

February - May  
2022

FIGHT  
FOR  
RIGHT

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# FIGHT FOR RIGHT REPORT: SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

during Russia's War Against Ukraine





## **FIGHT FOR RIGHT** is a Ukrainian organization of people with disabilities (OPD), established in 2017

### **Before Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine, we**

- were engaged in the protection of political, labour, and cultural rights of people with disabilities;
- built Ukraine's national network of human rights defenders;
- advocated for important changes in legislation related to the protection and observance of the rights of people with disabilities;
- improved disability access and services in our country and strengthened the national disability community, thereby building a more inclusive democracy in Ukraine.

**At the beginning of February, we held a communication session.** Together with our national network of human rights defenders, we took part in the Diplomatic Mission Cross-Country Skis Cup, where we once again broke down stereotypes about people with disabilities. We also made plans about LIDERKA, the third installment of our promising and unique school of political participation for girls and women with disabilities. Until February 24, 2022, our organization had many ideas, dreams, and plans for future projects.

# 10.8% of the population in Ukraine has a disability



According to joint research by Fight For Right and the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology

**From the first day of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine, Fight for Right responded by changing our operations in order to address the most important and immediate need of the disability community – saving the lives of people with disabilities facing war.** This is how we began to engage in emergency response while maintaining our advocacy focus.

**According to joint research by Fight For Right and the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology**, every tenth person in Ukraine has a disability (10.8% of the population).

**According to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**, as of May 31, Russian military aggression has left about 4,113 civilians (including 264 children) killed and 4,916 wounded. Please note: these statistics are not final, and civilian casualties may be much higher than currently reported.

**There have been many barriers to the survival of people with disabilities during the war**, including inaccessible

physical spaces and transportation infrastructure throughout the country, lack of information in accessible formats, gaps in national legislation, and a lack of coordinated actions of state bodies and international humanitarian organizations.

**That is why Fight For Right has stepped up to support the wartime needs of Ukrainians with disabilities 24/7.**

Our team provides evacuation coordination, shelter, financial assistance, medicine, food, hygiene products, assistive technologies for independent living, psychological and legal counselling, and more. We want people with disabilities to have an equal chance survive during wartime. In this report you will find more information about our activities in the first months of the war.

**Since the beginning of Russia's war against Ukraine, our team has tripled in size.** Now it consists of 35 members (including volunteers) working in nine countries: Ukraine, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, the USA, Macedonia, Great Britain, Germany, and Poland. Many of these members are people with disabilities

## 4,113 civilians (including 264 children) killed and 4,916 wounded because of Russian military aggression



## SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

during Russia's War Against Ukraine (Case Management)



During the reporting period,  
we provided aid to

**1251 cases\***

Assistance with evacuation  
within Ukraine and abroad –

**736 people**

Assistance coordinating  
accommodation in Ukraine  
and abroad –

**378 people**

Provision of legal advice –

**96 people**

Provision of assistive  
technologies –

**59 people**



The number of cases that  
were in the process  
of resolution numbered

**1317**

Provision of medical supplies/  
medicines –

**354 people**

Provision of food –

**112 people**

Psychological first aid –

**13 consultations**

Coordination of medical  
evacuation within Ukraine  
and abroad –

**70 people**



*\*Please note that in most cases, some aid recipients needed and received several types of help.*

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“I spent five days in a basement and then got a life-saving offer from Fight For Right to evacuate. Thoughts, doubts, and then, after all, a departure from Ukraine. Six volunteers took turns to board me on the evacuation train, and then transport me through the Polish border to Germany. Going to a safe, unshelled place is vital for a person who physically can’t go down to and up from the bomb shelter, can’t run, hide quickly, get on the train... So, I thank again everyone at Fight For Right. Now you are the best and your activity is vital for Ukrainians with disabilities!”

**Olena Ivchenko,**

*remarking on her evacuation to Germany*

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“How do you move on when your child is diagnosed with cancer, then a war starts in the country and you remain marooned from your home and relatives? For me, it became possible thanks to the girls from Fight For Right and the caring people who help them create miracles and restore their faith. We would not have gone to treatment without their help. The girls helped us find transport in a very short time!”

**Nina Vovchuk-Fedorova,**

*commenting on the aid provided for her daughter Polina*

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“The old wheelchair we used remained in Kharkiv. Thus, we became completely immobile in another city. Fight For Right delivered the wheelchair within two days. And it is exactly as it should be! Compact, easy to fold, convenient to use and transport”

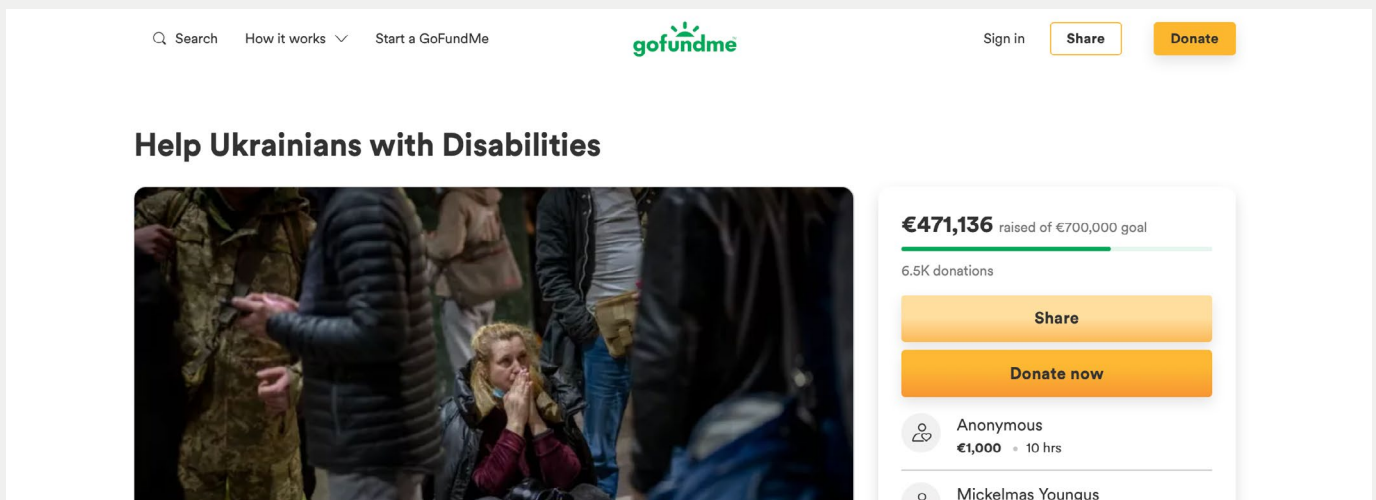
**Mother of Mariyka,**

*regarding the wheelchair provided to her by Fight for Right*



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

By People with Disabilities, for People with Disabilities



From the very first day of the Russian invasion, the international community of people with disabilities emerged to support the efforts of Fight for Right.

**We originally set up** a GoFundMe emergency response **fundraising page** for our aid operations.

At the very beginning of the war, these resources were the only ones we had to help Ukrainians with disabilities.



## Emily Logan commented

We are praying for you from the USA. My toddler daughter is disabled and we know we would need extra help if we had to evacuate, so we want to contribute to that cause for Ukrainians.



**As of the reporting period, our GoFundMe collected more than 6 thousand donations. Here are just a few comments from our donors:**

**“Having an invisible disability, I know I can have difficulties even in ordinary**

times. I can’t imagine how dire the situation must be right now. Please know that the world cares about you!”

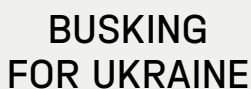
**“I contributed** because I also have a disability and would like someone to help me in my time of extreme need”

# FIGHT FOR RIGHT



**We created an international coalition** with the participation of Fight For Right, The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies, and the World Institute on Disabilities (WID) for emergency response and assistance to Ukrainians with disabilities during the war.

**We have received support from:**



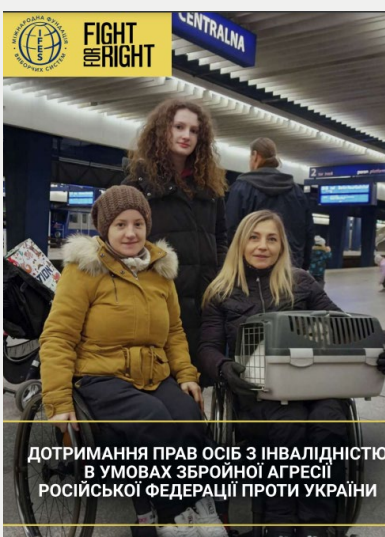
# ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Since the beginning of the war, FFR has:

- Become an executive partner of the **United Nations Partnership for the Rights of People with Disabilities (UN PRPD)**, which is implementing the integration of gender-sensitive inclusion of disability in humanitarian aid, currently at Stage 1 in Ukraine;
- **Evaluated the work of international humanitarian organizations**, developed comments and promoted advocacy messages among UN clusters that provide humanitarian support to Ukraine;
- **Prepared and published an analytical note “Observance of the rights of persons with disabilities**

during the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine”:

- **Initiated and established a separate thematic sub-group within the 5 AM Coalition** to assess human rights and document war crimes in places of detention, including the creation of a pilot report, development an integrated monitoring and documentation method, and fundraising for a large-scale partnership project in several de-occupied regions of Ukraine;
- **Presented FFR’s activities** and the first results of the assessment of the work of international humanitarian organizations in the context of people with disabilities during the civil society forum in Poland;



1 – Cover of the analytical note “Observance of the rights of persons with disabilities during the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine”, 2 – Presentation of the activities of Fight For Right and announcement of our advocacy messages on “Voices from Ukraine”



- **Cooperated with the Ukraine Logistics Cluster and UN Protection Cluster;** Thematic UN Clusters bring together organizations from among UN agencies, international humanitarian/human rights organizations and national civil society organizations in areas to facilitate the planning and coordination of humanitarian aid arriving to Ukraine. They include, in particular, the Ukraine Logistics Cluster, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and The Protection Cluster (including the Age and Disability Technical Working Group).
- **Taken part in the International Conference “After the War: Rethinking the Future of Civil Society”** held in

Warsaw in April. As part of the panel on humanitarian challenges, we **talked** about the poor abilities of international humanitarian missions to interact with the Ukrainian public sector on an equal footing. In addition, they emphasized the absence of an urgently needed real assessment of humanitarian aid needs, which would be based on disaggregated data on the real needs of all groups, including people with disabilities.

- **During the OSCE meeting in Vienna, presented the results of the assessment of the problems** of observing the rights of persons with disabilities in Ukraine and the FFR recommendations for international organizations.

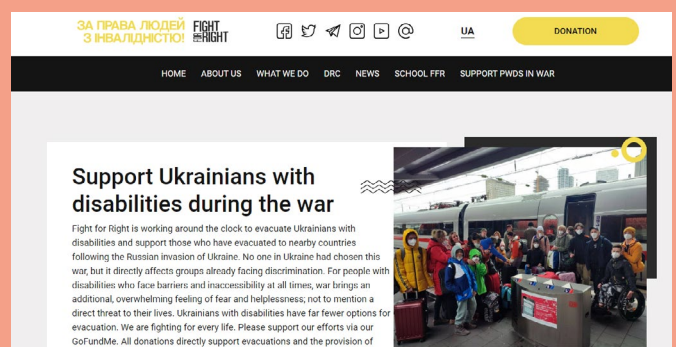
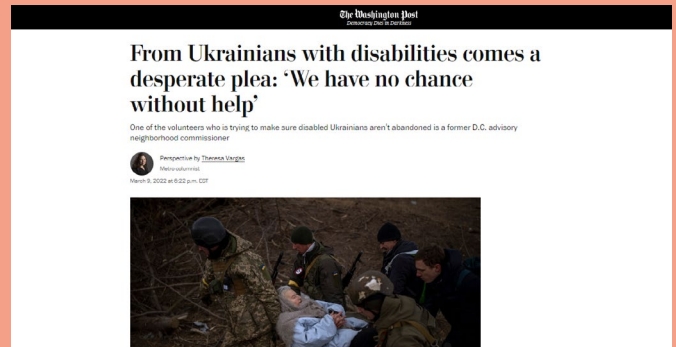


1. Participation in the International Conference “After the War: Rethinking the Future of Civil Society”
2. Presentation of the results of the assessment of the problems of observing the rights of persons with disabilities in Ukraine during the OSCE meeting in Vienna.

# THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMUNICATIONS



1. Fight For Right was cited **more than 60 times** in Ukrainian and foreign media, including The New York Times, Washington Post, Al Jazeera, Financial Times, and more.
2. Our organization was mentioned by Former U.S. President **Barack Obama**, actress and advocate **Vera Farmiga**, and European Parliament Member **Katrin Langensiepen**
3. Our team gave **more than 50 interviews** and expert comments.
4. Our work was featured on the broadcasts and stories of international TV channels, radio stations and podcasts (**more than 15 times**).
5. We launched a **separate section of our organization website** dedicated to emergency response during the war.
6. We started **collecting material for the publication** “Women with Disabilities During the Russian War against Ukraine”



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Funds spent for the reporting period  
February 24 – May 25, 2022



**UAH 3040934,1**

Evacuation/  
transportation

**UAH 498844,05**

Medicines

**UAH 450874,74**

Assistive technologies  
for people with disabilities

**UAH 1010266**

Medical evacuation

**UAH 344195**

Health services  
and rehabilitation

**UAH 77432,43**

Humanitarian aid

**UAH 853180,94**

One-time financial  
assistance

**UAH 34125,63**

Shelter

**UAH 41788,35**

Other

**Total: UAH 6351641,24**

**47,65 %**

Evacuation/  
transportation

**7,89 %**

Medicines

**7,13 %**

Assistive technologies  
for people with disabilities

**15,97 %**

Medical evacuation

**5,44 %**

Health services  
and rehabilitation

**1,22 %**

Humanitarian aid

**13,49 %**

One-time financial  
assistance

**0,54 %**

Shelter

**0,66 %**

Other

**Total: 100%**