sphere, psychology, and journalism.

Studying the role of the volunteer movement and its impact on civil society during wartime is crucial for understanding the mechanisms of citizen mobilization and their contribution to maintaining social coordination, supporting military operations, and rebuilding society after a conflict. The volunteer movement can provide aid and support to servicemen, wounded individuals, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and civilians during conflict, making it extremely important for minimizing the humanitarian consequences of war.

The relevance of research on the impact of volunteerism on civil society lies in the fact that volunteers generally play a mediating role in the relationship between soldiers and civilians, helping these groups to maximize their activities in the context of ongoing war. Understanding this mediation between the state and volunteerism contributes to the development of history, image, and reputation (Chernets et al., 2023). This function aligns with the Western interpretation of civil society as an intermediary between the state, the market, and citizens. As Shah et al. (2017) note, such studies help to understand how the beliefs that guide activists' actions can contribute to new civic norms—expectations about the appropriate roles and responsibilities of citizens and the state in civic and political life.

The study combines the results of empirical research, conclusions drawn from personal experience, and a historical and comparative analysis of the volunteer movement. It examines the experience of practicing researchers in creating and disseminating theoretical and practical authorial technologies for introducing a positive image of volunteerism into the mass consciousness. Although the study also analyzes the historical origins of volunteerism, it gives particular attention to modern armed conflicts, using the example of the Russian-Ukrainian war to thoroughly analyze the volunteer movement in the context of armed conflict. At the beginning of full-scale Russian aggression, volunteers mobilized and began providing aid within hours. Most international organizations, despite having significant financial and human resources, were unable to offer the flexible and rapid response that volunteer groups could provide by quickly establishing logistical and other networks.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Many countries, particularly the UK and the US, increasingly rely on volunteers in many sectors. There has been a surge in mutual aid and volunteering during the COVID-19 pandemic. This confirms the thesis that the volunteer movement is most active in moments of crisis in society (Lokot, 2021).

Volunteering means a freely chosen and intentional activity in which people participate without the expectation of reward or other compensation (Mati, 2024). According to Traeger et al. (2022), volunteerism is a volatile and unpaid workforce driven by unique personal values,

beliefs, and needs for association. These people can easily lose interest and motivation, are more likely to leave the organization if they do not see enough value in their volunteer effort.

The leading foreign researcher Overgaard (2019) made a significant contribution to the study of the essence, functions and meaningful characteristics of volunteerism. He explored the historical aspects of the development of the volunteer movement in his work. One of the key moments in the development of the volunteer movement is considered to be the creation of Roosevelt's strategy aimed at combating unemployment, which established the Civilian Conservation Corps with the purpose of conducting important activities. Since then, the nature of the volunteer movement has changed in view of the development of social relations.

Considering the main properties of volunteering, Butcher and Einolf (2017) point out that volunteering is a certain form of organization in a certain institutionalized field, which is often called the non-profit, non-governmental or third sector. According to the Oxford Dictionary, a volunteer is defined as a person who agrees to do unpleasant or dangerous things voluntarily (Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, 2020).

The researchers understand the term "civil society" as the sphere of interaction between the economy and the state, which primarily includes areas of closest interaction, such as the family, voluntary associations, social movements, and various forms of public communication (Ishchuk, 2020). The essential characteristics of civil society are its structure depending on the types of relations and public institutions; independence, and at the same time, a close connection with the state based on the separation of competencies; recognition of a person as the highest value, his rights, freedoms and legitimate interests (Riabovol, 2020). Volunteerism is the basis for building a stable civil society and also strengthens the relationship between citizens and the state (Morse et al., 2019).

Revolutions and armed conflicts are moments of mass collective mobilization aimed at overthrowing existing political, cultural, and economic relations in the country (Lokot, 2021). In their work, Yunin et al. (2023) trace the development of the volunteer movement in Ukraine since 2014 in the context of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation. The researcher notes that in the spring of 2014, Ukrainian society faced the problem of unpreparedness of the national armed forces. Yunin et al. (2023) confirm that the tendency to use volunteer forces during the war in Ukraine persists. Accordingly, this forms new approaches to understanding the meaning and prospects for the development of the volunteer movement.

The armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is the most relevant example of comprehensive involvement of volunteers in helping not only the army, but also civil society. Domaradzki et al. (2022) note that the Russian-Ukrainian war led to the emergence of "spontaneous volunteers" who offer their help in various spheres of public life. Russian armed aggression revealed the need to strengthen the volunteer movement in Ukraine, create a clear identity of a volunteer as a person who devotes time and resources to support the Armed Forces and provide assistance to internally displaced persons (Boichak & Jackson, 2020).

The growth of volunteering in Ukraine during the war reflects the process of moral renewal of society. There are currently two main motives for volunteering: a general desire to help and a desire to volunteer on behalf of Ukrainian refugees (Baszczak et al., 2022). According to the 2023 World Giving Index, Ukraine recorded the world's largest increase in the charity and volunteerism index in 2022, compared to the previous year (CAF, 2023).

There were almost no mechanisms for its interaction with the authorities at the beginning of the active volunteer movement. However, later the significant role and high authority of volunteers pushed the authorities to cooperate. A lack of trust is one of the main problems of interaction between civil society and state authorities in Ukraine. Volunteers constitute a social group with the highest trust rating among the population, which also brings their role and importance to the forefront of political interest. The term "volunteer" quickly became a trend

in Ukrainian political “fashion” (Fedinec, 2022). The role of volunteers in the Russian-Ukrainian war confirms an important socio-political dynamic that affects trust in political institutions, trying to assess the strength of the country’s civil society (Bacha, 2021).

After the end of World War II, volunteering, from a military term turned into a tool of social assistance. In October 1939, the United Military Organization created a special unit responsible for transporting the wounded, providing volunteers, and hundreds of ambulances to evacuate people from dangerous buildings and provide first aid. The second important point was the Department of Prisoners of War of the British Red Cross, which improved the lives of prisoners and provided psychological assistance (Oliinyk, 2018).

Issues of volunteering create a basis for critical civic perceptions that revise the meaning and relationship between citizens and the state. In the context of a civil society confronting the Soviet past, Ukraine stands as a vivid example of how narratives contribute to the formation of space between state discourses and everyday practices of citizens, especially in the context of military conflict (Zychowicz, 2020).

Volunteers rightly believe that their mission is to involve citizens in expressing their will or controlling future events. It is important to note that support for volunteering comes from both individual and collective initiatives of citizens, although participation in volunteering is not a general civic duty and each citizen can participate in it at his/her own discretion (Boichak & Mckernan, 2022).

The analysis of the existing research of domestic and foreign experts established a need to algorithmize the work and create conclusions, in accordance with the demands of the time. The diverse views of contemporaries regarding models of impersonation and establishment of volunteers’ relations with the public, possible problems, and ways of solving them are analysed. The literature review revealed that the volunteer movement is highly effective during armed conflicts, providing a quick and flexible response to the needs of the armed forces and civil society, and also plays an important role in mediating between different social groups. Volunteering contributes to the expansion of assistance opportunities in the context of ongoing war and contributes to the formation of new civic norms and expectations in society.

Solving the problem of creating an image and the impact of volunteering on civil society in armed conflict demonstrates the importance of the role of volunteers as key mediators in providing assistance to military and civilians, reflecting the need for flexible and rapid response that often exceeds the capabilities of traditional international organizations.

The aim of this study is to analyse and understand the volunteer’s image, the role of the volunteer movement in wartime as a tool for strengthening civil solidarity. The aim involves the fulfilment of the following research objectives:

1. Study the historical context and evolution of the volunteer movement in different periods of wars, including examples of foreign countries and eras;
2. Identify the current state of the volunteer movement in the context of modern armed conflicts;
3. Determine the influence of the volunteer movement on the formation of civil solidarity in wartime and how volunteering contributes to the unification of citizens, support of the military and civilian population, and the development of mutual assistance in society;
4. Assess the impact of volunteering on the results of the war and its consequences for civil society.

3. METHODOLOGY

The methodological background of the research is a system of philosophical, general scientific, and special legal methods, which were used to carry out an objective, comprehensive, and complete analysis of the research object. The dialectical method

contributed to the definition of the legal volunteer movement and its interaction with civil society. The method of comparative law was used to determine how the role of volunteering in harmonizing and unifying society in crisis situations and wars changed historically. The doctrinal approach was applied to analyse the regulatory legal acts, the provisions of which refer to the concept and role of volunteering in a certain way. The provisions of the Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols, the Universal Declaration on Volunteering were analysed as the documents defining and regulating the activities of volunteers in the field of humanitarian assistance and protection of human rights in armed conflict (United Nations General Assembly, 2001).

The method of system analysis made it possible to consider the interaction between volunteerism, volunteer movements, organizations in relationship with society, identify key factors and determine possible ways of optimizing volunteering to increase its influence on civil society in wartime. This method helped to study the process of interaction between state bodies and the public in the conditions of evolution and the influence of the volunteer movement and the image of the state in the international arena.

In addition to general scientific and special legal methods, data analysis and critical analysis were used during the research. The obtained data were processed and interpreted in order to identify key trends, dependencies, and the influence of the volunteer movement on civil society in wartime. The obtained results were evaluated and critically analysed for drawing formulate conclusions and providing recommendations for further research or practical actions.

The experience of foreign countries in the field of the volunteer movement in armed conflict was studied on the basis of the countries participating in the war in Yugoslavia in 1991-2001: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Slovenia. We also turned to the experience of Georgia during the Russian-Georgian war in 2008, Kosovo in 1998-1999, and Ukraine in the Russian-Ukrainian war. This sample is determined by the time criterion, as all the above-mentioned conflicts took place at the end of the 20th - beginning of the 21st century. In addition, all these armed conflicts had a significant scale, which led to a significant impact on civil society and the activation of the volunteer movement. The Russian-Ukrainian war was chosen as one of the most relevant and current armed conflicts in the world.

We also applied one of the newest research methods — case study, which consists in the study and analysis of a specific case, representing a real situation, problem or event. So, we examined specific cases of volunteering and their impact on civil society in different countries during wartime.

4. RESULTS

During an armed conflict, humanitarian and volunteer organizations play an important role in implementing humanitarian efforts and providing assistance to war victims. The Geneva Conventions establish standards of international humanitarian law that relate to the protection of civilians and non-combatants during armed conflicts. Humanitarian and volunteer organizations are used and operate under these conventions in the following ways:

1. Provision of medical aid: humanitarian organizations such as the Red Cross and the Red Crescent provide medical aid to the wounded and sick in conflict areas, in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, which guarantee the protection of medical personnel and medical facilities.
2. Provision of humanitarian aid: such organizations as the International Committee of the Red Cross provide humanitarian aid such as food, water, and shelter to civilians affected by war.
3. Monitoring human rights: volunteer organizations can monitor human rights in a conflict zone and help to ensure the protection of civilians.

4. Dissemination of humanitarian information: organizations can disseminate information about human rights and humanitarian standards among the population in the conflict zone.
5. Mediation and protection of prisoners of war: according to the Geneva Conventions, humanitarian organizations can act as intermediaries for the exchange of prisoners of war and ensure their protection and humane treatment.

Historically, the impact of volunteerism on civil society in wartime has varied according to context, stage of societal development, technological advances, as well as political and sociocultural changes. Volunteering became more active during these periods. Volunteers joined the army or joined revolutionary groups to defend their ideals and values.

One of the recent armed conflicts, which can be the basis for analysing the role of volunteering in wartime, is the war in Yugoslavia 1991-2011. The role of women's humanitarian organizations significantly increased in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the 1992-1995 war. Bosnia and Herzegovina Supporters of Peace aimed to promote a peaceful settlement of the conflict by providing humanitarian aid, medical care, and support to refugees. The United Nations Children's Fund provided humanitarian assistance and protection to children who were victims of war, including assistance in maintaining children's centres and rehabilitation programmes.

In Serbia, the wars that raged from 1991 to 1995 in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina had a strong impact on all aspects of political, social, and economic life. During the war, volunteering played an important role in providing humanitarian aid and support to the conflict-affected population. The humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders provided medical assistance to vulnerable population groups in conflict areas. Crveni krst Srbije (Red Cross of Serbia) was one of the main humanitarian organizations in Serbia during the war. Unlike Bosnia and Herzegovina, there was also Srpska dobrovoljačka garda (Serb Volunteer Guard) in Serbia — the organization was a volunteer army that took part in combat operations during the war in Yugoslavia. During the war in Kosovo in 1998-1999, there were various volunteer organizations that provided help and support to the local population. Kosovo Red Crescent provided medical aid, humanitarian aid, and social support to the local population, which became victims of war and ethnic conflicts.

During the Russo-Georgian war of 2008, there were several volunteer organizations in Georgia that were active in providing aid to the victims and support to the military. The Georgian Young Lawyers' Association was active during the war, providing legal aid and protection of human rights, especially to those affected by the conflict. The Georgian Young Medics Association was actively involved in wartime medical care, providing emergency medical care and responding to humanitarian needs.

As we can see, mostly volunteer aid in the analysed conflicts concerned the provision of medical, humanitarian, and social assistance to victims and those affected by the war.

The analysis of the international legal acts in the field of legal regulation of the volunteer movement revealed that the Convention on the Promotion of a Transnational Long-term Voluntary Service for Young People, which was adopted by the Council of Europe on May 11, 2000 and ratified by Ukraine is an important step for the volunteer movement towards integration into pan-European volunteering.

The Geneva Conventions establish international standards for the protection of the wounded, sick and prisoners of war during military conflicts. Article 18 of the Conventions applies to volunteers who work for the benefit of the wounded and sick as neutral persons who enjoy protection under international law. Article 10 of Protocol Additional I to the Geneva Conventions recognizes volunteers who provide medical and humanitarian aid as neutral persons deserving protection from parties to the conflict.

Today, volunteerism has a significant impact on civil society in the context of the war in Ukraine, manifesting itself as an important mechanism of mobilization and support in armed conflict. Table 1 presents the main common and distinctive features of volunteerism and civil society.

Table 1. Common and distinctive features of volunteerism and civil society

Volunteering (volunteer movement)	Civil society
Common features	
Both volunteerism and civil society are defined by the active participation of citizens in various spheres of public life, such as politics, civic activities, culture, education, and public service.	
Both volunteerism and civil society contribute to the development of social solidarity and mutual assistance by organizing assistance to the needy, participating in public initiatives, and supporting social programmes.	
Both volunteering and civil society promote citizenship values such as civic responsibility, equality, freedom, justice, and democracy.	
Distinctive features	
Volunteering can be organized within specific volunteer groups or organizations	Civil society consists of various public organizations, political parties, trade unions, charitable foundations, and other forms of public activity.
Volunteering usually involves the free and voluntary participation of individuals in various activities	Participation in civil society can include various forms of activity — from participation in political processes to active participation in public organizations.
Volunteering is mostly aimed at providing free help and support to the needy	Civil society actively fights for political and social changes, protects the rights and interests of citizens.

Ukraine offers a unique opportunity to explore the role of volunteerism in supporting the population and civil society, as it has the highest rate of internally displaced population of any country in history: 16.9 million and 15.7 million in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, aid, and protection (RELIEFWEB, 2022). According to the UN Financial Tracking Service (FTS) (2022), unlike many other humanitarian crises caused by conflict, Ukraine has a highly developed civil society, as well as a developed and substantial social protection system. It accounted for 23% of total public spending in 2021, about half of which was allocated for pensions.

Ukraine was an “immovable state” during the first decades of independence, which was caused by weak national unity, weak state capacity, lack of serious reforms, and political instability. In the context of the war in Ukraine, volunteerism and civil society have established a close relationship, which is manifested in joint efforts to support the military, wounded, internally displaced persons, and other victims. Volunteering is a way to establish relations with the public, possible problems, and ways to solve them. The results of a social survey conducted in January 2023 by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) (2023) in cooperation with the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology show that 41% of the population of Ukraine was involved in volunteering (Figure 1).

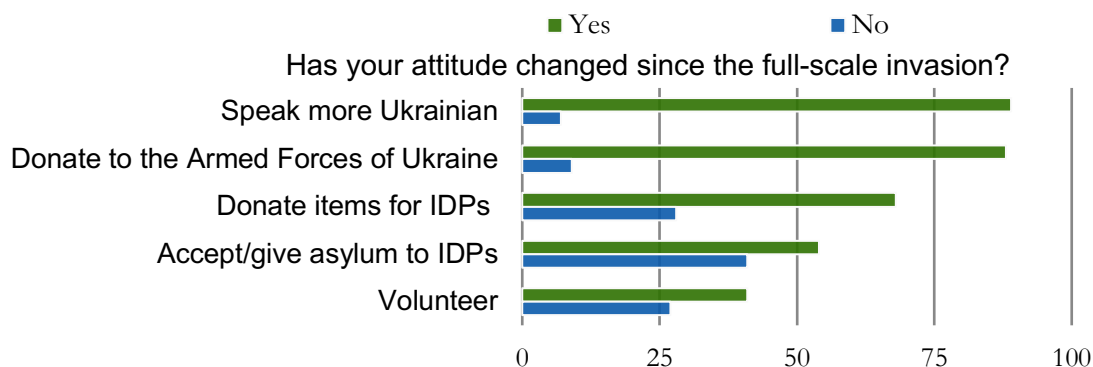


Figure 1. National Demographic Institute study on the impact of a full-scale Russian invasion on civil society, 2023

Figure 1 demonstrates that after the start of the full-scale invasion in Ukraine, there has been an extremely large movement of civil solidarity, which has united Ukrainians on the way to protect their country and support those who need help. One of the visible manifestations of this movement is an increase in the amount of charitable contributions to support the Armed Forces of Ukraine and IDPs. Similarly, the volunteer movement in the country has experienced significant growth. Thousands of people of different age groups and professions took up voluntary work in order to provide assistance to the military, IDPs, and people living in the conflict zone. Current political and economic realities dictate new conditions for the development of volunteering and its impact on the image of an independent state.

One of the examples of this relationship in Ukraine is the work of public and volunteer organizations in providing the necessary resources and assistance to the military on the front lines, as well as in providing humanitarian aid to the civilian population affected by the war. For example, during the Russian-Ukrainian conflict since the beginning of 2014, many public and volunteer organizations carried out various activities, such as collecting money, medical equipment, protective equipment and other necessary resources for the needs of the military.

The survey of the Razumkov Centre (2022) in September-October 2022 gives critical assessments of the development of Ukraine at the time of Russia's full-scale military aggression and shows that among social institutions, Ukrainians most trust the Armed Forces (96), the President of Ukraine (82), humanitarian and charitable organizations (78%), Church (70%). Public opinion statistics from the same survey on the impact of volunteering on civil society, shown in Figure 2 below, demonstrate the confidence of respondents that volunteering is an integral part of civil society and has a significant impact on peacebuilding (Razumkov Centre, 2022).

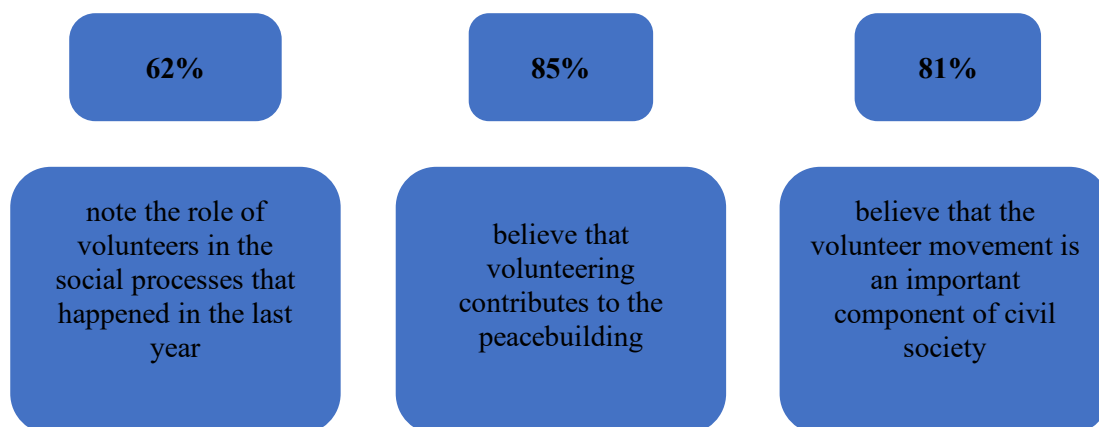


Figure 2. Survey on the impact of volunteering on civil society and peacebuilding

In the world humanitarian practice, volunteering is associated with the provision of free assistance in the performance of certain tasks that do not require a complete separation from the volunteer's main work, with the exception of emergency situations, such as the elimination of the consequences of natural disasters. Finding the exact number of participants in the Ukrainian volunteer movement is a difficult task because of the constant influx of new participants, their reluctance to publicly cover their activity, and the semi-legal status of individual volunteer organizations. However, the modern Ukrainian approach to volunteering consists in 24/7 readiness for action. The development of the volunteer movement emphasizes the indomitability of Ukrainians and military power. The productivity of general image-building steps requires adjusting the activities of the volunteer organization as an effective tool for creating a positive image of the country.

5. DISCUSSION

The analysis shows that military conflicts lead to aggravation of humanitarian crises and an increase in the need for volunteer assistance to support military, civilian victims, refugees, and IDPs. Volunteering forms and programs the image of the state. The image of Ukraine in the world directly depends on the relationship between the volunteer movement and civil society. The result of their interaction is the thorough foundation of an independent and competitive state. This can encourage more people to join volunteer organizations or do charity and provide aid themselves. Therefore, we consider the position of Boichak and McKernan (2022) to be well-reasoned, who believe that the volunteers' mission is to involve citizens in providing assistance in times of crisis in society, such as war. Boichak and McKernan (2022) also rightly conclude that volunteering is an important element of the relationship between civil society and the government represented by state bodies.

Based on the results of studies of the impact of volunteerism on humanitarian initiatives in civil society, Puglisi (2015) claims that volunteers actively participated in the formation of self-defence units, purchased military equipment, and provided logistical support, as well as monitored and supervised defence issues. We believe that Puglisi rightly focuses on the role of volunteers in security and defence, however, we note that based on the analysis of armed conflicts in the countries of the former Yugoslavia, Kosovo, and Georgia, their role is even greater in humanitarian aid and support of the civilian population. This position is also confirmed by sociological survey on the attitude of Ukrainian citizens to volunteering in 2022, which shows that the volunteer movement in Ukraine intensified with the beginning of the full-scale invasion (National Democratic Institute (NDI), 2023).

The volunteer movement exists in a relationship not only with civil society, but also with the state in the form of state authorities and local self-government bodies. The volunteer movement influences the formation of the state image in inseparable cooperation with classical and social media, professional interaction between state bodies and the public. Fedinec (2022) concluded in his research that states face a serious lack of trust between civil society and public authorities, because volunteers, unlike the authorities, have a high trust rating among the population, so their importance spreads quickly. So, volunteering can become an important tool for restoring trust between society and the authorities, as well as for supporting public initiatives in the country. The survey conducted by the Razumkov Centre (2022) also emphasizes the high level of citizens' trust in volunteers and the volunteer movement.

It is appropriate to agree with Zychowicz (2020), who believes that the issue of volunteering is the basis for forming a critical perception of citizens about their relationship with the state. Ukraine, which is going through the difficult path of forming a civil society and confronting the Soviet past, reflects how narratives contribute to the creation of space between official political discourses and the real life practices of citizens, especially during a military conflict. Historical analysis of law on the volunteer movement demonstrated that volunteering

has always played an important role in various wars and conflicts, providing assistance and support to military and civilian populations. In this context, we respectfully disagree with the statements of Boichak and McKernan (2022), who believe that volunteering is not a citizen's civic duty. In our opinion, although volunteering is not a constitutional duty, it should be a civic duty in a crisis situation, as it is one of the key elements of the relationship between the government and society. Its influence on civil society during the war is manifested in the strengthening of solidarity, intensification of civil activity, and the formation of new values. Volunteering is an important factor in preserving the social and ethical position of society in crisis conditions.

6. CONCLUSION

The relevance of the obtained results is determined by the fact that the role of volunteer movements consists in uniting citizens around common goals and ideals. The volunteer movement is a priority component of the state, the strategic development of which depends on many factors, among which military personnel, patriots, and volunteers play the key role. This can be a particularly important component during military conflicts, as they can drive citizens to action, provide support for military and civilian casualties, and promote civic awareness and activism.

Volunteering in wartime promotes economic independence and stability. The volunteer movement strengthens the indomitability of Ukrainians and the military power of the state. The example of the former Yugoslavia and modern Ukraine showed that, in the conditions of the unstable political and military situation in Europe, the volunteer movement should encourage more active participation of citizens in public affairs and the political process.

1. The conditions of the armed conflict affect the nature and specifics of volunteering, making it extremely important and unpredictable. Conditions of armed conflict increase the need for humanitarian aid and support for victims, making volunteerism an extremely important component of humanitarian response.
2. Volunteering during armed conflicts covers a wide range of activities — from humanitarian aid and medical care to psychological support and the organization of temporary housing.
3. Unusual conflict settings create challenges for volunteers, such as security threats, access to conflict zones, and resource constraints.

Research into volunteerism and civil society in armed conflict is of great importance as an armed conflict creates an acute need for humanitarian assistance. The political and economic development of the country depends on the volunteer movement as an effective tool for creating a positive image of the state. Volunteering is also a manifestation of civic activism and self-organization. This research identified problems and challenges faced by volunteers and volunteer organizations in the conflict zone, such as security, access to resources, and coordination of actions.

The study outlines the academic vision of creating a volunteer movement, considers all possible ways and examples of strengthening volunteerism in armed conflict, and improving it in accordance with world standards. Other researchers interested in volunteering and civil society in armed conflict should pay attention to the risks and challenges faced by volunteers in the conflict zone.

Research on volunteer safety and the development of strategies to reduce risks is of great importance. Furthermore, a promising direction of research is to understand the dynamics of cooperation between volunteers, government bodies and local communities, which will help to improve the coordination and effectiveness of the activities of volunteer organizations.

7. SUGGESTIONS

Expanding research on the impact of national cultures on the effectiveness of volunteer organizations in different regions

Studying how national cultures influence volunteer movements can help better understand how cultural traits shape approaches to volunteering and either facilitate or hinder its effectiveness.

Assessing the long-term effects of volunteer activities on social cohesion in post-conflict societies

Analyzing how volunteer work impacts social integration and the restoration of social structures after conflicts can reveal important aspects for developing recovery strategies.

Investigating the role of technology in supporting volunteer movements during armed conflicts

Examining how emerging technologies, such as mobile apps and social media, can be used to coordinate volunteer efforts and improve their effectiveness.

Analyzing international experiences in volunteerism during armed conflicts

Comparing the experiences of volunteer organizations in different countries affected by armed conflicts may provide new insights for improving volunteer movements in Ukraine.

Developing recommendations to enhance volunteer safety and resource provision

Considering potential measures to increase volunteer safety and ensure adequate resources could help mitigate risks and improve the effectiveness of their activities in conflict zones.

REFERENCES

- Bacha, B. (2021). Practical theory and post-socialist civil society: Towards a new analytical framework. *International Political Sociology*, 16(1). <https://doi.org/10.1093/ips/olab021>
- Baszczak, Ł., Kielczewska, A., Kukołowicz, P., Wincewicz, A., & Zyzik, R. (2022). Assistance of Polish society to refugees from Ukraine. Polish Economic Institute. Available in: <https://pie.net.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Pomoc-pol-spol-UKR-22.07.2022-D-1.pdf> Accessed April 15, 2024
- Boichak, O., & Jackson, S. (2020). From national identity to state legitimacy: Mobilizing digitally networked publics in eastern Ukraine. *Media, War & Conflict*, 13(3), 258–279. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1750635219829161>
- Boichak, O., & Mckernan, B. (2022). Narratives of volunteerism and social change in military Ukraine. *Cultural Sociology*, 18(1), 48-71. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1749975522112787>
- Butcher, J., & Einolf, C. J. (2017). *Perspectives on volunteering: Voices from the south*. Luxembourg: Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-39899-0>
- CAF. (2023). *World Philanthropy Index*. Charity Assistance Fund. Available in: <https://www.cafonline.org/docs/> Accessed April 15, 2024
- Chernets, V., Stadnyk, M., Marukhovska-Kartunova, O., Kolybabiuk, S., & Svorak, S. (2023). The impact of Russian military aggression on the establishment of a new Ukrainian political nation. *Cuestiones Políticas*, 41(78), 357-373. <https://doi.org/10.46398/cuestpol.4178.25>
- Domaradzki, J., Walkowaik, D., Bazan, D., & Baum, E. (2022). Volunteering in the frontline of the Ukrainian refugee crisis: A brief report from Poland. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 10. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2022.979751>
- Fedinec, C. (2022). *The Ukrainian civil volunteer movement during wartime (2014–2022)*. Budapest: CEU Press.



- Financial Tracking Service (FTS). (2022). Humanitarian aid contributions. Available in: <https://fts.unocha.org/> Accessed April 15, 2024
- Ishchuk, S. (2020). Modern conceptual basis of definition of the concept of civil society. *Journal of the National University "Ostroh Academy", "Law" Series*, 2(22). Available in: <http://lj.oa.edu.ua/articles/2020/n2/20isippk.pdf> Accessed April 15, 2024
- Lokot, T. (2021). *Beyond the protest square: Digital media and augmented dissent*. Rowman and Littlefield International. Available in: <https://rowman.com/ISBN/> Accessed April 15, 2024
- Mati, J. M. (2024). Civil society, volunteerism, and youth citizenship in Fiji. *International Journal of Voluntary and Non-profit Organizations*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11266-024-00633-y>
- Morse, J. L., Dik, B. J., Shimizu, A. B., & Reed, K. A. (2020). Volunteerism and burnout: Does satisfaction of motives for volunteering protect against symptoms? *International Journal of Voluntary and Non-profit Organizations*, 33, 229-241. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11266-020-00257-y>
- National Democratic Institute (NDI). (2023). *Opportunities and Challenges Facing Ukraine's Democratic Transition*. Available in: https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/January_2023_Ukraine_wartime_survey_UKR.pdf Accessed April 15, 2024
- Oliinyk, A. (2018). Volunteers in Ukraine: From provision of services to state-and nation-building. *Journal of Civil Society*, 14(4), 364-385. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17448689.2018.1518771>
- Overgaard, C. (2019). Rethinking volunteering as a form of unpaid work. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 48(1), 128-145. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0899764018809419>
- Oxford Learner's Dictionaries. (2020). Home page. Available in: <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/> Accessed April 15, 2024
- Puglisi, R. (2015). A people's army: Civil society as a security actor in post-maidan Ukraine. *Istituto Affari Internazionali*. Available in: <https://www.iai.it/en/publicazioni/peoples-army> Accessed April 15, 2024
- Razumkov Centre. (2022). Citizens' assessment of the situation in the country, trust in social institutions, political and ideological orientations of Ukrainian citizens in the conditions of Russian aggression. Available in: <https://razumkov.org.ua/> Accessed April 15, 2024
- RELIEFWEB. (2022). Ukraine flash appeal (March-August 2022). Available in: <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-flash-appeal-march-august-2022-enruuk> Accessed April 15, 2024
- Riabovol, L. (2020). Civil society as a scientific category and the subject of legal research. *Scientific Notes. Series: Law*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.36550/2522-9230-2020-1-9-4-8>
- Shah, D. V., Mcleod, D. M., Rojas, H., Cho, J., Wagner, M. W., & Friedland, L. A. (2017). Revising the communication mediation model for a new political communication ecology. *Human Communication Research*, 43(4), 491-504. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hcre.12115>
- Traeger, C., Haski-Leventhal, D., & Alfes, K. (2022). Extending organizational socialization theory: Empirical evidence from volunteer work for refugees in France and Australia. *Human Relations*, 75(6), 1140-1166. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00187267211006451>
- United Nations General Assembly. (2001). *Support for volunteering*. Report of the Secretary-Generals. Available in: <https://www.un.org/webcast/events/iyv/a56288.pdf> Accessed April 15, 2024
- Yunin, O., Shevchenko, S., Panova, I. V., & Kluban, M. (2022). Views on the priority directions of the development of modern police science as a step towards increasing the effectiveness of police activity. *Lex Humana*, 14(2), 466-477. Available in: <https://seer.ucp.br/seer/index.php/LexHumana/article/view/2350> Accessed April 15, 2024
- Zychowicz, J. (2020). *Superfluous women*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.3138/9781487513740>

