

WEAKNESS OF MODERN HUMANITARIAN EDUCATION AND WAYS TO SOLVE THEM

Moroz, O.

Tongji Hospital,

Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan

Humanitarian education has always been needed in a world rife with conflict. The war in Ukraine has shown us how crucial spreading truthful information is. While issues connected with refugees and humanitarian aid are widely discussed and tackled, those concerning the use of chemical weapons and the treatment of prisoners remain unresolved. These issues illustrate breaches of international law and the devastating human impact of conflict, revealing weaknesses in modern humanitarian education.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, as well as independent media, have repeatedly reported the use of chemical agents by Russian forces. In two years of war, over 1890 cases involving prohibited chemicals in artillery shelling and hand grenades have been documented, causing significant harm to Ukrainian soldiers and civilians. Such actions blatantly contravene the Chemical Weapons Convention, yet few actions have been taken to monitor or prevent these violations. This issue is compounded by the erroneous belief that “All is fair in love and war”, which further emphasizes the importance of global awareness and stringent international responses.

Another overlooked issue is the treatment of prisoners in captivity. The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission's report from March 2024 sheds light on the dire conditions Ukrainians face in Russian captivity. Documented abuses include execution, torture, and lack of essential supplies, highlighting a severe violation of the Geneva Conventions. While around 3,000 individuals have been released, over 8,000 remain detained in harsh conditions.

These challenges underscore the need for comprehensive humanitarian education to prepare policymakers to effectively address and mitigate crises. Current education programs need to expand their focus on international humanitarian law, ethical intervention strategies, and the efficient delivery of aid. Modern humanitarian education should emphasize countering misinformation and include advanced crisis management strategies that anticipate emerging challenges in conflict zones.

Given the limitations and challenges faced by existing institutions like the Red Cross, there is a pressing need to establish a new, independent humanitarian organization. This organization should be equipped with the authority to act decisively in conflict zones and leverage modern technologies, including AI. AI could be instrumental in minimizing human factor mistakes, such as corruption and emotional bias, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and integrity of humanitarian actions.

Conclusion. The conflict in Ukraine serves as a stark reminder of the atrocities that arise in wars and the pivotal role of international humanitarian education in preventing and addressing these issues. Improving global awareness and implementing comprehensive educational strategies will empower humanitarian organizations to respond to crises more effectively and secure a more just and compassionate future.