

**AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE RUSSO-UKRAINE CONFLICT: EXPLORING  
VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND  
HUMANITARIAN LAW**

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**Abstract:** The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has had far-reaching consequences on the two nations engaged in and also affect the international community. The author aims to analyse on-going conflict between Russia and Ukraine and how it influences International Law. This study examines the international legal framework of interstate conflict. This paper also explores various academic studies and reports relating to the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine. This paper analyses how international law has been applied or violated by the conflicting parties.

**Key Words:** - International Law, Territorial Sovereignty, Self-Determination right of people.

## **1. Introduction:**

In 2014, conflict between Russia and Ukraine began when Russia annexed the territory of Crimea, which was a part of Ukraine. Subsequently, in the Donetsk region, it escalated into military conflict.<sup>1</sup> This conflict has affected both countries and the entire world. President Putin's actions have worsened Ukraine's situation in the region and forced it into a military conflict to which they did not want to be involved. President has claimed in one of his public deliberation that he want demilitarised and DeNATOfy Ukraine, is considered as the justification he gave at that particular point of time.<sup>2</sup> Another reasoning he has supplied that the two region Donetsk and Luhansk are having Russian ethnic population claimed the right of self-determination for these regions because he claims that Ukraine is involved in crime of genocide.<sup>3</sup> Before this Russia has attacked Crimea region back in 2014 and also supported the separatist movements from 2014. As result of that there were two protocols negotiated between Russia Ukraine and separatist leaders of this regions

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<sup>1</sup> *Ukraine in Maps: Tracking the war with Russia*, Available at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60506682>.

<sup>2</sup> *'They started the war': Russia's Putin blames West and Ukraine for provoking conflict*, Available at <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/02/21/russias-putin-blames-west-and-ukraine-for-provoking-conflict.html>.

<sup>3</sup> *Sofia Cavandoli and Gary Wilson, "Distorting Fundamental Norms of International Law to Resurrect the Soviet Union: The International Law Context of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine"* 69, *Netherlands International Law*, 383-410, 2022.

Donetsk and Luhansk that is known as Minsk Protocols.<sup>4</sup> These protocols were negotiated under the auspices of the organization for security and cooperation in European Region and these protocols establishes the Ukrainian sovereignty over these regions but the protocols provide for ceasefire and autonomy to these regions but the President Putin disregard these negotiations saying that these are not valid agreements.<sup>5</sup> Another reason put forth by President Putin that expansion of NATO countries in the eastern part of Europe would harm the interest of Russia. This conflict between the two countries has attracted international attention, but no long-term solutions have been provided by the International Organizations.<sup>6</sup>

Additionally, the effect of this conflict on the world economy has been noted. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has a detrimental impact on the world economy<sup>7</sup>, according to number of sources used during a literature review assessment. This impact of the conflict has been observed through the reconstructing the International trade and its impact on the various regions of the world.

As a result of the conflict, Western nations have also implemented massive sanctions on Russia in an effort to destroy the country's economy and hold President Putin accountable for the invasion.<sup>8</sup> Conflicts like the one between Russia and Ukraine must be dealt with according to International Law. The International Law provides framework for resolving territorial disputes, defending human rights, and promoting peaceful conflict resolution.<sup>9</sup> In addition to legal sanctions, several nations, particularly in Europe, are seeking ways to reduce their dependence on Russian energy through policies such as nationalization and energy source diversification. Under International Trade and Investment Laws, these tactics might also be illegal, even if they reduce Russian energy dependency. As an example, nationalizing energy resources can be viewed as taking foreign-owned property, a violation of international investment treaties. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has also affected private International Law. In accordance with Hague service

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<sup>4</sup> European Parliament, *Minsk Peace Agreement: still to be consolidated on the ground*, Available at <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/EPRS-Briefing-548991-Minsk-peace-summit-FINAL.pdf>, visited on 17/11/2023.

<sup>5</sup> *ibid*

<sup>6</sup> Elias Gotz, "Putin, the State, and War: The Causes of Russia's Near Abroad Assertion Revisited", *19 International Studies Review*, 228-253, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> Kenneth Rogoff, *The Long-Lasting Economic Shock of War*, Available at, <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2022/03/the-long-lasting-economic-shock-of-war>, visited on 17/11/2023.

<sup>8</sup> Jeffrey J. Schott, "Economic Sanctions Against Russia.: How Effective? How Durable?" Available at <https://www.piie.com/sites/default/files/2023-04/pb23-3.pdf> visited on 20/11/2023.

<sup>9</sup> Jeffrey W. Helsing, Julie Mertus., (ed), "Human Rights and Conflict: Exploring the Links Between Rights, Law, and Peacebuilding" United States Institute of Peace Press, 63, 2006.

Convention, Ukraine has determined that any service requests issued by Russian authorities in seized territories are illegal.<sup>10</sup>

Furthermore, the violence has sparked concerns about the region's stability over the long term. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has significantly affected both international law and the world economy. It has emphasized the importance of enforcing international legal standards and processes as a means of handling territorial disputes, safeguarding human rights, and promoting peaceful conflict resolution.

## 2. International Legal Framework

The norms of state sovereignty have undoubtedly been violated by invasion by Russia over Ukraine. According to UN Charter, state must respect the other state's sovereignty.<sup>11</sup> The idea of a state's sovereignty is an important ingredient of international legal system. This idea upholds sovereignty and independence of many nations at global level. The United Nations was established under the guise that it should constrain the state in order to respect state sovereignty.<sup>12</sup> When it comes to state sovereignty<sup>13</sup>, it gives the state sole control over its borders, its administration, and its internal affairs. Meaning thereby states are completely independent both internally and externally. This position of the United Nations protects the state's identity at the international level; it implies a state's supreme authority within its territory and the power to make independent legislative or judicial decisions without any kind of external pressures from other states or organizations. The concept of state sovereignty has been developed by the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, which had established state equality.<sup>14</sup> Concept of state sovereignty has historically changed in reaction to geopolitical interference. It was the outcome of colonialism and imperialism, when the powerful European states contested the sovereignty of other countries. The states began their fights for independence as a result of this attack on sovereignty. The present understanding of state sovereignty has been affected by the historical background of colonialism. Sovereignty has been based on three pillars; Exclusive authority, Political independence, and Territorial integrity. The state has every right to safeguard its territory from external assault and to

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<sup>10</sup> Jie Hunag, "Conflicting Declarations under the Hague Service Convention Russo-Ukraine War: Dilemmas and Preliminary Solution" Available at <https://osf.io> visited on 20/11/2023.

<sup>11</sup> Art 2(4) of UN Charter prohibits the threat or use of force and calls on all Members to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of other States.

<sup>12</sup> Art. 2.3 of UN Charter provide that all members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.

<sup>13</sup> Sovereignty is one of the essential requirements of the statehood. It has been derived from the latin word "Superanus" which means supreme or paramount. Jean Bodin has defined the term "Sovereignty" as the supreme power of the state over its citizens and subjects, unrestrained by law. In the same fashion Blackstone has defined Sovereignty is the supreme, irresistible, absolute and uncontrolled authority in which the *jura summi imperii* (right of supreme dominion) resides.

<sup>14</sup> Treaty of Westphalia was signed on 30 January 1648. It has been considered by many scholars that this treaty has laid the modern state system and articulates the concept of territorial sovereignty.

defend its borders. This idea of territorial integrity has long been regarded as essential for creating peace and avoiding violence. The state's political independence, which means it has complete authority to enact laws, develop its political system, and construct governance institutions without intervention from other parties, is the second pillar. Third pillar of state sovereignty includes exclusive authority over their internal affairs, including economic policies, social systems and cultural practices. One more effort is made to uphold the Helsinki Accords' territorial integrity<sup>15</sup>. As part of this agreement, a number of key principles are laid out that govern how the states interact. Among other things, sovereignty equality, the protection of inherent rights in sovereignty, the avoidance of use of force or of threat, and inviolability of borders have all been established. In this agreement, provisions were made for the state's individuality, which includes all its sovereignty rights, as well as the respect for its sovereign equality.<sup>16</sup>

As we know that the United Nations establishes the foundation of law of nations which prohibits the military force to acquire territory. "The UN Charter in Article 2(4)<sup>17</sup>: All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations." The forceful territorial acquisition is entirely prohibited by International law; self-defence is lone exemption. The territory that has been obtained in contravention of international law is therefore deemed to have been illegally acquired. Another issue that is come up is the infringement of the rule of interference in domestic affairs. Art.2(7)<sup>18</sup> "No provision of the United Nation Charter does not authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters relating to essentially within the national jurisdiction of a State nor does it oblige Members to submit such matters to a settlement proceeding under this Charter..". This non –intervene principle prohibits the state from interfering in internal matters of state in any way, involving use of violence or in matters of internal politics, economics, or culture. Similar to this, Resolution 2625 of the UNGA calls for non-interference in internal affairs. "No state or group of states has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for whatever reason, in internal or external affairs form another state."

Although the principles of national sovereignty and non-intervention are crucial, there are several additional situations that raise worries on a global scale. The protection of Human rights, even within sovereign states, and the aggressor states' violations of those rights are concerns for the international community during times of war. The discussion of the human rights situation may result from these. Numerous individual human rights would be violated were sates engaged in warlike situations. Such as, those listed in the Convention against Torture and other Cruel,

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<sup>15</sup> *Helsinki Accords signed on 1 August 1975 to establish the inviolability of European Frontiers and reject any use of force or intervention in internal affairs.*

<sup>16</sup> *Para 4 of Preamble of Code of Conduct on Politico Military aspects of security Budapest 3 December 1994.*

<sup>17</sup> *United Nations Charter*

<sup>18</sup> *United Nations Charter.*

inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)<sup>19</sup> and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)<sup>20</sup>. These are the rights that are violated both in times of war and peace, but conflicts also give birth to humanitarian issues that are listed in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949<sup>21</sup> and also followed as custom at international level which have been accepted as International Law.<sup>22</sup>

International Humanitarian Law provides rules of war to protect civilians and non-combatants from the dangers of armed conflict. They describe how the parties to a conflict conduct hostilities.<sup>23</sup> There is principle that parties to a war must distinguish between fighters and civilians first. It is possible that assaults do not intentionally target civilians. To prevent harm to civilians and civilian property, parties to the conflict must take all reasonable measures.<sup>24</sup> They must refrain from attacks that fail to distinguish between combatants and civilians or inflict disproportionate damage on the civilian population.

### **3. Implication of Russia Ukraine conflict on International Law**

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has brought vital challenges before norms and doctrines of International law particularly sovereignty of nation and integrity of territorial boundary of the nation state. It has been widened when the Russian invasion to the Ukrainian territory by annexing the Crimea in 2014.<sup>25</sup>

This act showed an apparent distinction between ‘legitimacy’ and ‘legality’ in Russian foreign policy, since it flagrantly ignored humanitarian values. Russia disregarded international law in its justification of its actions, citing historical justice and popular will as justifications. In the meantime, this conflict continues to have a significant impact on global economic sectors, as

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<sup>19</sup> UN General Assembly adopted convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on 10 December 1984, and entered into force on 26 June 1987 after it had been ratified by 20 States.

<sup>20</sup> International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was adopted on 16 December 1966 and entered into force on 23 March 1976 when the Covenant has been ratified by 167 states.

<sup>21</sup> The conference developed four conventions, which were approved in Geneva on August 12, 1949: (1) the Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, (2) the Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded, Sick, and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces, (3) Convention on treatment of Prisoners of war during times of conflict, (4) the fourth convention dealt with the treatment of civilians and their protection during wartime.

<sup>22</sup> Art. 38 (1) (b) of the statute of ICJ.

<sup>23</sup> The parties to a conflict must at all times distinguish between civilians and combatants in order to spare the civilian population and civilian property. Neither the civilian population as whole nor individual civilians may be attacked. Attacks may be made solely against military objectives. Available at <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/other/icrc-002-0703.pdf>. Visited on 20/11/2023

<sup>24</sup> Nils Melzer, *International Humanitarian Law*” Available at [https://www.jep.gov.co/Sala-de-Prensa/Documents/4231\\_002-IHL\\_WEB\\_13.pdf](https://www.jep.gov.co/Sala-de-Prensa/Documents/4231_002-IHL_WEB_13.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> K Dodds, “Russian invasion of Ukraine: Implications for politics, history and governance” *11 Territory, Politics, governance (1519-1536) 2023*.

demonstrated by its effects on energy security and its ability to restructure international trade connections. Concerns concerning the application and enforcement of international law principles in territorial disputes have also been brought up by the conflict.

The annexation of Crimea has resulted in the violation of the territorial integrity of the Ukraine. Due to this illegal act of the Russian authorities, the European Council has banned the participation of Russia in Parliament Assembly. The recent act of Russia has led the requirement for the robust and effective system in the International Law in order to put check on these illegal acts of Aggression. It is very difficult to implement laws just because the authorities in the Ukraine failed to regain control of the Eastern and other parts of the Ukraine from the control of the Russia. The international community has responded very vehemently against the illegal occupation of the territory which is against the international law and also against the territorial sovereignty. Many countries have initiated economic sanction against Russia's invasion in to Ukraine while some other states have elected to put diplomatic and political sanctions against Russia. As we have encountered that Russia-Ukraine has raises very serious question about the effect and proper implementation of International Law.

First, there is issue of whether Russia's takeover of Crimea was authorized. International Law makes it abundantly evident that Russia's annexation of Crimea is unlawful and a breach of Ukraine's territorial integrity.<sup>26</sup> The use of military force or the threat of using violence to seize territory is expressly forbidden by the United Nations Charter, which serves as the cornerstone of contemporary public International Law.<sup>27</sup> Second, the clash calls into question the non-interventionist concept. The UN charter expressly forbids nations from interfering in other state's internal matters.<sup>28</sup> Thus, United Nations have claimed that Russia violated international law when it annexed Crimea. The pertinent question here is that whether the provisions of international law stand effective, especially in terms of its application, is raised by Russia's act of annexation. The third concern is whether Russia should be held accountable for what it has done. If so, then how, under what authority, and under what circumstances.

According to international law, states that violate the rules and tenets of international law are typically held responsible.<sup>29</sup> However, the international community has done nothing to stop Russia's actions in Ukraine. Although other states have imposed economic sanctions on Russia,

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<sup>26</sup> O Merezhko, "Crimea's Annexation by Russia- Contradictions of the New Russian Doctrine of International Law". Available at [https://www.zaoerv.de/75\\_2015/75\\_2015\\_1\\_a\\_167\\_194.pdf](https://www.zaoerv.de/75_2015/75_2015_1_a_167_194.pdf). Visited on 21/11/2023.

<sup>27</sup> Michael Wood, "International Law and the use of force: What Happens in Practice" Available at [https://legal.un.org/avl/pdf/ls/Wood\\_article.pdf](https://legal.un.org/avl/pdf/ls/Wood_article.pdf). Visited on 21/11/2023. Art. 2(4) of the Charter prohibits the threat or use of force and calls on all Members to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the other state.

<sup>28</sup> Art. 2(7) UN Charter. Art. 2(7) of the Charter of the United Nations provides that- "Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the members to submit such matters to settlement under the present chart"

<sup>29</sup> Marco Sassoli, "State responsibility for violations of international humanitarian law" 84 IRRC, 401-435, 2002.

they have not been sufficient to stop further aggression. The problem of accountability is further complicated by the situation's complexity, which involves proxy forces and non-state players. But it's undeniable that Russia's actions in Ukraine have broken international law and seriously jeopardized the stability and security of the surrounding area. To sum up, the crisis between Russia and Ukraine has brought up important questions about the legitimacy of Russia's acquisition of Crimea, the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a state, and who is responsible for breaking international law.

There is a critical need for an effective international legal framework that can stop and deal with these kinds of crimes, guarantee national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and hold those who violate these norms accountable for their actions.

#### **4. The position of International Organization in Resolving the Conflict**

International institutions are essential to resolve the dispute between Russia and Ukraine and to preserve international law.<sup>30</sup> The UN has played a leading role in efforts to end hostilities and bring peace to the region. Security Council resolutions have denounced Russia's conduct and urged a diplomatic settlement. For this Security Council adopted resolution in February 2015, Resolution 2022 was the first resolution to be adopted.<sup>31</sup> In it, all governments reaffirmed their commitment to respecting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and it demanded an immediate ceasefire.<sup>32</sup>

According to the resolution, all parties should pursue a peaceful resolution through diplomacy and discussion, and all foreign forces should leave Ukraine. A UN Human Rights Council commission of inquiry has also been established to investigate and gather evidence of any human rights violations perpetrated by Russia in Ukraine.<sup>33</sup> This commission will assist in the documentation of possible violations of human rights and war crimes, which may serve as the foundation for upcoming criminal trials.<sup>34</sup> Additionally, the international Monetary Fund is essential to managing

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<sup>30</sup> I. Brunk. ' & M. Hakimi. *Russia, Ukraine, and the Future World Order*. *American Journal of International Law*, 116(4), 687-697, (2022). doi:10.1017/ajil.2022.69.

<sup>31</sup> *UN Resolution 2022, with Invasion of Ukraine, Security Council's 2022 efforts to Maintain International Peace, Stability Mired by Wielding rifts between veto-wielding members*, available at <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15172.doc.htm>, visited on 21/11/2023.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid*,

<sup>33</sup> *The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine was established by the Human Rights Council on 4 March 2022 according to resolution 49/1 to investigate all alleged violations and abuse of human rights, violations of international humanitarian law and related crimes in the context of the aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation*. Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/iicuhr-ukraine/index>. Visited on 21/11/2023.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid*,

the conflict's aftereffects. With its financial support, Ukraine is able to stabilize its economy and reconstruct and transform itself.<sup>35</sup>

Despite Russia's declarations that its acts are lawful, in line with historical justice and popular will, international law must be applied to the crisis between Russia and Ukraine. The United Nations and international organizations have argued that Russia violates international law despite Russia's claims that its actions are legal. Particularly, it is believed that Russia has flagrantly violated the values of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference in the domestic affairs of a sovereign state by annexing Crimea in 2014 and supporting separatist movements in eastern Ukraine. These acts directly violate the United Nations Charter as well as other established international legal frameworks and standards. In the United Nations Charter, which is the basis of international law, sovereignty and territorial integrity are explicitly stated. Art.2 of the Charter requires all members of the UN to refrain from threatening or using force to violate any state's political independence or territorial integrity.

### **5. Violation of the principle enshrined under the United Nations Charter in Russo-Ukraine conflict.**

In this regard Budapest agreement having a great significance, it provides security assurance but the breach of this memorandum is one of the biggest violations.

The Budapest Memorandum was signed in 1994 by the representatives of the US, the UK, and the Russia, The Ukraine.<sup>36</sup> In exchange for Ukraine surrendering its nuclear weapons, Russia and the other signatories promised to protect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. However, the Budapest Memorandum's promises are very clear in providing the odds Russian activities in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, which is illegal under International Law. Additionally, Russia ignored the rule prohibiting interference in the affairs of sovereign states. By arming separatist forces in Ukraine's east, Russia has undermined the legitimacy of the Ukrainian government and meddled in domestic affairs. In addition to violating Ukraine's sovereignty, these activities violate the concept of non-interference as outlined in the UN Charter and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Moreover, many people in the Ukraine region have denounced the Russian occupation of Crimea in 2014.

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<sup>35</sup> *The authorities IMF –supported aims to anchor policies that sustain fiscal, external, price and financial stability at a time of exceptionally high uncertainty, support the economic recovery, and enhance governance and strengthen institutions to promote long-term growth in the context of reconstruction and rebuilding. Available at <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/06/29/pr23249-ukraine-imf-exec-board-completes-1st-rev-eff-arrangement#:~:text=The%20authorities'%20IMF%2Dsupported%20program,the%20context%20of%20reconstruction%20and visited on 22/11/2023.>*

<sup>36</sup> *Ukraine: The Budapest Memorandum 1994, Available at [https://policymemos.hks.harvard.edu/files/policymemos/files/2-23-22\\_ukraine-the\\_budapest\\_memo.pdf?m=1645824948](https://policymemos.hks.harvard.edu/files/policymemos/files/2-23-22_ukraine-the_budapest_memo.pdf?m=1645824948), visited on 22/11/2023.*



The crisis between Russia and Ukraine has served as a clear example of the flagrant violation of the values embodied in the United Nations Charter, which was instituted in order to preserve world peace and security. The Charter's fundamental principle is that, as stated in Art 2(4), force or threat of force may never be used in international affairs. The act of annexation of Crimea by Russia and other hostile acts have been considered as potential violation of International principle enshrined under United Nations Charter. Also emphasized in the Charter is the right of every people to self-determination, which has been compromised by Russia's meddling in Ukraine. Particularly, the annexation of Crimea shows disrespect for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Russia's support for separatist movements in eastern Ukraine violates the Charter's concept of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of sovereign. The principle of non-intervention in the domestic affairs is the fundamental principle of the United Nations, but Russia had broken that principle by annexation of Crimea and supporting the separatist movement in Ukraine. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has also violated the Human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined under the various international human rights documents. Acting against the Charter's mission that is to uphold and promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms is itself violation of International law. The abuse of the international law has been highlighted by the use of military force, displacement of people from their place of residence, arbitrary arrest and torture. These activities of Russian authorities are against the purpose of the charter. These activities are also defiance of the UN Security council's role that is facilitating peaceful conflict resolution is emphasized in the charter. In the international legal system, the tenets of the UN Charter, which aim to avert hostilities and protect people and nations' rights, are essential. In addition to challenging these ideals directly, the Russo-Ukraine conflict raises alarming questions for the international community. The stability and efficacy of the UN and its Charter are at risk if these abuses are not addressed and corrected. The way the world has responded to the crisis in Russia and Ukraine shows how difficult it may be to balance geopolitical concerns with respect to the Charter's tenets. The ongoing conflict highlights the importance of maintaining a shared commitment to the UN Charter's fundamental principles, such as promoting human rights, respecting sovereignty, and resolving disputes amicably. The world community needs to consider the principles of the Charter in order to promote a global environment that preserves the ideals of peace, security, and justice as it deals with the fallout from the Russo-Ukraine conflict. As well as being a regional issue, addressing the violations of the Russo-Ukraine war is essential to maintaining the values that serve as a cornerstone of the UN and its mission of promoting world peace and harmony.

## **6. International Reactions and Repercussions**

A number of diplomatic, economic, and legal measures have been taken by the international community in response to Russia's action in Ukraine. Most of the countries in the world have condemned the act of aggression of Russia over the Ukraine, they also imposed diplomatic

sanction on Russia.<sup>37</sup> US, Canada, and EU members have been forerunner in imposing sanctions in nature of diplomatic and economic on Russia. The main focus of these sanctions is to put restriction on the Russia's economy including energy and finance. The international community has taken various other steps to condemned and isolate the Russia's action over the Ukraine. Furthermore, the international community has taken the steps to hold Russia responsible for the violation of International Law. Various organisations like United Nations have issued statements condemning the Russia's actions in Ukraine.<sup>38</sup> Additionally, Ukraine has filed a case before the ICJ titled *Ukraine v. Russia* in 2017<sup>39</sup> asserting that Russia has violated the international convention particularly, International Convention on the Elimination of All forms of racial Discrimination and for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism). Ukraine has levelled allegation against Russia that it is providing financial assistance to the separatist groups for terrorist activist activities against the Ukrainian ethnic groups. The Russia Ukraine war has wider ramification beyond the territorial conflict. It has significantly affected not only Russia and Ukraine but entire world in terms of socio and political grounds. As a result of the conflict, sanctions have been imposed on Russia, preventing it from accessing foreign markets and processing economically. As a result of the fighting, thousands of people have been internally displaced in Ukraine and some have fled to neighbouring countries, causing a humanitarian crisis.

## **7. Russo-Ukraine Conflict: Humanitarian crisis and Human Rights concerns.**

In the Russia Ukraine conflict both combatants and civilians have been died or injured. During this conflict more than millions of people have been displaced which increased in the numbers of refugees in Ukraine and its neighbouring nations. This created great problems for the people to get basic amenities sustaining for the life like, food, shelter, and healthcare. There have also been allegations of torture, arbitrary arrests, and restrictions on free expressions and assembly as a result of the fighting, as well indiscriminate shelling and bombing of residential areas.

The conflict has led the emergence of internally displaced people and refugees, particularly after the annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014. The people have faced acute problem due to the intensive firing and bombing by the troupes of both side. This led to the loss of housing and halt of the basic facilities. Russia in this conflict has deliberately violated the provisions of the international law by targeting the infrastructure, building, hospital and schools, have created humanitarian crisis. As a result, the situation of vulnerable groups, including women, children, and the elderly, has gotten worse; civilian casualties have been reported, and mental health problems among the impacted community are concerning. The issue of internally displaced people

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<sup>37</sup> Scott R. Anderson, "What Sanctions has the world put on Russia? *LAWFARE*, Friday March 4, 2022.

<sup>38</sup> *Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in clear violation of the United Nations Charter and international law, is aggravating geopolitical tensions and divisions, threatening regional stability, increasing the nuclear threat and, creating deep fissures in our increasingly multiple world.* Available at <https://news.un.org/focus/ukraine> visited 22/11/2023.

<sup>39</sup> ICGJ 514(ICJ2017)

exacerbates the problem of human rights. Those displaced often live in substandard housing and lack access to basic amenities such as healthcare and education. Discrimination and stigmatization have been reported against certain groups of displaced people, highlighting the need for focused intervention to address the unique vulnerabilities of those affected. Many international organizations have been actively involved in monitoring human rights violations, promoting a peaceful resolution, and giving humanitarian assistance as a result of the Russo-Ukraine conflict. Concerns about these humanitarian and human rights have been voiced by the international community. The ramifications of the battle extend beyond the borders of the immediate area; they affect how people throughout the world view security, cooperation, and international rules. These organizations include non-governmental organizations and the United Nations.

## 8. Global Impacts of Russia-Ukraine Conflict

As a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, multilateral efforts to resolve the situation have become necessary. First and foremost, the fighting has interfered with international energy supply and transportation. This conflict has resulted in rising energy costs and energy supply security has been questioned in many nations<sup>40</sup>. Second, the conflict has damaged relations between nations and prompted many of them to impose economic sanctions on Moscow.<sup>41</sup> The economies of both the nations involved in the conflict have been affected and suffered trade loss, as a result of these sanctions. In addition, the international community now feels unstable and uneasy because of the fighting. It has therefore been trying to find a peaceful solution. The United Nations has played a crucial role in denouncing the conduct of Russia and urging them to solve the problem through diplomatic settlements. Furthermore, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe have employed extensive efforts of mediation and encourage communication between the parties to solve the problem.

Due to its activities in Ukraine, especially the annexation of Crimea, the European Union has imposed economic sanctions on Russia. These sanctions aim to exert economic pressure on Russia, which will persuade it to focus on vital areas of the Russian economy, such as defence, energy, and finance, in order to defuse the situation. After considering all the facts, all the communities of the world have gathered and condemned the illegal activities of Russia. They pressurized

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<sup>40</sup> Due to this conflict energy costs for households increased by at least 63% and also contributes to an increase in global household expenditure of between 2.7% and 4.8%. Available at <https://theconversation.com/russia-ukraine-war-has-nearly-doubled-household-energy-costs-worldwide-new-study-200104#:~:text=On%20the%20basis%20of%20a,between%202.7%25%20and%204.8%25>. Visited on 22/11/2023

<sup>41</sup> In the first of 2022 Russia benefitted from growing prices of fossil fuels on global markets, sanctions targeting oil imports that came into in December 2022 have resulted in limiting Russia's revenues. <https://www.economicsobservatory.com/ukraine-whats-the-global-economic-impact-of-russias-invasion#:~:text=Ukraine's%20economic%20output%20is%20now,%2C%20if%20only%20by%200.5%25>. Visited on 22/11/2023.

Russia to step back from armed invasion. The international communities have taken various steps to reach out peaceful solution to this conflict.

## **9. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the conflict between Russia Ukraine has been brought significant issues relating to issues involving territorial sovereignty and right of self-determination. This conflict brought concept of sovereignty and self-determination into question by Russia annexation of Crimea in eastern Ukraine. It has strongly denounced Russia's behaviour, leading to diplomatic and economic sanctions. International organizations, such as the EU and the UN, have also intervened to encourage a peaceful solution. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine continues to put strong impact on the international law, particularly on territorial sovereignty and the right to self-determination. In the Ukrainian crisis, it has been demonstrated how inadequate traditional notions of land and sovereignty are in understanding and resolving complex geopolitical conflicts. Maintaining and enforcing international law is of the utmost importance for the international community, especially when territorial integrity and self-determination are at stake.