



CIVILM+

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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 June 2019.

You can send your information for the newsletter or ask any questions at: 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

- April 28, 2019 - Andrei Yarovoy, a consultant to the Public Health Alliance, who was held captive in the so-called “LPR”, [was awarded an international prize](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- April 28, 2019 - The parliamentary group of the Free Democratic Party (FDP) in the German Bundestag unanimously adopted [a new draft de-escalation strategy in Donbas](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- May 1, 2019 - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine [stated that the Kremlin’s decision to simplify the acquisition of Russian citizenship for some categories of Ukrainian citizens is unlawful](#) and will not be recognized by Ukraine. Yuri Grymchak, Deputy Head of the Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories, [spoke about the possibility of those who receive a Russian passport losing Ukrainian citizenship](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- May 2, 2019 - Sergey Naev, commander of the Joint Forces Operation of Ukraine, said that during the year of the operation, the Ukrainian army, without violating the Minsk agreements, [took control of 24 sq. km of the territory of Donbas, including three settlements](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- May 2, 2019 - President of Ukraine Vladimir Zelensky [commented on the words of Russian President Vladimir Putin](#) that the two countries have much in common: “after the annexation of the Crimea and the aggression in Donbass, from the “common” we have only one thing left - the state border” (*text in Ukrainian*)
- May 2, 2019 - [A Brazilian citizen was sentenced to 13 years in prison for participating in the activities of terrorist organizations in Donbas](#). He became the first non-Russian foreign convicted for participating in hostilities in eastern Ukraine (*text in Russian*)
- May 2, 2019 - oligarch [Igor Kolomoisky said that in Ukraine there is a civil conflict](#) provoked by Russia (*text in Ukrainian*)
- May 6, 2019 - [Russia refused to participate in the meeting of the UN maritime tribunal](#) on the Kerch crisis (*text in Russian*)
- May 10, 2019 - In Hamburg, [a hearing of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea was held for the case of Ukraine against Russia](#). The course of the proceedings is [covered](#) by the lawyer Ilya Novikov (*text in Russian*)
- May 13, 2019 - EU foreign ministers, gathered in Brussels to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Eastern Partnership, said [the EU does not plan to impose additional sanctions against Russia](#) for distributing passports to residents of Donbass (*text in Ukrainian*)
- May 15, 2019 - President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko signed the [law №5670-d "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language"](#). According to the law, the only state language in Ukraine is Ukrainian, and “attempts to introduce official multilingualism in Ukraine”, contrary to the Constitution of Ukraine and the established constitutional procedure, “provoke the country's language split, interethnic opposition and enmity and are aimed at violent change or overthrow of the constitutional order”. The law is analyzed by “[Hromadske](#)”, “[Novaya Gazeta](#)” and “[Open Democracy](#)” (*text in Ukrainian and Russian*)

- May 15, 2019 - The government of Ukraine introduced [new economic sanctions against Russia](#), providing for a ban on the supply of certain groups of goods and the introduction of a special fee (*text in Russian*)
- May 15, 2019 - the annual German-Russian [conference “Potsdam Meetings”](#) took place in Berlin, one of the topics of which was the prospects for resolving the situation in Donbass (*text in Russian*)
- May 16, 2019 - [Irina Gerashchenko, First Vice-Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, ceased her activities](#) as the authorized President of Ukraine for Peaceful Settlement and the representative of Ukraine in the humanitarian subgroup in Minsk (*text in Russian*)
- May 17, 2019 – the EU is considering the possibility of [banning the entry of those Ukrainian citizens who will receive a Russian passport](#) under the simplified procedure (*text in Ukrainian*)
- May 19, 2019 - Yevhen Marchuk, the representative of Ukraine in the Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine, [announced the termination of his activities in the Minsk process](#) (*text in Russian*)
- May 20, 2019 - The inauguration of President of Ukraine Vladimir Zelensky was held. In his inaugural speech, [he called the ceasefire in Donbass his main task](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- May 21, 2019 - Andrey Bogdan, the head of the Presidential Administration of Ukraine, said that a [referendum on peace agreements with Russia is possible](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- May 22, 2019 - Dmitry Peskov, press secretary to the President of Russia, [said that such a referendum is an internal affair of Ukraine](#), and Russia is waiting for concrete steps to improve Russian-Ukrainian relations (*text in Russian*)
- May 23, 2019 - President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky launched an [initiative to conduct a nationwide survey on the conclusion of a peace treaty with Russia](#), which would have no legislative force (*text in Russian*)
- May 23, 2019 - Ukrainian political prisoner Stanislav Klykh, sentenced in Russia to 20 years in prison, [went on hunger strike](#) (*text in Russian*)
- May 25, 2019 - the UN International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea made a [decision for Russia to release 24 sailors and return them to Ukraine](#) (*text in Russian*)
- May 27, 2019 - Moscow City Court [upheld the arrest of all 24 Ukrainian sailors](#) (*text in Russian*)
- President of Ukraine [Vladimir Zelensky declared he’s ready to grant Ukrainian citizenship to Russians](#) who are persecuted by the authorities. Can a similar measure be an adequate response to a decree by Russian President Vladimir Putin on the simplified procedure for issuing passports in Donbass? [Analysis](#) by Deutsche Welle (*text in Russian*)

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

- Pavel Klimkin, Foreign Minister of Ukraine, [proposed holding a march on May 9](#)

[with portraits of those killed for Ukraine during the war in Donbas](#), missing in the annexed Crimea and political prisoners in Russian prisons as an alternative to actions like the Immortal Regiment, which evoke an ambiguous reaction in Ukrainian society, since they are usually organized by people and organizations that hold pro-Russian views (*text in Russian*)

- May 10, 2019 - “Hromadske” (Ukraine) and “Novaya Gazeta” (Russia) released a [joint podcast on the fifth anniversary of the arrest of political prisoner Oleg Sentsov](#) (*text in Russian*)
- May 8, 2019 - an [antiwar picket dedicated to the International Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation](#) took place in St. Petersburg (*text in Russian*)
- May 9, 2019 - on the Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation in Kyiv a mourning [march of mothers and wives](#) of soldiers killed in Donbass took place (*text in Ukrainian and Russian*)
- May 10, 2019 - actors of "Teatr.doc" together with civil society activists held a [street action in Moscow in support of the Ukrainian political prisoner Oleg Sentsov](#), who was sentenced in Russia to 20 years imprisonment (*text in Russian*)
- May 10, 2019 - an exhibition entitled [“Put Your Life in a Suitcase”](#), dedicated to the problem of internal relocation in Ukraine, opened at the Kyiv Museum of History. It was prepared by Internews Ukraine together with civil society organizations. It is planned that the exhibition will also be shown in Lviv and Odessa (*video in Ukrainian*)
- May 13, 2019 - a [protest rally was held in front of the Verkhovna Rada against the draft law No. 8337 “On introducing amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On the fight against terrorism”](#) (on the basics of social protection of hostages). Human rights activists have [criticized](#) this draft law as ineffective (*text in Ukrainian*)
- May 21, 2019 - An international [conference “Improving the legal framework, judicial practices and training programs on internal displacement”](#) was held. Its main purpose was to discuss the adaptation of relevant practices to Council of Europe standards (*text in Ukrainian*)
- The “Return alive” fund (Ukraine) have accessed the [documents of the study of the attitude of Ukrainian servicemen to possible negotiations with the so-called “L/DPR”](#). According to official information, this document was released erroneously and has already been canceled (*text in Ukrainian*)

3. Legal initiatives and analytics on war conflict

- May 1, 2019 - Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a [decree that simplifies obtaining Russian citizenship](#) for certain categories of Ukrainian citizens (*text in Russian*)
- The report of the international monitoring mission [“Every Day in the Shadow of War: Security and Livelihood of the Civilian Population near the Contact Line in Eastern Ukraine”](#) has been published. The visit of the mission to the territories of Donbass controlled by Ukraine was carried out within the framework of the project “Monitoring Human Rights in Eastern Ukraine” implemented by DRA e.V.

in collaboration with the charitable organization “East-SOS” (*text in [Russian](#) and [English](#)*)

- The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union [insists on the need to implement the National Human Rights Strategy, noting that in three years](#), the part concerning the armed conflict has only been implemented by a third (*text in Ukrainian*)
- Dmitry [Korostelev](#), adviser on temporarily displaced persons (Ukraine), lawyer Olga [Poedinok](#) (Ukraine) and political scientist Dmitry [Badovsky](#) (Russia) talk about the legal implications of Russia's policy to simplify obtaining Russian citizenship (*text in Russian and Ukrainian*)
- A [report by the American law firm Perseus Strategies on the situation of political prisoners in Russia](#) was released with the support of Memorial Human Rights Center (*text in English*)
- The situation with the [transfer of prisoners remaining in penitentiary institutions in the uncontrolled part of Donbas](#) is analyzed by the NGO “Donbass SOS” (*text in Ukrainian*)
- Public organization “Donbass SOS” conducted an [analysis of the availability of administrative services, legal assistance and justice for IDPs](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- The [“Women and Displacement”](#) report on the main problems faced by IDP women in their attempts to access basic human rights was published by the “Public Alternative” Foundation (*text in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#)*)
- Kharkiv Human Rights Group has released the [newsletter “Human Rights in the South-East of Ukraine”](#) for April 2019 (*text in Ukrainian*)

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

- May 17, 2019 - The [first meeting of the working group to develop a mechanism for assessing the damage caused to people](#) whose real estate was damaged or destroyed as a result of hostilities in eastern Ukraine took place. The group included representatives of government agencies, UN agencies, international and Ukrainian civil society organizations (*text in Ukrainian*)
- May 24, 2019 - [60 prisoners were transferred](#) to the territory controlled by Ukraine from the so-called “LPR” (*text in Ukrainian*)
- In 2018, UNHCR [reconstructed 692 buildings](#) damaged as a result of hostilities in Donbass (*text in Ukrainian*)
- [Most of the regions of Ukraine do not adhere to the requirements of the Strategy for the Integration](#) of Forcibly Displaced Persons according to the experts of the program “Adviser on IDPs Rights” (*text in Ukrainian*)
- [A miner won a lawsuit that confirmed the requirements of documents from the so-called “L/DPR” for disability are illegal](#). This could be a precedent for former employees of enterprises located in temporarily uncontrolled territories of Ukraine (*text in Russian*)
- The [hotline of the UN Refugee Agency in Ukraine](#) began to provide initial legal assistance to people affected by the conflict in Donbass (*text in Ukrainian*)

5. Interviews and opinions

- How civil society helps to teach the [invisibility of female experts in russian and ukrainian media](#) - a report by Open Democracy (*text in Russian*)
- [What should be the punishment for war crimes committed on the territory of Ukraine](#) - human rights defenders and civil society activists [discuss](#) at the UA: Radio Culture (*text in Ukrainian*)
- Why the annual [festival of contemporary art "Gogolfest"](#) was held in Mariupol and which are the most important events - in the article by "Hromadske" (*text in Ukrainian*)
- About the [life of the occupied Metalist village](#) - in the [report](#) of the project "Donbass.Realii" (*text in Ukrainian*)
- "Novaya gazeta" on queues and attempts to get a [Russian passport for residents of so-called "L/DPR"](#) (*text in Russian*)
- Glenn Grant, British military, consultant to the armies of several European countries on the [actions that Vladimir Zelensky needs to take as commander in chief](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- "When Ukraine finally breaks away from Russia, then the last phantom of the Russian Soviet empire will end," wrote the Polish publicist Jerzy Giedroyc. "Radio Liberty" journalist Elena Fanavlova [reflects on what Giedroyc would say about Ukrainian and Russian issues today](#) (*text in Russian*)
- Article by "Medusa" about the [five-year anniversary of the outbreak of the conflict in Donbas](#) (*text in Russian*)
- "Novaya Gazeta" publishes [monologues of people who fought on different sides in Donbas](#) (*text in Russian*)

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".



Federal Foreign Office

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