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# INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STANDARDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE FIELD OF LAW ENFORCEMENT: EXPERIENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION IN THE LAW AND ORDER OF UKRAINE

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## Abstract

Policing in Ukraine must comply with international legal standards to protect human rights, which is a key requirement of the global community and a necessary condition for European integration. At the same time, the practical implementation of these standards remains problematic due to legislative gaps, personnel difficulties, and insufficient control mechanisms, which require further scientific analysis and improvement of law enforcement practice. The study uses methods of analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, dialectics, analogy, abstraction, and generalization. The aim of the research is to analyze human rights protection standards in the activities of law enforcement agencies, to assess their implementation in Ukraine, and to develop recommendations for improving national legislation

and practice of police agencies. Significant progress in bringing Ukrainian law enforcement in line with international legal norms has been made, but persistent challenges require continuous adaptation and policy improvement. Strengthening institutional mechanisms, enhancing public scrutiny and promoting international cooperation will be crucial to ensure sustainable compliance with human rights standards.

**Keywords**

Human rights; institutional mechanisms; policy adaptation; public oversight; law.

**Resumo**

A atividade policial na Ucrânia deve respeitar as normas jurídicas internacionais de proteção dos direitos humanos, o que constitui um requisito fundamental da comunidade internacional e uma condição necessária para a integração europeia. Ao mesmo tempo, a aplicação prática dessas normas continua a ser problemática devido a lacunas legislativas, dificuldades de pessoal e mecanismos de controlo insuficientes, o que exige uma análise científica mais aprofundada e a melhoria das práticas das forças policiais. O estudo recorre a métodos de análise, síntese, indução, dedução, dialética, analogia, abstração e generalização. O objetivo da investigação é analisar as normas de proteção dos direitos humanos nas atividades das agências de aplicação da lei, avaliar a sua implementação na Ucrânia e desenvolver recomendações para melhorar a legislação nacional e a prática das agências policiais. Foram alcançados progressos significativos na harmonização da aplicação da lei ucraniana com as normas jurídicas internacionais, mas os desafios persistentes exigem uma adaptação contínua e a melhoria das políticas. O reforço dos mecanismos institucionais, o aumento do escrutínio público e a promoção da cooperação internacional serão cruciais para garantir o cumprimento sustentável das normas de direitos humanos.

**Palavras-chave**

Direitos humanos; mecanismos institucionais; adaptação de políticas; supervisão pública; direito.

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## Introduction

The National Police of Ukraine is committed to promoting the implementation of international treaties ratified by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and protecting human rights. Rights and freedoms are guaranteed by the laws and Constitution of the country. Since one of the legal foundations of the police are international treaties of Ukraine, the consent to which was granted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, such activities must comply with international legal standards given the aspect of guaranteeing the observance of freedoms and human rights outlined in those treaties.

The President of Ukraine declares the need to take measures to ensure the stable functioning of democratic institutions and the establishment of the rule of law in order to ensure the proper implementation of Ukraine's obligations and commitments arising from its membership in the Council of Europe, to achieve compliance with the political component of the Copenhagen criteria for membership in the European Union. The measures are aimed at bringing the legal framework of law enforcement agencies closer to European standards and strengthening democratic control in this area. This indicates the relevance of the issue chosen for analysis, which requires a scientific and theoretical

solution. This solution is necessary for the practical improvement of police activities according to Ukraine's international obligations, in particular in the area of ensuring respect for rights and freedoms.

At the same time, the growth of transnational organized crime, high rates of global migration, disagreements in police training programs and human rights protection during law enforcement operations require the introduction of uniform international standards in the activities of these agencies. A modern approach to combating the problems of transnational organized crime as an important international component of preventing the introduction of destructive threats to global society is the introduction of international legal standards of policing at the national level. These standards are a concentrated reflection of generally recognized international law enforcement practice, in particular in the area of ensuring the observance of individual rights and liberties by the relevant police agencies.

Numerous international legal instruments, in particular the European Convention on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, and others, reflect the fundamental need of the world community to ensure the protection of individual rights in law enforcement. Application of international legal standards to the activities of the National Police is becoming increasingly important in the light of Ukraine’s European integration path and reform of police authorities. (Medvedenko & Medvedenko, 2023).

The current legislative initiatives and reforms, several problems, including legislative gaps, insufficient personnel training, and the lack of effective systems for monitoring and prosecuting law enforcement agencies for human rights violations, complicate Ukraine’s implementation of global standards in the area of law enforcement. This requires a thorough scientific study of the existing international norms, an assessment of their application in the judicial framework of Ukraine and the development of proposals for improving internal law enforcement procedures.

Several scholars have explored the issue of international legal standards of law enforcement Gavrylenko (2022) examines introduction of global law reforms into the national law enforcement system of Ukraine, focusing on the adaptation of European and world practices taking into account national characteristics, history and culture of the country. It offers methods of effective borrowing of international experience to improve the Ukrainian law enforcement system. Moskalyuk and Sloma (2022) explore international legal standards for the protection of human rights and freedoms, their impact on the Constitution of Ukraine and other normative legal acts. Analyzes the system of international legal acts, in particular the International Bill of Human Rights, agreements on crime prevention, conventions for the protection of vulnerable groups and against abuse by the state, as well as documents of international conferences on human rights (Lytvyn et al., 2022). Lezhnin (2022) analyzes global human rights standards and its influence on national legislation. Particular attention is paid to the role of the Security Service of Ukraine in ensuring human rights during martial law. Voloshchuk (2024) considers international standards of law enforcement, their main characteristics, and

their significance for the harmonization of national legislation. Magnovsky and Kosarevska (2023) investigated international standards of human rights in law enforcement activities of the National Police of Ukraine, analyzing their impact on police reforms and transformations in the context of contemporary challenges. They studied the effectiveness of applying these standards to increase the effectiveness of policing and improve mechanisms for ensuring human rights.

Ukraine's aspirations to join the European Union increase the relevance of compliance with international and European human rights standards in the activities of law enforcement agencies. The Copenhagen criteria, which define the political preconditions for EU membership, clearly require stable institutions that guarantee democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and respect for and protection of minorities. In this context, the effectiveness of policing and the extent to which law enforcement agencies comply with international legal standards for the protection of human rights become not only a domestic legal issue, but also a strategic factor in Ukraine's European integration process. Therefore, the harmonisation of national law enforcement practice with European legal standards, in particular those developed within the Council of Europe and the European Union, is a prerequisite for Ukraine's progress towards EU membership. This includes providing effective safeguards against abuse of power, strengthening mechanisms of public control and aligning police activities with the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights. Thus, the study of international legal standards for the protection of human rights in law enforcement is of particular importance in the context of Ukraine's obligations arising from its status as an EU candidate and the broader process of approximation of its legislation to the EU acquis.

## Materials and Methods

The study of foreign legal standards for the prevention of human rights violations in the field of legal activities and their implementation in the legal order of Ukraine is based on a systematic approach that involves the use of a set of general scientific and special legal approaches. The use of these methods made it possible to conduct a thorough analysis of legal norms, international standards, and the practice of their application in Ukraine and the world, as well as to formulate appropriate conclusions and recommendations for their improvement.

One of the core methods used in the study is the method of analysis, which is used to study international legal documents regulating the standards of human rights protection in the field of law enforcement, in particular, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, the UN Convention against Torture, etc. Also, this method was used in the study of the national legislation of Ukraine, including the Constitution of Ukraine, laws regulating the activities of law enforcement agencies, and regulations that enshrine international standards for the protection of human rights.

To establish the relationship between international standards and their implementation in the Ukrainian law and order, the synthesis method was used. As a result of the study, the author identifies the peculiarities of implementation of various standards in the operation of national law enforcement agencies, the problems of their practical application, and possible ways to improve the implementation process. Along with the induction method, the deduction method was used, which contributed to the formulation of specific recommendations for improving legislative regulation and law enforcement practice in Ukraine. Studying the general principles of international law and their application in different countries, it was possible to determine directions for improving law enforcement in Ukraine.

The study was based on the dialectical method, which allowed to consider the process of realization of international legal standards in dynamics, taking into account historical background, current state and development prospects. The author uses the analytical method to assess the effectiveness of implementation of global standards in Ukraine. A comparative analysis of research papers, regulations and law enforcement practice was conducted, which allowed the author to identify gaps in national legislation and to identify problems in the realization of human rights in law enforcement.

By using the method of abstraction, the author helped to identify the main conceptual foundations of international legal protection of personal freedoms, making this possible to highlight the key aspects which are important for reforming law enforcement in Ukraine. The data obtained were used as a basis for the generalization method, which allowed the author to formulate final conclusions on the effectiveness of the implementation of global legal standards in law enforcement in Ukraine and to propose recommendations for improving the legal framework and law enforcement practice. The complex use of these methods allowed to provide in-depth research of problems, a systematic analysis of international and national legal norms, an assessment of the practice of their application and the development of scientifically grounded conclusions and proposals for improving the protection of human rights in the law enforcement sphere of Ukraine.

## Results

Human freedoms and rights are the main achievements of modern society. Ukraine became a subject of international law only on August 24, 1991, when it declared its independence. The parliament of Ukraine confirmed its commitment to universal values and universally recognized principles of international law, having the opportunity to independently determine its political priorities and directions of its state-building. This is evidenced by the signing and ratification of several international legal instruments approved by the UN General Assembly.

As a result of its European decision, Ukraine begins the process of transformation. It shares the fundamental concepts and principles of the European Social Charter and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,

and its future growth is based on the interests of people and the desire to live and create in harmony with society, the environment and its values (Gavrylenko, 2024a).

Ukraine has been involved in the creation of international human rights standards (IHRC) since 1991 and is working on their implementation in the activities of civil servants. This policy is consistent with Article 18 of the Constitution of Ukraine, which states that the foreign policy of Ukraine state is aimed at protecting national interests and security by maintaining friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation with members of the international community by generally recognized norms and principles of the international community. Law. In addition, Articles 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 of the Basic Law support the idea of observing international norms regarding human rights and freedoms (Svensson-McCarthy, 2021).

Given the complex political and legal circumstances in Ukraine, the relevant international legal norms differ in that there is a particularly urgent need for their deeper theoretical and scientific understanding. The analysis also focuses on the academic justification and implementation of global legal standards of police activity in ensuring the observance of human freedoms and rights into domestic legislation, for their more objective and thorough study, and, therefore, to identify ways of integration into the international and European space (Gavrylenko, 2022).

The international police cooperation is being established, expanded and strengthened on condition that national legislation, in particular departmental regulations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, is adjusted to international legal acts. In its domestic and international cooperation, Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs is governed by the key legal instruments that regulate the protection of rights and freedoms, establish generally recognized standards of behavior for officials, and determine international strategies for combating crime. According to this author, one of the ways to interact with the activities of the police and promote integration in fulfilling the requirements of adapting national legislation to relevant international standards is to bring the normative legal acts of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine into compliance with the requirements of international legal documents (Eilstrup-Sangiovanni & Sharman, 2021).

Law enforcement agencies (police) should be based on the rule of law, demilitarization, decentralization, transparency, accountability, and close cooperation with the public and local communities (the concept of "community policing"), taking into account the standards adopted by many prominent European nations. Establishing certain significant legal boundaries of the police, in particular in the field of ensuring the observance of human rights and freedoms, which gives stability and certainty to the social relations regulated by law, the activities of the police are determined by legal principles as integrating factors of the proper exercise of the discretionary powers of a policeman with the prohibition of arbitrariness in such activities (Moskalyuk & Sloma, 2022).

Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950, Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials of 1979, Resolution No. 690 of 1979 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe "Declaration on Police," Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984

and the Basic Principles of the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials of 1990 are international documents, the legal norms of which are the core of the National Police's activities. The above-mentioned international laws are a set of interrelated global, regional, and especially European norms that establish uniform police actions, in particular when it comes to ensuring the observance of human rights and freedoms in Ukraine (Sopilko & Tokarieva, 2023).

International human rights rules apply to police in every country on the planet. The United Nations has adopted these standards, which represent common ideals and beliefs. The approach to compliance with standards in some situations will be significantly different from that used in governments that do not face such problems since policing in countries with limited financial and other resources is always associated with certain problems (Gusarov & Popov, 2020). International standards, on the other hand, are universal and serve as a criterion for assessing the extent to which government structures in different countries of the world respect human rights (Lezhnin, 2022).

The lack of proper financial and other resources may be one of the factors determining the causes, conditions, and factors of the formation of deviant manifestations in the behavior of a police officer. Delinquent behavior, or deviant behavior, is a system of actions and actions of people or social groups that contradict social norms or socially recognized patterns and standards of behavior. In extreme manifestations, deviant behavior is punishable by law. The seriousness of offenses and the expression of their antisocial nature distinguish delinquent behavior from criminal behavior (Geovani et al., 2021).

Consequently, financial resources, as well as material and technical assistance are related to the effectiveness of the police. Low funding and lack of logistical support for such measures pose a threat to law and order in the state and, as a result, the effective implementation of human rights and freedoms. Appropriate financial, material, and technical assistance to the bodies and units of the National Police of Ukraine is a direct prerequisite for the integrated and successful activities of the police. Moreover, all police actions are assessed using international legal standards, especially when it comes to ensuring the observance of freedoms and human rights (Magnovsky & Kosarevska, 2023).

The application of international criteria for assessing the activities of the police does not mean the creation of a unified model for this type of law enforcement activity, since, as noted earlier, the conditions of the transition period of Ukraine and society, national traditions, and mentality should be taken into account. At the same time, it should be emphasized that in today's world, the concern for personal freedom has gone far beyond the borders of a single state, and there is a need to create universal standards of international law that are also considered essential rights. They are reflected in several important international legal acts that have established universal standards of individual liberties and interests and defined the boundaries beyond which the state cannot go (Qizi et al., 2024).

As a result, the world community began to regulate human rights, except for one state. This establishes a mechanism by which human rights, which have received legal recognition in numerous international legal documents and have turned into universal international standards, determine the need for their appropriate provision by the relevant public authorities, in particular the bodies and units of the National Police of Ukraine. This not only establishes how international legal standards of police activities are implemented in national legislation but also obliges all police officers to strictly comply with them (Voloshchuk, 2024; Kotsur et al., 2023).

Ukraine's move towards European Union membership requires a systemic transformation of law enforcement agencies in line with European policing standards. These standards are based not only on universal international human rights instruments, but also on the EU legal and policy framework, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the principles developed in the framework of EU justice and home affairs cooperation. In the context of EU accession, international legal standards for law enforcement function as benchmarks for assessing institutional readiness, the legality of police practices and the effectiveness of mechanisms for protecting individual rights. Compliance with these standards is subject to ongoing monitoring as part of the EU integration process, in particular in areas related to the independence and accountability of law enforcement agencies, prevention of ill-treatment, proportionate use of force and access to effective remedies for victims of rights violations..

Given the peculiarities of police operations, it is important to note that the UN General Assembly adopted the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials (Resolution 34/169) on 17 December 1979 to guide them in the appropriate direction. This code establishes the legal status of the police, its relationship with society, and the basic requirements for its formation and activities in a democratic society. It also requires consideration of generally accepted and reflected in universal international documents' legal standards of human rights and freedoms. In 1998 (Pol. 30/04/98), Amnesty International, in cooperation with law enforcement personnel and international experts, drafted the Ten Standards of Good Conduct for Law Enforcement Agencies, which are grounded in UN standards in the areas of human rights, criminal justice and law enforcement. Amnesty International's "Ten Standards of Good Conduct for Law Enforcement Agencies" is a set of universally recognized basic requirements for police activities, in particular, to promote respect for human freedoms and rights (McCorquodale & Nolan, 2021).

Significantly, one of the first of the "Ten Standards of Good Human Rights Practices for Law Enforcement Agencies" states that all persons have the right to be protected equally by the law, without discrimination, including threats and acts of violence. Women, children, elderly people, refugees, displaced persons and minorities are among the demographic categories that should be given special attention (Gavrylenko, 2024b).

The second rule is to respect and care for all victims of crime while ensuring their privacy and safety. The third rule is to avoid the use of force unless it is necessary and only to a minimum. The fourth rule is to refrain from using force against peaceful but illegal gatherings. The least amount of force is required when forcefully dispersing assemblies.

Lethal force (the fifth standard) should be applied only when it is required to protect the life of the individual or the lives of others.

The sixth need relates to arrests, which have to be carried out on legal grounds and with proper justification. In this case, it is crucial to make sure that all prisoners have the opportunity to contact their loved ones and a lawyer as soon as possible after arrest, in addition to receiving any necessary medical care (standard seventh). When all prisoners are treated humanely, the eighth standard becomes clear. Torture and other ill-treatment should never be applied, supported, or tolerated. Orders to perform these actions are not binding.

Standards do not cover up extrajudicial executions or "disappearances." Orders for such actions are not enforceable (ninth standard). It emphasizes that any abuse of this fundamental principle should be disclosed to the prosecutor's office and management. These international norms are institutional international legal standards for the activities of the police and in the process of introducing international experience are the basis for the formation of such a principle of the activities of bodies and units of the National Police of Ukraine as the observance of human rights and freedoms (Article 7 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police"). This conclusion grounded in the findings of the logical-legal method of the content of the provisions of the "Ten Standards of Correct Behavior of Law Enforcement Agencies on Human Rights." Consequently, Ukraine fulfills its international obligations at the domestic level, due to its membership in the relevant international organizations (Antoshkina et al., 2023; Maruf, 2021).

At the same time, bringing national legislation to the norms of international law occurs with the concept of obligations erga omnes ("applicable to all"). Fundamental relations between the state and the world community as a group of nations are based on general rules of law and the need for protection of the main public interests (Rakipova et al., 2023). The International Court of Justice has stressed again and again that nations have a broad responsibility related to the common interests of the community, which qualifies as an obligation (albeit out of contract) to the community as a whole. The Community considers the infringement of erga omnes commitments as an international crime. These are commitments that directly derive from the defense of individual rights (Voitsikhovsky & Zherebko, 2023).

In this context, it is crucial to remember the national implementation of international legal norms on police activities should be aimed at real (actual) and uncompromising defense of human freedoms and rights. They are understood as unified principles and rules of conduct of law enforcement, which are imperative, objectified in international legal acts and decisions of international human rights institutions, and provided (in case of their violation) with international legal sanctions. This is grounded in the findings of the analysis on understanding and specific differentiation of international legal standards of law enforcement. Two main components of international standards for law enforcement should be considered as a whole: professional standards for personnel and law enforcement officials, mainly for professional training; standards of protection and

protection of human rights and freedoms, maintenance of law and order and legality (Lutsenko & Gurtova, 2021).

They are the paradigm of the modern police, the basis for further development and improvement of the legal basis for the functioning of bodies and units of the National Police of Ukraine, and the international criterion for the legal assessment of such activities. Significantly accumulated two-vector theoretical and legal characteristic of international legal standards of law enforcement agencies is their understanding as unified principles and rules of imperative nature, formally fixed in international legal documents, and in case of their violation - the possibility of applying international sanctions. Violation of erga omnes obligations will be taken into account by the international community as a legal basis for the possibility of applying international sanctions.

## Discussion

The current challenges faced by Ukraine's justice system require effective changes and the implementation of international human rights standards in all aspects of law enforcement. An important component of upholding compliance to the principle of law and protecting human rights and freedoms is improving the level of professional training of police officers. Today, both strengthening the rule of law and implementing changes in the law enforcement sector depend on legal education, which is recognized by the Ukrainian Constitution and determined by the President to be a state policy priority. From the perspective of European integration, the implementation of international human rights standards in law enforcement should be understood as a form of legal conditionality. The EU evaluates candidate states on the basis of formal transposition of legal norms and their effective application in practice. Particular emphasis is placed on police training, internal accountability mechanisms and independent oversight structures capable of preventing systemic human rights violations.

The experience of EU member states demonstrates that sustainable compliance with European policing standards requires a combination of legislative harmonisation, institutional capacity building, and the development of a human rights-based professional culture in law enforcement agencies. For Ukraine, this means that the reforms of the National Police should be aimed not only at formal alignment with EU standards but at ensuring their practical effectiveness in a context of democratic governance and public trust.

The key step in bringing the Ukrainian educational system closer to the educational and scientific landscape of Europe is the expansion of the educational network of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is crucial to consider how highly developed countries such as Poland, Germany, and the United States have shaped police training in light of Ukraine’s membership in the European Union. For example, in Poland, much attention is paid to human rights training programs and the de-escalation of conflict situations. In Germany, there are specialized educational institutions where police officers are trained on how to act in a multicultural environment, while in the United States initiatives have been

introduced to psychologically train law enforcement personnel and help them work with vulnerable populations (Gavrylenko, 2024c).

Modernization of educational programs, compliance with world standards, advanced training of teaching staff, and introduction of new teaching methods are necessary to ensure a professional level of training for security forces. Creating an effective system of continuous professional development of police officers should be a key component of the reform, as it will allow them to successfully solve modern problems, in particular the growth of terrorism, transnational crime, and cybercrime. The Cyber Police, for example, has been established in Ukraine in recent years and has shown promise in preventing cybercrime; despite this, it requires continuous technological progress and the expansion of training initiatives (Cherpak, 2024).

The creation and implementation of systems for scientific testing of new strategies of police activities are central to the responsibilities to guarantee their effectiveness and compliance with world standards. Active cooperation with international organizations, in particular the UN, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, and Interpol, is an important part of this process for obtaining advanced knowledge and introducing best practices in the area of public safety. For example, Ukraine and the OSCE are already cooperating in reforming the police, which involves training instructors to work by international standards and conducting training seminars (Supronyuk, 2024; Omelchuk et al., 2022).

Establishing procedures for public oversight of law enforcement organizations is another important element that will increase public confidence in the police and guarantee the openness of its activities. The public can now participate in the evaluation of the work of law enforcement officers in Ukraine through advisory councils to police departments; however, they require additional powers and active cooperation with foreign specialists. Using the example of European countries, where independent oversight bodies often conduct such investigations, it is also vital to improve the processes of internal investigations into allegations of law enforcement actions (Vrublevska-Misyuna & Tychyna, 2022).

The Russian-Ukrainian war is a critical stress test for the implementation of international human rights standards in law enforcement. While warfare and martial law inevitably impose certain restrictions on individual rights, international human rights law and international humanitarian law require that such restrictions remain lawful, necessary, proportionate and subject to effective oversight. In this context, the role of law enforcement agencies goes beyond traditional policing functions to include maintaining public order in emergency situations, interacting with the military and ensuring the protection of civilians. The European Convention on Human Rights, as interpreted by the European Court of Human Rights, allows for limited derogations in case of public emergency threatening the life of the nation; however, such derogations do not relieve the state of its fundamental obligations to prevent torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and discrimination.

For Ukraine, the war complicates the practical implementation of international human rights standards in law enforcement. Increased security risks, population displacement,

destruction of infrastructure and increased operational pressure on police officers create conditions under which the risk of human rights violations is objectively increasing. Nevertheless, compliance with international legal standards during armed conflict remains a crucial indicator of a state's commitment to the rule of law and democratic values. From the perspective of European integration, the war does not diminish but rather reinforces the importance of respecting human rights standards in law enforcement. The EU and the Council of Europe have consistently emphasised that respect for human rights and effective civilian control over security forces are indispensable even under martial law. In this sense, Ukraine's ability to ensure the accountability of law enforcement agencies during the conflict serves as a key benchmark for assessing the resilience of its legal system and institutional maturity as an EU candidate state.

The war also highlights the need for coordinated application of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in policing, especially in areas affected by hostilities and in dealing with internally displaced persons, detainees and vulnerable groups. Strengthening the training of law enforcement officials in the application of these legal regimes, as well as enhancing cooperation with international monitoring mechanisms, is essential to prevent systemic violations and maintain public trust in law enforcement. Accordingly, the implementation of international legal standards for the protection of human rights by law enforcement in armed conflict should not be seen as an optional or secondary task, but as a fundamental component of Ukraine's legal obligations and its broader strategy of European integration and post-war recovery.

In general, large-scale and systemic changes are needed to implement global legal standards of human rights protection in the law enforcement field in Ukraine. This includes strengthening public control, introducing innovative technologies, improving the skills of police officers, reforming the MIA education system, and intensifying international cooperation. The Ukrainian law enforcement system will be able to meet modern international standards and ensure effective protection of people's freedoms and rights only if these steps are taken.

## Conclusions

Human rights and freedoms are important for Ukraine's democratic growth, as they are the basic principles of the modern world. After gaining independence in 1991, Ukraine assumed international obligations to ensure the protection of rights, and this is reflected in laws and reforms, especially in the area of public security. In the context of Ukraine's European integration and its aspirations to join the EU, the implementation of international legal standards for the protection of human rights in law enforcement is of strategic importance. Compliance with these standards is an important element of the Copenhagen Political Criteria and demonstrates Ukraine's readiness to function as a state governed by the rule of law within the European legal space. Therefore, the further approximation of national law enforcement practices to European standards should be

seen as a crucial factor for successful EU accession and the long-term sustainability of democratic institutions in Ukraine.

The National Police of Ukraine, as a law enforcement authority, provides for the implementation of international legal norms of a number of international agreements, including the UN Convention against Torture, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the UN Code of Legal Conduct. Members of law enforcement agencies and others. The rule of law, accountability, transparency as well as compliance with human rights remain the cornerstones of police work. That means that law enforcement agencies must act exclusively within the law, respecting and protecting the rights of citizens.

The creation of a new police force based on world experience has become one of the main changes that stimulates the observance of human rights. This involved the reorganization of law enforcement agencies, increasing the professional training of police officers, strengthening public control and reducing the level of corruption among these organizations. In addition, special training programs were introduced to help law enforcement officers respect human rights, in particular with the help of foreign partners and experts.

Financial and logistical assistance to the law enforcement system is crucial to successful implementation the international standards. Insufficient resources can lead to the police acting in an uncharacteristic manner and jeopardizing human rights, peace and order. Preventing such problems requires improving the system of motivation of law enforcement officers, creating decent working conditions for them and providing them with sufficient material resources to fulfil their tasks.

Ukraine is still adapting to the European and international legal systems, despite a difficult political and legal environment. A crucial first step in developing a democratic society and strengthening the rule of law is to bring legislation into line with international standards and apply it in practice.

However, there are other issues that need extra attention. Among them are violations of human rights during law enforcement operations, cases of abuse of power by police officers and general distrust of law enforcement agencies. Only a comprehensive strategy that provides for the legal education of citizens, the creation of powerful mechanisms of public control, toughening the punishment of law enforcement officers who violate human rights, and additional improvements in the system of their professional training can solve these problems.

International legal norms should be enshrined in Ukraine’s legal system to effectively address current problems and protect human rights. It is extremely important to enhance the professional training of law enforcement officers, introduce the latest technologies, and adapt curricula to international standards. Equally important is the development of scientific methods, cooperation with international organizations and strengthening of public control over police activities. The implementation of these measures will ensure that the law enforcement system complies with modern international standards and effectively protects the rights of citizens.

Therefore, further improvement of the legislative framework, professional training of police officers and ensuring proper monitoring of freedom of expression remain a priority for the Ukrainian state. Only through an integrated approach and international cooperation can the rights and freedoms of every citizen be truly protected, which is the key to democratic development and the stability of society.

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