

Participation of child soldiers in armed conflicts: the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina¹

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Abstract

The issue of child soldiers occurs in various parts of the world during international and non-international wars. This phenomenon was also present during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995. In BiH, minors joined the army as volunteers.

The subject of this article is participation of children in armed conflicts as soldiers during the war in BiH. The article's aim is to answer the following questions: (1) What is the legal situation of such people today? (2) Are there legal regulations in BiH, on the basis of which they are entitled to rights reserved for war veterans? This topic seems to be important, because there are currently four generations of people living in BiH, whose lives are affected by the events of the war in the 1990s. Today's state of knowledge indicates that the now-adult child soldiers are overlooked by the Bosnian state system. Their situation is complicated by the fact that they participated in the war as volunteers, and this form of participation was not provided for by legislation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY, Yugoslavia). The study applied the dogmatic-legal method, through which the analysis of legal acts concerning this issue in the international arena was carried out.

Keywords: Bosnia and Herzegovina, child soldiers, Convention on the Rights of the Child, war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, armed conflicts, war veterans, human rights

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Udział dzieci-żołnierzy w konfliktach zbrojnych na przykładzie Bośni i Hercegowiny

Streszczenie

Problematyka dzieci-żołnierzy występuje w różnych częściach świata przy okazji wojen o międzynarodowym i niemiędzynarodowym charakterze. Sytuacja ta miała miejsce także w czasie wojny w Bośni i Hercegowinie w latach 1992-1995. W BiH małoletni wstępowali do armii w charakterze wolontariuszy.

Przedmiotem niniejszego artykułu jest kwestia udziału dzieci w konfliktach zbrojnych jako żołnierzy podczas wojny w BiH. Celem artykułu jest próba udzielenia odpowiedzi na następujące pytania: (1) Jak dzisiaj wygląda sytuacja prawna takich osób? (2) Czy w BiH istnieją regulacje prawne, na podstawie których przysługują im uprawnienia zarezerwowane dla weteranów wojennych? Temat ten wydaje się być istotny, gdyż obecnie w BiH żyją cztery pokolenia osób, na życie których wpływ mają wydarzenia wojny z lat 90. ubiegłego wieku. Dzisiejszy stan wiedzy wskazuje, że dorosłe już dzieci-żołnierze zostały pominięte przez bośniacki system państwowy. Ich sytuację dodatkowo komplikuje fakt, że brały one udział w wojnie w charakterze wolontariuszy, a taka forma udziału nie była przewidziana przez ustawodawstwo Socjalistycznej Federacyjnej Republiki Jugostawii (SFRY). W niniejszym badaniu posłużono się metodą dogmatyczno-prawną, za pomocą której dokonano analizy aktów prawnych odnoszących się do tej problematyki na arenie międzynarodowej.

Słowa kluczowe: Bośnia i Hercegowina, dzieci-żołnierze, Konwencja o Prawach Dziecka, wojna w Bośni i Hercegowinie, konflikty zbrojne, weterani wojenni, prawa człowieka

Despite nearly thirty years having passed since the end of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), its consequences are still present in the lives of the country's residents. The physical scars of war can be completely removed with appropriate financial resources. As opposed, psychological traumas leave a lifelong mark. One of the groups that most strongly feels the effects of the war past are young adults, who had to face the reality of war when they were children. Studies conducted after the war in the former Yugoslavia indicate the devastating impact of the war on the psyche of children and adolescents (War Childhood Museum W/W/b), who were exposed to various forms of violence. Children were victims of torture, sexual violence, many of them experienced displacement, separation from parents, others were orphaned or injured, and some of them were born as a result of war rape² (Czeszejko-Sochacka 2023; p. 92-105). All these events left long-term effects on children's development, lasting until adulthood. Among the most common psychopathological consequences are depression, suicidal thoughts, somatic problems, and behavioural issues (Hasanović 2011; p. 46). Hasanović notes that the proximity to wartime atrocities and personal losses is strongly correlated with the development of symptoms characteristic for *post-traumatic stress disorder*³

² Children Born of War (CHiBOW).

³ Hereinafter: PTSD.

(Hasanović 2011: p. 47). He drew attention to its particularly strong impact on children and adolescents, who survived the genocide in Srebrenica and the siege of Sarajevo (Hasanović 2011: p. 48–52). Studies conducted in this group demonstrated that younger children were more protected by adults and as a result were less exposed to traumatic events than older children (Arshad Husain 2000: p. 146–147). Due to their cognitive immaturity and limited understanding of the irreversibility of death and readiness to accept war conditions as a part of life, they presented fewer symptoms of post-traumatic stress than older individuals. Older children, on the other hand, were more exposed to life-threatening situations, as they had more memories of what their lives were like before the war and, therefore, a greater sense of loss.

Currently, four generations of people live in BiH, whose lives are affected by the events of the 1990s war. It is worth mentioning the phenomenon known as intergenerational trauma. Parents and grandparents often pass on their traumas to their children and grandchildren (Hola, Simic 2023). This phenomenon is common in all armed conflicts, for example, the intergenerational effects of PTSD were revealed among the offspring of women survived the *Holocaust* (West 2015; Dashorst et al. 2019), women who were exposed to international crimes during the war in the Balkans, and also exposed to genocide during the civil war in Rwanda in 1994 (Rudahindwa et al. 2020). Among the offspring of mothers exposed to such suffering, there was a higher rate of post-traumatic stress, and the severity of depressive symptoms compared to the offspring of mothers who were not exposed to such stress.

The subject of the article is the issue of participation of children in armed conflicts as soldiers during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The article's aim is to answer the questions: what is the legal situation of such people today? Are there legal regulations in BiH, on the basis of which they are entitled to rights reserved for war veterans?

This topic seems to be important, because there are currently four generations of people living in BiH, whose lives are affected by the events of the war in the 1990s. Today's state of knowledge indicates that now adult child soldiers have been overlooked by the Bosnian state system, their situation is complicated by the fact that they participated in the war as volunteers, but this form of participation was not provided for by legislation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (hereinafter: SFRY, Yugoslavia). The study applied the dogmatic-legal method, through which the analysis of legal acts concerning this issue in the international arena was carried out. In order to obtain reliable information, the author contacted many institutions⁴ in BiH that collect data on the participation of BiH's population in war in the years 1992–1995.

Definition of child soldier

⁴ In order to obtain reliable data, the author requested statistical information from organisations and ministries in Bosnia and Herzegovina, such as: Post-Conflict Research Center, War Childhood Museum, Institute for War & Peace Reporting and to the BiH Ministry of Defense, Ministry for Statistics.

The phenomenon of child soldiers is associated with nearly every armed conflict, and it was also present during the war in the former Yugoslavia. As D. Savić, R. Pirić, and A. Janković rightly point out, most studies focusing on the phenomenon of child soldiers are related to conflicts in Africa, whereas it has a global character (Savić et al. 2021: p. 44). However, it had different roots in BiH. There was no forced conscription of minors into the army, but children took an active part in the fighting as volunteers.

The concept of a child soldier was defined at the 1997 United Nations Children's Fund symposium in Cape Town (see: UNICEF 1997), according to which it is: "A child associated with an armed force or armed group" refers to any person below 18 years of age who is or who has been recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children, boys and girls, used as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies or for sexual purposes. It does not only refer to a child who is taking or has taken a direct part in hostilities". At this point, it is worth mentioning the definition of a child contained in Article 1 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* of 1989 (hereinafter: CRC or Convention), according to which it is any human being below the age of eighteen, unless, in accordance with the law applicable to the child, he or she acquires majority earlier (see: *Convention on the Rights of the Child* 1989: art. 1).

From the point of view of the subject of this article, it is justified to refer to the regulations in force in the territory of BiH during the war of the 1990s, because it is crucial due to the rights of persons, who – as children – took part in the fights together with the armed forces. According to Article 63 of the *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia* of 1992, the defence of the homeland was "the right and duty of every citizen" (*Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia* 1992: art. 63).

Military service was regulated by the provisions of Articles 279 to 336 of the *Law on the Yugoslav Army*. According to its provisions (Article 288(2)), the obligation to conscript began with registration at the beginning of the calendar year in which a Yugoslav citizen turned 17, but the actual conscription to the army took place in the calendar year in which the conscript turned 18 (Article 291(1)). Voluntary conscription was also possible from the beginning of the calendar year, in which a potential conscript turned 17. This minimum age limit was also in force during the war by order of the President of the SFRY. However, Articles 301 and 302 of this law stated that a recruit is sent to perform military service only after reaching the age of 21 or, if he requested it, at the earliest in the year, in which he turned 18 (Child Soldiers International 2001). Despite such regulations, numerous testimonies from child soldiers indicate that participation in the war as volunteers involved much younger children (Ahmetasevic 2014). However, there are no official data on exactly how many minors and of what gender fought during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

G. Machel, in a 1996 report for the UN regarding the impact of armed conflicts on children, noted that countries with weak administrative systems do not maintain a systematic record of conscription (United Nations General Assembly 1996: p. 16). However, many organisations cite data on this phenomenon. The *Coalition to Stop the Use of the Child Soldiers* states that there is substantial evidence confirming the participation

of child soldiers in the past armed conflict in BiH. UNICEF states that children under 18 years of age were not obligated to participate in the armed forces, though some joined as volunteers, and they were only accepted if they were over 16 years old (Child Soldiers International 2001). According to cautious estimates, around 10,000 people under the age of 18, some of whom were as young as ten, participated in the Balkan wars in the 1990s (Alić 2013). The United Nations provides different data, which claims that this phenomenon affected 3,000 to 4,000 children. According to the Research and Documentation Centre in Sarajevo, 40 child soldiers aged 10 to 15 died during the war, while there were 621 such cases in those aged 16 to 18 (Tokača 2012: p. 142).

Protection of children during armed conflict in the acts of international law

In recent decades, the protection and well-being of children during armed conflict has taken an important place on the political agenda of the international community (*EU Guidelines...* 2017). It should be noted that during a conflict, all civilians (including children) enjoy equal protection under international humanitarian law. The protection of children is dictated by their vulnerability and developmental needs. However, despite the principles resulting from numerous regulations, the rights of millions of children around the world are still violated (War Childhood Museum W/W/b). The atrocities that took place during World War II became an inspiration to take action to protect individuals from the dangers of the state apparatus. It was then noted that a totalitarian state poses a threat not only to adults, but also to children, who are the weakest element of the social structure, requiring special protection (Smyczyński 1999: p. 7).

The provisions of the *Geneva Conventions* of 1949 are of priority importance in this respect. In accordance with the regulations of Article 14 of the *Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War*, the States Parties may create on their territory, and if necessary in occupied territories, hospital zones and localities, so that they can protect against the effects of war, in addition to ot

her eligible groups, also children under 15 and mothers of children under 7. The following articles of this document refer to the need to protect and support children in times of armed conflict: Article 1, 17, 23, 24, 38, 50, 51, 82, 89, 94, and 132 (see: Geneva Conventions 1949).

A significant role in the protection of children in armed conflicts was played by the Additional Protocols to the *Geneva Conventions* concerning the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) and non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II) (see: Protocols Additional 1977). Under Article 77 of Protocol I, the parties to the conflict are obligated to provide care and assistance to children, who shall enjoy special respect and shall be protected from all forms of indecent assault. The States Parties are obliged to prevent the direct participation of children under 15 years of age in hostilities and to strive to prevent the recruitment of such children as participants in the armed forces. In case of recruitment of persons between 15 and 18 years of age, priority should be given to older persons. If children under 15 years of age participate

directly in hostilities and fall into the power of an opposing party, they are to enjoy special protection, regardless of whether they have the status of prisoners of war. In the event of the detention, imprisonment, or internment of children for reasons related to the armed conflict, they are to be placed in separate rooms from adults.

In turn, under Article 4(3) of Protocol II related to non-international armed conflicts, fundamental guarantees were specified that must be provided to children in the event of such a conflict. Protocol II specifies, among other things, their right to education, to take steps to reunite separated families, and prohibitions on the recruitment of children under 15 into armed groups. As in the case of international conflicts, the death penalty is prohibited for persons who are under 18 years old (Article 6(4) of Protocol II). This provision corresponds to the regulations adopted in the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* (RSICC), as discussed later in this research paper. Protocol II provides broader protection for children, as it prohibits any participation in armed activities (Szpak 2014: p. 304). Agnieszka Szpak is right when she claims that, according to international humanitarian law, children are treated as civilians who do not take part in armed activities (Szpak 2014: p. 303). Notably, the application of humanitarian law norms cannot be suspended during an armed conflict. Sandorski rightly points out that they constitute the "last resort" for victims of the conflict (Sandorski 1999: p. 427). At this point, it is necessary to address the issue of children's participation in armed conflicts based on the provisions of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. According to the provisions of Article 38 (par. 2 and 3), the States Parties commit "to refrain from recruiting any person who has not attained the age of fifteen into their armed forces" (*Convention on the Rights of the Child* 1989: art. 38, par. 3). Moreover, when conducting recruitment among persons who have reached the age of 15, but not yet reached the age of 18, the States Parties committed to take into account older persons first. This provision applies in both international and non-international armed conflicts and pertains to both forced and voluntary recruitment (Prucnal 1999: p. 299).

According to the content of the provision of Article 38(1) of Convention, the States Parties have committed to respect and order compliance with the norms of international humanitarian law applicable to them in the event of armed conflict and relating to children in the event of an armed conflict of both an international and non-international nature, but it does not refer to internal disturbances that do not have the character of an internal armed conflict (Sandorski 1999: p. 435). We must agree with J. Sandorski, who states: "In comparison with other provisions of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the legal solutions adopted in Article 38 evoke an effect reminiscent of metal scraping against glass" (Sandorski 1999: p. 436). This provision allows minors to participate in armed conflicts, while the provision of Article 1 clearly recognises a person under the age of fifteen as a child. Importantly, during the work on the Convention, the age of a person, excluding the possibility of taking part in armed actions, aroused great emotions. It is worth noting that in 1986, the original version of the draft of the CRC included a statement that no child would participate in armed conflicts; however, it ultimately did not gain support.

The aforementioned provisions correspond with the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict, adopted on 25 May 2000 (see: Optional

Protocol 2000). According to the Article 1 of this document, "States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take a direct part in hostilities" (Optional Protocol 2000: art. 1). Importantly, Article 2 of the Optional Protocol emphasises the need to make efforts to ensure that children under 18 „are not compulsorily recruited into their armed forces" (Optional Protocol 2000: art. 2). The term "all feasible measures" means that states shall take "such measures as are practicable in the circumstances surrounding armed operations aimed primarily at achieving military success" (Sandorski 1999: p. 433).

States that ratified the provisions of the CRC thereby committed to take appropriate legislative and administrative measures to ensure full implementation of the rights contained in its provisions (see: UNICEF W/W/W). Although most countries are party to the Convention, its provisions are not always respected. This is particularly visible during armed conflicts. The issue of the impact of armed conflicts on children was subject to detailed analysis in the aforementioned report by G. Machel of 1996, in which she called for better recognition of violations of the human rights of children and adolescents, as well as for the establishment of special protective centres in areas affected by conflict (United Nations General Assembly 1996). The report highlights that some commanders are enthusiastic about the participation of children in armed conflicts, which results from their immaturity and obedience, not asking questions, and their easier manipulation. The role of child soldiers is very diverse, some of them cook, others carry luggage, carry messages, and are even used as spies (United Nations General Assembly 1996: p. 16). However, girls suffer a particularly difficult fate, often becoming sex slaves, and are often forced into forced marriages and to bear children for combatants. The report stated that conscripting children into the army should be considered a crime against humanity (United Nations General Assembly 1996). The currently applicable RSICC states in Article 8(2)(b)(xxvi) that the conscription or recruitment of children under the age of fifteen into the armed forces or their use in hostilities is a war crime. As noted by the ICC in the case of *Prosecutor v. Lubanga* (International Criminal Court 2012; see also: Ambos 2012: p. 115–153; Kurth 2013: p. 431–453), the crime of "conscripting or enlisting children under the age of fifteen years into the national armed forces or using them to participate actively in hostilities," as set out in Article 8(2)(b)(xxvi) of Statute, falls within "the established framework of international law" as one of the "other serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict". The essential elements related to the issue of conscription of child soldiers are: the conscription by the perpetrator of one or more persons under the age of 15 into the national armed forces, or the use of such persons to actively participate in warfare. In such case, the perpetrator may have the intention of *dolus eventualis*, which is confirmed by the formulation used in the provision that "the perpetrator knew or should have known" that the given person was under 15 years of age, this term imposes on the perpetrator the obligation to take reasonable steps before conscripting him or her into the army. The purpose of this regulation is to protect the rights of children under the age of 15 (Cottier, Grignon 2015: p. 527–528). As Cottier

and Grignon note, this standard deviates from the requirement of awareness, which is specified in Article 30 of the RSICC, according to which, "unless otherwise provided, a person shall be criminally responsible and liable for punishment for a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court only if the material elements are committed with intent and knowledge" (Cottier, Grignon 2015: p. 527–528).

War crimes specified in the ICC Statute are limited to the conscription or enlistment and use of children in armed conflicts under the age of 15 (Klamberg 2017: p. 106). Significantly, the terms "conscription" and "recruitment" are not defined in the Statute or the *Elements of Crimes*, leaving their interpretation to case law. In analysing this issue, it is also worth mentioning Article 8(2)(e)(vii), which states that other serious violations of the laws and customs in the established framework of international law applicable to armed conflicts that are not international in nature, such as conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 into armed forces or using them in hostilities, also constitute a war crime. This prohibition corresponds to the previously cited provision, mentioned in Article 77(2) of Protocol I.

We should also not forget about Convention concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour also known as Convention no. 182 of the International Labour Organization, according to which among the "worst forms of child labour" are listed: "all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict" (see: Worst Forms... 1999: art. 3(a)).

The case of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), established to resolve the criminal responsibility of individuals who committed crimes during the 1990s conflict, did not address the involvement of children in armed conflict, nor did it list such acts as war crimes or crimes against humanity. The Statute of the ICTY did not mention conscription into the military, either (UN ICTY 2009). It should be noted, however, that international conventions are considered sources of international criminal law (Hofmański, Kuczyńska 2020: p. 32). These conventions establish prohibitions on certain behaviours and introduce substantive legal norms, which, due to violations of fundamental values associated with human dignity, are unacceptable (Hofmański, Kuczyńska 2020: p. 32). In terms of the subject matter, it should be noted that the SFRY was bound by the provisions of the *Geneva Conventions*, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, and the additional protocols introducing prohibitions related to the participation of children in armed combats. It is worth recalling that the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia took an active part in the development of the CRC and was the author of the relevant resolutions concerning this Convention (United Nations 1994). The Assembly of the SFRY ratified the CRC in December 1990, with the consent of the Assemblies of all federal entities of the former Yugoslavia (United Nations 1994).

Yugoslavia was also one of the first countries to sign a cooperation agreement with UNICEF and the second country in the world, after Switzerland, to ratify the *IV Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War*. It was the fourth country to ratify additional protocols, committing to uphold the provisions of the conventions and to implement various measures prescribed by them, such as penalizing all acts violating the Geneva provisions (United Nations 1994). After the dissolution of the SFRY and Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) declaration of independence, the Convention was listed as having direct application in BiH in Annex 1 of the BiH Constitution (see: *Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina* 1995). The Constitution of BiH of 27 April 1992 states that all international treaties, approved and published, are an integral part of the internal legal order of the country (Office of the High Representative 2024). Therefore, BiH has remained a party to this Convention, so there is no doubt that even during armed conflict, children's rights should be respected (United Nations 1994).

Today, adults who were child soldiers in BiH are beginning to demand their rights. However, as they emphasise, they have been abandoned by the BiH legal system (Ahmetasevic 2014). Compared to other categories of combatants, they are not guaranteed any special rights, and no reintegration programmes are being conducted for them in society (Savić et al. 2021: p. 44). Despite the fact that BiH is a State Party to many conventions on the protection of children, it has not formally recognised the participation of child soldiers in war to this day. At this point, comparisons related to the status of CHIBOW and their fight for their rights come to mind (Office of the High Representative 2024). The BiH authorities argue that these children were volunteers, and, in some cases, their parents signed consent for their military enlistment. For this reason, they should not be treated differently from other individuals who participated in the war under similar terms (Ahmetasevic 2014). However, it must be remembered that children are usually not aware of the consequences of their actions. In 1996, G. Machel, in a report on the impact of armed conflicts on children, pointed out that the phenomenon of child soldiers is often related to cultural, social, economic, or political pressure, and such a choice in the case of minors is only seemingly voluntary (United Nations General Assembly 1996). While it is difficult to pinpoint definitive motives for such decisions, analysing the case of BiH, one likely reason seems to be the pervasive violence and chaos that led children to join armed groups, often as a matter of safety. Such behaviour was often glorified. Children died on the battlefield were frequently regarded as war heroes or martyrs (Savić et al. 2021: p. 43).

D. Savić, R. Piralčić and A. Janković draw attention to the socialist discourse on childhood prevailing in the SFRY, which encouraged the indoctrination and militarisation of children and youth, which was additionally fuelled by mechanisms such as the education system, the pioneer movement, television programmes and literature addressed to children (Savić et al. 2021: p. 48). It is worth mentioning that the phenomenon of children volunteers also occurred during the civil war in Sierra Leone (Zack-Williams 2001: p. 73–82). Among the motives for choosing this phenomenon, A. B. Zack-William mentions the desire for revenge for lost parents, for some children military service was also a surrogate

for lost family ties. The collapse of the state and previous social structures left a social void that could be filled in this way (Zack-Williams 2001: p. 78–79).

M. Klamberg has a different perspective on the concept of "voluntariness," noting that "although presumed voluntariness may be negated by force or intimidation, the child's consent legally qualifies the behaviour as enlistment rather than conscription. Consent is therefore not irrelevant, yet enlisting a child into the armed forces still falls within the scope of Article 8, regardless of the manner of their enlistment" (Klamberg 2017: p. 106).

Conclusions

The phenomenon of child soldiers is common in almost every armed conflict. Regardless of its nature, however, under the regulations of international law, their active participation in armed conflict is prohibited. The *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, which constitutes the core of children's fundamental rights, is not consistent in terms of protecting children in armed conflicts. On the one hand, it defines children as persons under the age of 18, and on the other hand, it allows them to participate in armed conflicts under certain conditions (Article 38). However, it should be remembered that children are often not aware of the consequences of the decisions they make, and the motives that guide them often result from the need of the moment, they are often forced to do so, and sometimes, as in the case of BiH, they may be the result of a romanticised idea of military service.

Due to the fact that minors took part in the war as volunteers, they are not currently treated as war veterans under the legal provisions in force in BiH and, therefore, they are not entitled to any benefits available to persons with this status (Ahmetasevic 2014). Regardless of the reasons for these decisions, however, they should be treated like other war veterans. The effects of their participation in the conflict often left, apart from psychological trauma, physical ailments that prevent them from functioning properly in adult life. Post-conflict support for these individuals is also crucial; children should be surrounded by special protection. They have specific needs, which include in particular: finding family members who went missing during warfare, integration with society. It is particularly advisable to provide them with psychotherapeutic care to solve the problem of PTSD, as well as obtaining legal assistance for compensation claims (*EU Guidelines* 2017: p. 3). It is to be hoped that over time this situation will change and, as with the CHiBOW initiative, they will finally receive their due rights.

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Katarzyna Czeszejko-Sochacka – doktor nauk prawnych, adiunkt w Zakładzie Prawa Karnego na Wydziale Prawa i Administracji Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego. Nauczyciel akademicki i autorka poświęconych prawu karnemu materialnemu oraz międzynarodowemu prawu karnemu. Główne zainteresowania naukowe dotyczą zagadnień związanych z ochroną jednostki na określonym od-cinku jej praw oraz problematyka zbrodni międzynarodowych. Poprzednia publikacja związana z te-matyką wojny w Bośni i Hercegowinie: *Amendment to the act on civilian victims of war and the legal situation of children of war rape in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, „Polityka i Społeczeństwo”, nr 1(21)/2023.

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