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## **Statement from the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth on the Armed Conflict and Children's Rights**

“Armed conflicts, such as the one in Ukraine, have severe consequences on children, youth, and their caregivers. They put children’s rights to thrive ([UNCRC article 6](#)), to food, clothing, and to a safe place to live ([UNCRC article 27](#)), among many others at risk and in danger.

As the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth, it is my role to raise awareness and understanding of [The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#). The danger and threat posed to children’s rights in ongoing armed conflicts cannot be overlooked. All children and youth have fundamental human rights and it is everyone’s responsibility to ensure their protection and realization.

**The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth stands in support of children in conflict zones, including the children in Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora around the world.**

The short and long-term impacts of the armed conflict on children, youth, and those who care for them are profound. Armed conflict separates families and may displace people for generations. As of Wednesday, March 2, 2022, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, reported that [over 1 million individuals have already fled Ukraine](#), many of them children and youth. Refugee children have the right to protection and humanitarian assistance (UNCRC, article 22). It is the responsibility of all nations, including Canada, to address this growing need.

We stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian community here in Manitoba, including our own staff and community partners. These are difficult times. If you or anyone you know needs mental health support, please reach out for help. [Klinik Community Health](#) provides free mental health support to anyone in Manitoba. To reach their 24/7 Crisis Hotline call 1-888-322-3019.”

**Ainsley Krone, MA PC-IIC, RSW**

A/Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth