

УДК 364.4:352"364"(045)

Oksana Kravchenko
PhD of Pedagogy,
Professor at the Department of
Social Education and Social Work,
Dean of the Faculty of Social Work
and Psychological Education,
Pavlo Tychyna Uman State
Pedagogical University,
Uman, Ukraine
ORCID: 0000-0002-9732-6546
okskravchenko@ukr.net

SOCIAL WORK IN THE COMMUNITY IN THE CONDITIONS OF WAR

During times of war, professional social work expands its directions, methods, and forms of operation. On one hand, it is grounded in years of experience, including international experience, and on the other hand, it gives rise to the phenomenon of Ukrainian social work based on principles of moral duty, mutual support, and the dedication of each citizen, combined with the professional activities of social work specialists.

It has been established that the primary method of social work is community engagement. An important characteristic of social work in the community is the spontaneous combination of citizens' philanthropy as a moral duty and the aspiration to do good with the professional activities of social workers. This experience, from the phenomenological approach perspective, is shaped based on Ukrainian traditions, developed in crisis conditions through critical thinking, emergency decision-making, grounded in human-centric values, enthusiasm, benevolence, compassion, and patriotism.

It has been determined that during wartime, social work in the community typically operates on four levels: social work at the level of local self-government bodies; social work at the level of territorial communities; social work at the level of institutions in the social sphere; and social work at the level of community residents. The partners of territorial communities are public volunteer organisations. The Law of Ukraine "On Social Services" specifies that the non-governmental sector is among the providers of social services. In such challenging times for the country, volunteers constitute a distinct force of charity: they collect and provide clothing, medicines, and food for vulnerable populations; organize and accommodate refugees; offer assistance to military personnel and their families; facilitate the relocation of the affected; and supply essential items to the front lines, equipment, delivering mosquito nets, food, clothing, medicines and more.

Key words: social work, community, volunteers, war, person.

Оксана Олексіївна Кравченко,
докторка педагогічних наук,
професорка кафедри соціальної педагогіки
та соціальної роботи,
деканка факультету соціальної
та психологічної освіти,
Уманський державний педагогічний
університет імені Павла Тичини,
м. Умань, Україна
ORCID: 0000-0002-9732-6546
okskravchenko@ukr.net

СОЦІАЛЬНА РОБОТА В ГРОМАДІ В УМОВАХ ВІЙНИ

Під час війни професійна соціальна робота розширює свої вказівки, методи та форми роботи. З одного боку, він ґрунтується на багаторічному досвіді, включаючи міжнародний досвід, а з іншого боку, це породжує явище української соціальної роботи на основі принципів морального обов'язку, взаємної підтримки та відданості кожного громадянина разом з професійною діяльністю фахівців із соціальної роботи.

Встановлено, що основним методом соціальної роботи є залучення громад. Важливою характеристикою соціальної роботи в громаді є спонтанне поєднання філантропії громадян як морального обов'язку та прагнення робити добро з професійною діяльністю соціальних працівників. Цей досвід, з точки зору феноменологічного підходу, формується на основі українських традицій, розроблених у кризових умовах шляхом критичного мислення, прийняття надзвичайних рішень, обґрунтованих у людських цінностях, ентузіазмі, доброзичливості, співчуття та патріотизму.

Було встановлено, що під час воєнного часу соціальна робота в громаді зазвичай працює на чотирьох рівнях: соціальна робота на рівні місцевих самоврядування; соціальна робота на рівні територіальних громад; соціальна робота на рівні інститутів у соціальній сфері; та соціальна робота на рівні мешканців громади. Партнери територіальних громад є державними волонтерськими організаціями. Закон України «про соціальні послуги» визначає, що неурядовий сектор є одним з постачальників соціальних послуг. У такі складні часи для країни волонтери складають чітку силу благодійності: вони збирають та надають одяг, ліки та їжу для вразливого населення; організовувати та розміщувати біженців; пропонувати допомогу військовослужбовцям та їхнім родинам; сприяти переїзду ураженого; та постачають основні предмети на передові лінії, обладнання, доставка сітки комарів, їжу, одяг, ліки тощо.

Ключові слова: соціальна робота, громада, волонтери, війна, людина.

In such challenging times, professional social work is expanding its directions, forms, and methods, which, naturally, are grounded in years of experience, including international experience. However, a phenomenon of a distinct Ukrainian social work is also being shaped based on principles of moral duty, mutual support, and the dedication of each citizen, combined with the professional activities of social work specialists.

This practice needs to be generalized in order to present the national experience of resistance to territorial integrity at all levels, including in the field of social protection. Support for Ukrainian social workers was expressed by the international community, in particular by members of the board of the British Association of Social Workers, and the world's leading universities that train social workers expressed their official position on their websites: <https://numl.org/PkD>.

Foreign colleagues focused their attention on what support and assistance they can provide to Ukrainians (and social work students in particular) Foreign colleagues focused on what support and assistance to Ukrainians (and social work students in particular) they can provide from the international social work community in the near future. BASW calls on the UK government to not only work with other world leaders to end the war, but also to ensure that the people of Ukraine have our support and assistance through humanitarian aid. We also ask for vital support for those working in social work, health and social care in Ukraine, many of whom will undoubtedly be committed to ensuring that humanitarian services are accessible and support those least able to protect themselves during and after the conflict.

The International Association of Schools of Social Work supports the principle of self-determination of the people, stands in solidarity with the Ukrainian people, and opposes the aggressor on the basis of common values: "We hate the use of force against the territorial integrity to subjugate any people and call on all nations, governmental and non-governmental organizations to respect human rights, social justice and international laws that support Ukraine's sovereignty and independence..." IASSW has spent the last 94 years encouraging the social work profession worldwide to seek peaceful solutions to conflicts and disagreements, regardless of their causes... Adhering to this tradition, IASSW condemns the current attack on Ukraine and the unnecessary loss of human lives, destruction of homes, and other built infrastructure, as well as the environmental costs caused by the use of military ammunition. This has already caused unimaginable horrors among the civilian population, refugees, combatants, and the global ecosystem. Regardless of where we live, we have all suffered from the impact of this aggressive act on all inhabitants of this planet. IASSW considers war an unjustifiable response in any conflict situation in the modern world. Diplomacy, negotiations based on honesty and consensus are the paths to resolving unresolved conflicts. Peace must become an inalienable right for all!

The international community, scientists, practitioners, and volunteers are forced to look for answers to the question: What will be the role of social work after this? How do Ukrainians support

people who have suffered now? How can the values, ethics and skills of social work influence the resolution of the crisis?

Ukrainian scientists who study the issues of psychosocial rehabilitation of combatants after the events of 2014: Y. Bryndikov, N. Komarova, L. Kornilova, O. Safin, T. Semygina, I. Trubavina, Y. Chernetska, and others. The content and orientation of social work in the community are substantiated by O. Bezpalko, A. Kapska, H. Kucher, M. Skochko, N. Koliada, A. Lozanska, O. Chuyko, and others.

The issue of training social workers to work in the community was highlighted in the dissertation research by A. Lozanska. The peculiarities of social assistance during the war are highlighted in dissertation research, educational and reference literature in the context of the historical discourse of the formation of professional social work: A. Horilii, O. Palii, V. Skurativskyi, N. Koliada, N. Seiko, A. Furman, V. Polishchuk and more.

Despite the researched nature of the topic, the historical development of events necessitates the activation of social work in wartime conditions. It also calls for the synthesis of dedicated practices conducted in communities, which serves as the goal of this investigation.

Research methods. Content analysis of the websites of international social work organizations, study of the website of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, generalization of the activities of the Cherkasy Regional Center for Social Services and territorial communities of Cherkasy region.

Presentation of the research results. In fact, in times of war, the main method of social work is community work - the development of social ties in the local community, the organization of a system of mutual assistance and cooperation of a certain group of people, the development, testing, and evaluation of various social programs associated with the interests or needs of the population involve creating, piloting, and assessing the effectiveness of such initiatives.

Ukrainian researcher T. Semygina identified the levels of modern social work: macrosystem (economic, cultural, political, social context, ecology, social discrimination, etc.); mesosystem (interactions between elements); social microsystems (family, close people, work, school, community structures); individual (age, gender, sexual orientation, temperament, health, trauma, negative experience, specific needs). Based on the identified components, we can attribute community social work in war to social work at the macro level, which is carried out by the immediate environment of a person and community self-organization in solving difficult life circumstances.

Based on the systematization of the definitions of social work available in the scientific literature, A. Slozanska offers the author's interpretation of the concept of "community social work" as a basic level of social work, at which a social worker plans and carries out intervention activities, initiates and implements changes, actions to activate the community and its members, conducts needs assessment to solve social problems, meet the needs, interests, development of the community and its residents. It has been found that the basic characteristics of social work in the community are localization, common interests, interconnections, solidarity and communities.

In the conditions of a crisis caused by war, a crucial characteristic of social work in the community is the combination of charity by ordinary citizens as a moral duty and the desire to perform good deeds with the professional activities of social workers.

The Canadian Association of Social Workers has identified 6 core values of social work: respect for the inherent dignity and worth of people, achievement of social justice, service to humanity, integrity in professional practice, confidentiality and competence. The first three values are clearly evident in community-based collective care in times of war. The same can be seen among the Global Principles of Social Work: recognition of human dignity, promotion of human rights, promotion of social justice, promotion of the right to self-determination, promotion of the right to participation, treatment of people as whole persons, etc.

It is in practice in crisis conditions that social support in communities reflects three promising theories of social work identified by T. Semygina: feminist social work (it is on the shoulders of the female half of the communities, while men are defending the country, that the burden of organizing self-help and meeting the needs of vulnerable categories of the population, the needs of the martial

law of the country, has fallen) a client-centered approach (it was in times of crisis that community residents, including with the active participation of vulnerable populations, accumulated strength, enthusiasm and moral obligation to help refugees, the military and territorial defense with their own resources); green social work (social mutual support measures aimed at preserving the integrity of the country's natural environment, countering nuclear danger for the sake of global environmental safety).

In times of war, social work expands its areas of work, the share of vulnerable categories of the population increases, new approaches and new methods of work emerge.

The experience of territorial communities, which, as a result of decentralization in 2015, are forming regional social protection practices, is unique. From the perspective of the phenomenological approach, this experience is based on Ukrainian traditions, gained in the crisis through critical thinking, emergency solutions, and is based on human-centeredness, enthusiasm, charity, indifference, and patriotism.

It is collective mutual support that lies at the heart of community-based social work. This approach has been mentally inherent in Ukrainians since ancient times, passed down from generation to generation from the Eastern Slavs, and it is our people who have managed to preserve and accumulate this human trait.

The war of 2022 demonstrated the unity of thought, the power of indifference, and the power of mutual support of the Ukrainian people. In the conditions of military aggression, the professional activities of social service professionals particularly receive support from local residents.

Let's try to summarize the practical social work in the community during the war, based on which we have identified four levels:

- social work at the level of local self-government bodies,
- social work at the level of the territorial community,
- social work at the level of social institutions,
- social work at the level of community residents.

The Ministry of Social Policy is a central executive authority whose activities are directed and coordinated by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The official website of the Ministry highlights measures aimed at helping victims of the Russian aggression: providing food packages, assisting in the displacement of children from vulnerable categories of the population, protecting the rights of displaced children, assisting in the creation of humanitarian corridors and assistance to displaced people, providing social benefits, paying pensions and cash benefits; paying benefits, privileges and subsidies, etc.

Local self-government authorities implement state policy in the field of social policy, compulsory state social and pension insurance, family and children's issues, humanitarian aid, and social services to individuals, specific social groups facing challenging life circumstances and unable to overcome them independently.

Social institutions are the subjects of social policy implementation and provide social services to families facing challenging life circumstances, foster families, family-type orphanages, military families, single people, the elderly, and internally displaced persons. It is not uncommon for the SSTF to take in refugee children upon notification by social services. The issue of combating domestic violence is under control, and in this context, the number of cases has significantly decreased.

Social services work closely with community elders.

Territorial communities of Ukraine have united in the fight against a common enemy. All communities support each other. In addition, local governments are helping IDPs who are forced to seek refuge in other communities due to Russia's aggression. The Association of Ukrainian Cities has collected contacts and phone numbers in the communities where IDPs can seek help. Territorial communities provide social support: procurement of food for the needs of the frontline and for IDPs (making stew, baking pies, making dumplings), preparing hot meals, providing basic necessities, initiating the weaving of camouflage nets, collecting medicines and clothing; the community keeps

records of IDPs and refugees; and organizing places for refugees to settle in schools and kindergartens.

Communities cooperate with businesses, in particular, entrepreneurs and farmers provide milk for children, food, fuel, vehicles, etc. For information support, groups are created on social media and Viber, which allows residents to inform about air alerts, the need for food, refugee resettlement and other types of assistance, and appeals are posted to all those who care to unite and help each other, take care of those who are more vulnerable, and participate in charity collections of items and food for people in difficult life circumstances.

The task of the communities is to mobilize all the forces, all the resources, and involve all the partners to help even more people and provide them with comprehensive assistance! These partners are public volunteer organizations. In the Law of Ukraine "On Social Services," it is stated that among the providers of social services, the non-governmental sector is included. In such challenging times for the country, volunteers constitute a distinct force of charity: they collect and provide clothing, medicines, and food for vulnerable populations; organize and accommodate refugees; offer assistance to military personnel and their families; facilitate the relocation of the affected; and supply essential items to the front lines, equipment, delivering mosquito nets, food, clothing, medicines and more.

Ukrainian experience in social work shows that a separate subject of assistance in times of war is citizens who self-organize in communities and maintain morale through faith and justice. The main forms of self-help are: collecting food (making stew, baking pies, making dumplings, harvesting vegetables and fruits), organizing lunches, massive netting initiative, collecting medicines, clothes, supporting the terrorist defense, displaced people, and especially moral support and faith.

Then, the important subjects of social work in the community under martial law are local governments, state social services, volunteer organizations and community residents themselves. Promising areas of research are the issues of psychological support under martial law in the community, social work with children and youth, assistance to displaced people, single people, military personnel and their families.