



HOW WAR CHANGED MY LIFE

Discover our conference:

In the last two years the world has been hit by two armed conflicts that have their precedents more than fifty years ago. In both Gaza and Ukraine, the younger population has faced the brunt of the violence.

Our conference aims to provide clarity on the impact the younger generation faces, focusing on the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In this context, our speakers will analyze the possibilities that young people face, from fighting on the frontline, participating in resistance or humanitarian aid and/or living as a refugee. One important aspect that will be considered is the role that social media plays in the lives of those affected by the war and how they can be used in the support of the military and humanitarian effort to support Ukraine. Lastly, our speakers will consider the economic fallout on the conflict, in terms of its impact on the labour market and its effects on economic inequality.

Why is it important talking about ...?

It might be superfluous to explain why talking about conflicts and youth is important. As war destroys everything that makes up the routine of a person, people are forced to make choices in the brutal and destructive environment that war creates. As for young people, what is the(ir) future that these choices help to shape?

Young men from the age of 18 cannot leave the country, and have until their 25th birthday to join the army for military service. Those under 18 and women can choose to flee the country. The violence and horror on the frontlines, during bombings and in the ongoing occupation, and the disorienting feeling of exile in a foreign country impact the youngest the most.

Lastly, the direct consequences of all-out war last decades. Young Ukrainians will have to rebuild their country, dealing with war traumas, the disastrous economic impact of the invasion and possible ethnic tensions.

Key Words:

- **Armed conflict:** A resort to armed force between states or protracted armed violence between governmental authorities and organized armed groups or between groups within a state
- **Inequality:** Unequal rewards or opportunities for different individuals within a group or groups within a society. It could be based mostly on sex, nationality, economic or political belonging.
- **Conflict resolution:** The process of addressing and settling disputes or conflicts in a peaceful and non-violent manner, typically through negotiation, mediation, or other strategies aimed at finding mutually acceptable solutions.
- **Youth engagement:** The process of equipping and enabling young people with the knowledge, skills, resources, and opportunities to take an active role in shaping their communities and addressing the challenges posed by war and conflict.
- **War trauma:** The psychological, emotional, and physical distress experienced by young individuals who have been exposed to the horrors of war, which can manifest as symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health issues.



HIKMA SUMMIT 2023 OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Find out more: statistics and references

Comprehensive datasets for global conflicts available:

- Uppsala University (UCDP): <https://ucdp.uu.se/>
- Council for Foreign Relations (CFR): <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker>
- Focus on Ukraine: <https://www.statista.com/topics/9087/russia-ukraine-war-2022/>

Related statistics and reports:

- Our World in Data: <https://ourworldindata.org/war-and-peace>
- UN Annual report on children and armed conflicts: <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/document-type/annual-reports/>
- Ukraine war and youth UN report: <https://www.undp.org/ukraine/publications/impact-war-youth-ukraine>

Conflicts and rule of law:

- Freedom House: <https://freedomhouse.org/>
- Red Cross Database: <https://www.icrc.org/en/icrc-databases-international-humanitarian-law>
- UN: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/armed-conflicts-wpay.html>

Latest news:

- <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2022/06/young-ukrainians-ukraine-russia-war/661213/>
- <https://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/ukraine-conflict-updates>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-60525350>