



# CIVILM+

<http://civilmplus.org>

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## PULSE OF PEACE IN DONBASS

Results of monitoring actual occurrences, related to the hybrid war in Eastern Ukraine

On 4th December 2017 in Vienna, civil society organizations and activists from Ukraine, Russia and other European countries founded a joint international [platform CivilM+](#) to push for peace and the rule of law in eastern Ukraine.

The platform's aim is to streamline civic actors' efforts in spheres like human rights protection, peacebuilding, education and information, humanitarian work, and to work on rebuilding the territories of Donetsk and Luhansk as peaceful, integrated and developed regions of a democratic Ukraine and united Europe. CivilM+ seeks to promote the involvement of the regions' population as well as refugees and displaced persons in these activities. CivilM+ offers its participants opportunities for cooperation, elaboration of joint positions, mutual support and solidarity, improvement of qualification and close coordination of work.

The newsletter is devoted to the work carried out by civil society organizations and initiative groups from Ukraine, Russia, as well as international organizations, to overcome the consequences of the hybrid military conflict in the eastern regions of Ukraine.

This newsletter will be published regularly; the next issue will be published in November 2018.

You can send your information for the newsletter or ask any questions at: [newsletter@civilmplus.org](mailto:newsletter@civilmplus.org)

The selection of news presented in the Newsletter is subjective. The opinions expressed in the published materials may not coincide with the opinion of the authors and participants of CivilM+.

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## 1. Political processes and the situation in the conflict zone

- September 30, 2018 - three schoolchildren were killed and one was badly wounded by a [landmine explosion](#) in Horlivka on the uncontrolled territory of Luhansk region. About 1700 people have been killed by [landmines](#) since the beginning of the war (*text in English and Russian*)
- October 2, 2018 - Martin Sajdik, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and the Trilateral Contact Group, and Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, made a [statement that an urgent demining process should take place](#) in eastern Ukraine (*text in Russian, Ukrainian and English*)
- October 4, 2018 - The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine extended Donbass Special Status till the end of 2019. The law was [signed](#) by Petro Poroshenko, the President of Ukraine, immediately. Kurt Volker, US Special Representative, [stated that it is now Russia's turn to fulfill its side of the Minsk agreements](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- October 6, 2018 - Ukrainian political prisoner [Oleg Sentsov, sentenced to 20-years imprisonment by Russia, decided to stop his hunger strike](#) after 145 days. His attorney Dmitry Dinze [explained](#) the reasons (*text in Russian*)
- October 9, 2018 - Ukrainian political prisoner Volodymyr Balukh, imprisoned in occupied Crimea by the Russian Federation, temporarily [stopped his hunger strike](#) while on route to a penal colony in Russia (*text in Russian*)
- October 10, 2018 - a meeting of Vladislav Surkov, the assistant to the President of the Russian Federation, and Denis Pushilin, currently acting as head of the so-called "DPR", took place in Moscow. See more about the [meeting and the promises made by Surkov](#) which violate the Minsk agreements (*text in English*)
- October 11, 2018 - Kurt Volker, US Special Representative for Ukraine, stated that Russia is [blocking the deployment of peacekeepers in Donbass](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- October 15-23, 2018 - there was [no running water](#) for more than 70,000 people from the town of Toretsk and settlements around it due to the destruction of the water supply as a result of shelling. Yevhen Kaplin, the head of "Proliska" Humanitarian Mission, [described](#) the situation in the region. The [repair](#) was impossible due to the lack of security guarantees for the repair team (*text in Russian and Ukrainian*)
- October 18, 2018 - [two civilians were killed](#) in the 150-meter "gray zone" between the parties to the conflict near the town of Zolote. For five days, the [recovery of the bodies](#) was [impossible](#) due to ongoing shelling (*text in Russian*)
- October 18, 2018 - Russian State Duma adopted the [statement "Due to the exacerbation of the situation in Ukraine"](#): the document stresses that "an attempt of a new Ukrainian large-scale military offensive in Donbass ... will receive an adequate response" (*text in Russian*)
- October 22, 2018 - Vladimir Putin, president of the Russian Federation, signed a [decree regarding economic sanctions against Ukraine](#) due to the "unfriendly

actions of Ukraine toward citizens and legal entities of the Russian Federation”, which include the freezing of assets, a ban on the withdrawal of capital, etc. “Radio Liberty” on the [consequences](#) of this act (*text in Russian and Ukrainian*)

## 2. Public initiatives dedicated to overcoming the consequences of war and searching for opportunities for dialogue

- September 30, 2018 - “Before it’s too late”, the [anti-war music festival](#), took place in Moscow (*text in Russian*)
- October 2-3, 2018 - a seminar of the “Truth, Justice and Reconciliation” commission was held in Kyiv, which brought together historians, theologians, and civil activists from Ukraine, Russia and Western European countries. The participants adopted the [statement on the responsibility of the Russian Orthodox Church](#) for constructing an ideology of confrontation (*text in Ukrainian*)
- October 5, 2018 - “Teatr.doc” organized an [event dedicated to the 145 days of the hunger strike of Oleg Sentsov](#), the Ukrainian political prisoner sentenced to a long term of imprisonment by Russia. The performance-picket took place near the presidential administration of the Russian Federation (*text in Russian*)
- October 6, 2018 - “Images of Donbass” - the joint [presentation of research projects](#) of the Lviv Center for Urban History and “Plus/Minus” Art Residence (Sievierodonetsk) took place in Sievierodonetsk (*text in Russian*)
- October 10, 2018 - the [premiere of the “Fragile Freedom”](#) documentary about the civilians who survived captivity in the so-called “LPR”, took place (*text in Russian*)
- October 10, 2018 - Russian activists submitted a 60-thousand signatures [petition demanding an exchange of Russian and Ukrainian political prisoners](#) to the Presidential Council for Human Rights (*text in Russian*)
- October 14, 2018 - an open [lecture on the history of the antiwar movement](#), organized by the “Lights of Eirene” peace initiative, took place in Moscow (*video in Russian*)
- October 21, 2018 - a [peacebuilding school](#) for young people from Ukraine and Russia (North Caucasus) started in Transcarpathia as part of the CivilM+ international platform’s activity (*text in Ukrainian*)
- December 18, 2018 - [Sergey Loznitsa’s film “Donbass”](#), based on the events of 2014, was released. It received the Best Director Award at the Cannes Film Festival, and it was submitted for the Oscar as a “Best Film in a Foreign Language” by the Ukrainian Oscar Committee. See the interview with the film director [here](#) (*text in Russian*)
- October 25, 2018 - [“Ukraine - the strategic role of location. Conflict challenges, approaches to Donbass reintegration, international experience”](#) round table, organized jointly by UHHRU and the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, took place in Kyiv (*text and video in Ukrainian*)
- “Tumbler” international volunteer initiative held a [session of social development projects for the local community](#) of Novopskov, Luhansk region (*text in Russian*)

- The [anti-war song "Soldier"](#) was released by Zmey, Russian musician and a member of the "[Casta](#)" music band (*video in Russian*)
- "[After the violence. The \(Im-\)Possibility of Understanding and Remembering](#)" Transregional Academy was announced by the international coalition of research organizations for June, 2019 in Dnipro (Ukraine). Submission deadline is January 14, 2019 (*text in English*)

### 3. Legal initiatives and analytics on war conflict

- The [draft law "On war criminals"](#) was published (*text in Ukrainian*)
- The [report "One on one with the war: the impact of military conflict on the rights of the elderly"](#) was issued by Luhansk Regional Human Rights Center "Alternative" (*text in [Ukrainian](#), [Russian](#) and [English](#)*)
- The analytical [report "Imprisoned in the "LPR Government" Building"](#) by the Eastern Ukrainian Center for Civic Initiatives was released. The report describes one of the places of illegal detention created in Luhansk region during the armed conflict in Donbass. It is based on 19 interviews with those who were detained in the basement of the "LPR Government" building by "LPR" representatives (*text in English*)
- Levada Center (Russia), together with Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (Ukraine), researched the [perception of the current state of Russia-Ukraine relations](#) in both societies. The dynamics shows that for those in Ukraine, Russia has a more positive image, than vice versa (*text in Russian*)
- "Elections" are planned in November in the so-called "LPR" and "DPR". Read more about the peculiarities of the "election campaign", [ideological contradictions and the plans of Russia, in the text](#) of the Moscow Carnegie Center and the [article](#) of "Informator" (*text in Russian*)
- An [overview of human rights violations](#) in the occupied parts of Luhansk and Donetsk regions in September 2018 was published by "East-SOS" Charitable Foundation (*text in Russian, Ukrainian and English*)
- An [overview of incidents in some areas](#) of Luhansk and Donetsk regions in September 2018 was published by Kharkiv Human Rights Group (*text in Russian*)
- An [overview of the internal displacement](#) in Ukraine in September 2018 was prepared by the "CrimeaSOS" NGO (*text in Ukrainian*)
- [Cases of sexual violence during the military conflict in the east of Ukraine have been provided](#) to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court by the Eastern-Ukrainian Center for Civic Initiatives. During the 3 years of research, 120 places of illegal detention were identified, and incidents of sexual violence were recorded in 42 of such places (*text in Ukrainian*)
- "[Options for Justice: A Handbook for Designing Accountability Mechanisms for Grave Crimes](#)" was published by the Open Society Foundation (*text in English*)
- In the framework of the forum "NGOs in Ukraine," organized by the Lviv Business School, was published a report "[The Status and Prospects of Cooperation](#)

[between Business and NGOs in Donetsk and Luhansk Regions](#)” (text in Ukrainian)

- The report [“Current events in the “People’s Republics” of eastern Ukraine”](#) was [punished](#) (text in English)

#### 4. Assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and affected civilians

- October 2, 2018 - a [round table “Life after Captivity: What Do the State and Public Organizations Do”](#) was held, organized by members of the “Justice for Peace in Donbass” coalition (text in Russian)
- See the [video about the "International Medical Assistance"](#) charitable organization medical center at Stanytsia Luhanska exit-entry checkpoint (video in Russian)
- [Financial assistance is still unavailable](#) for the families of Ukrainian political prisoners in Russia (text in Russian)
- “East-SOS” Charitable Foundation [describes its 50th humanitarian trip](#) to the liberated parts of Donbass (text in Russian)
- Vadym Svyrydenko, presidential commissioner on rehabilitation of ATO participants, and other experts [discuss the issues surrounding the rehabilitation of military veterans](#) (text in Ukrainian)

#### 5. Interviews and opinions

- Alexander Hug, the Deputy Head of the OSCE monitoring mission in Ukraine: “The bullets and bombs the OSCE SMM records in eastern Ukraine, day and night, do not discriminate, falling on civilians, regardless of class or creed, or age or sex. Many of them children. Many too old to flee. And many too poor to leave. The reality is: [the bell tolls for all of them](#)” (text in English)
- [The industrial crisis of Luhansk region is the consequence of hostilities](#) - Kennan Institute’s publication (text in English)
- Valery Novikov, head of the board of Luhansk Regional Human Rights Center "Alternative", shares his [opinion on the infrastructure of Donbas](#) (text in Russian)
- Text on the [participation of private military companies](#) in the Donbass conflict (text in Russian)
- [Ecocide](#) is likely to be a consequence of Donbass conflict (text in Russian)
- [Hostels for IDPs](#) were created in 2014 and are still in use. See more about the life there in “Informator” article (text in Russian)
- The Donbass war is the post-imperial war of Russia. [How the modern Russian intelligentsia deal with "the eternal questions of war and peace"](#)? See the "Radio Liberty" column (text in Russian)
- How are [theaters supporting society](#) in the occupied part of Donbass? (text in Ukrainian)
- [Eastern Ukrainian Center for Civic Initiatives visited museums in six cities](#) near the contact line to research how the human rights issues are covered by the

exhibitions (*text in Russian*)

- Experts on the possibilities to create [social dialogue after Donbass liberation](#) and on the applicability of the transitional justice concept for Ukraine (*text in Ukrainian*)
- "[We do not need war!](#)" - the interview with Vadim Kurylev, the initiator of the Russian anti-war rock movement "[Antiarmiya/Antiarmy](#)": "It only seems that the voices of the militarists are loud, and the voices of the pacifists are not. Dozens of anti-war songs have been written in Russia since 2014" (*text in Russian*)
- A [selection of books](#) that will help to understand Donbass (*text in Ukrainian*)
- Eastern Ukrainian inhabitants speak about their [vision of peace in the OCHA video](#) (*video in English*)

Supported by the government of Germany as a part of the DRA project "Dialogue for mutual understanding and rule of law: European NGOs together to overcome the Donbass conflict"



I can send your information for the newsletter or ask your questions: [newsletter@civilmplus.org](mailto:newsletter@civilmplus.org)