Iryna Symonova¹

Limitation of Human Rights During the Crisis Events in Ukraine: Lessons and Outlooks

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic will have lasting implications for economic and social rights arising from the direct and indirect effects of the disease, the cooperation on prevention and public policy development to combat the infection spread.

The Ukrainian economy and the system of guaranteeing human rights have not been characterized with sustainable development even before the pandemic, besides, in Ukraine, many groups are extremely vulnerable to the effects of crises. There are more than eleven million pensioners in Ukraine (as of January 1, 2020)², while the average pension barely exceeds the established minimum subsistence level, and older people are in the highest risk group. The pandemic is also affecting the lives of about one and a half million internally displaced persons³ who have faced restrictions on their right to social protection, employment, resi-

¹ Assistant at the Department of Law Theory and Philosophy, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University, simohova02@gmail.com, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1771-0511>.

² Pension Fund of Ukraine. (2020). *Official infographics of the Pension Fund of Ukraine*. Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/pfu.gov.ua/posts/2603656499762493>.

³ Ukraine crisis media center. (2020). *IDPs and the COVID-19: Experts voice how to overcome socio-economic problems caused by the pandemic*. Retrieved from <https://uacrisis.org/uk/pereselentsi-ta-covid-19>.

dence, and displacement as a result of the crisis. Also, high-risk groups include about one hundred and thirty thousand detainees (as of 1 January 2019)⁴ and a significant number of homeless people, the official statistics on the number of whom are not available, but they have become virtually helpless under the conditions of the pandemic.

Furthermore, the social protection system is under additional strain from an overly complex state system of social support, featuring a significant number of laws and regulations, categories and groups, and a growing gap between necessary and actual funding.

Theoretical foundations and patterns of human rights have been repeatedly studied in the works of recognized Ukrainian scientists: O. Petryshyn, P. Rabinovych, A. Selivanov, Yu. Shemshuchenko, I. Yakoviuk, M. Koziubra, as well as foreign scientists and representatives of international health organizations, such as WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF. Nevertheless, the purpose of this article is to study urgent problems on the provision and realization of human rights in the context of the pandemic and post-pandemic periods (as well as the development of systems of interaction between Ukrainian state and the population in case of similar phenomena in the future).

Materials and Methods

The methods used in this article are determined by its purpose and objectives, while the use of a particular method or set of methods is determined by the complexity of a particular issue. Thus, the use of the dialectical method enabled to reveal theoretical and legal aspects of the interaction between institutions of the state and citizens in the process of stabilization of social and economic situation during the pandemic and to develop standards and models for future use. The functional method, which was used to study the state in the context of its functional purpose (i.e. social state), allowed to generalize and characterize its structural elements, which are transformed during the pandemic crisis, it

⁴ Zmina. (2019). *The number of prisoners and detainees in Ukraine is lower than in many neighboring countries*. Retrieved from https://zmina.info/news/kilkist_uvjaznenih_ta_areshtovanih_osib_v_ukrajini_mensha_nizh_u_bagatoh_susidnih_krajinah/.

allows using the accumulated knowledge in the future to combat similar situations. The hermeneutic method in the work is used to interpret the legal norms enshrined in the current legislation of Ukraine and international legal documents regarding the legal support of the crisis. Application of the system-structural method provided the analysis of Ukrainian society as a complex system, and its separate elements, affecting the course of the situation positively or negatively in varying degrees.

The research empirical basis is formed by scientific works of local scientists, legal acts of Ukraine, materials of official statistics, judgments of Ukrainian judicial bodies, survey results, journalistic publications, official bulletins of international health organizations, etc.

Results and Discussion

Emphasizing the facts mentioned in the introduction, in order to uncover the existing problems and to develop a specific format of actions and a range of conclusions, it is necessary to analyze in detail the following structural elements of the problem: 1) standards and guarantees of rights during the COVID-19 pandemic; 2) vulnerable groups in Ukraine and the general situation around ensuring citizens' rights; 3) short-term long-term state support (and development of a national system of response to similar phenomena).

1. Guaranteeing human rights during the COVID pandemic

Under international human rights law, signatory states are obliged to ensure the right of individuals to an adequate standard of living so that everyone may enjoy the rights necessary for a decent life, including the rights to adequate food and housing, health, and well-being, water and sanitation, etc. Parties must ensure equal access to these rights for all without discrimination on grounds such as sex, race or ethnicity, age, or disability. This right is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 25(1): "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care and necessary social services, and to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, dis-

ability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control”⁵.

This provision has been detailed and further elaborated in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (hereinafter – ICESCR)⁶. The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has published several general comments clarifying the components of this right, including the right to adequate housing (general comments 4 and 7), food (general comment 12), water (general comment 15), and social security (general comment 19). Through these comments, the Committee has developed criteria for implementation and provided the most comprehensive interpretation of these rights under international law. The right to health has been incorporated into many human rights treaties; the main ones are Article 25 of the UDHR and Article 12 of the ICESCR.

The UN treaty bodies have established minimum core obligations for countries, which they must ensure at all times, for everyone. Under the right to an adequate standard of living, core obligations include access to minimum essential, sufficient and safe food and freedom from hunger and inadequate sanitation; adequate provision of safe drinking water; and social protection and minimum essential levels of well-being.

International law does not require any specific method to ensure that everyone enjoys a decent standard of living. Governments may provide basic necessities such as food and water; ensure the availability and accessibility of basic necessities; and ensure that everyone has an adequate income for adequate food, shelter, and other essential supplies. This can be achieved by respecting the corresponding rights of everyone to social security and to wages sufficient to provide a decent standard of living for workers, the so-called minimum subsistence level.

Even in times of crisis, governments must make every effort to fulfill these obligations with available resources, including international assistance, and distribute them in a way that maximizes respect for human

⁵ Official Bulletin of Ukraine. (2008). *Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948*.

⁶ United Nations Human Rights. (1966). *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. URL <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx>

rights, including taking into account the precarious situation of disadvantaged and marginalized individuals or groups.

Despite the enshrinement of the relevant provisions in the Constitution (Articles 46 – 50)⁷ and the laws of Ukraine, the execution of paragraphs of these documents in our state since independence has still had a more formal nature, mainly as a result of a series of political and economic crises, which in 2020 were reinforced by a new threat – the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, the ICESCR can be provided by states that have ratified the document in an amount accessible to each state.

Despite the overloaded system of social protection and provision of social rights, in Ukraine during the pandemic, many measures were implemented at the national level to support socially vulnerable groups through the adoption of several other legal acts.

For example, the Law ‘On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Aimed at Providing Additional Social and Economic Safeguards in Connection with the Spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)’ No. 540-IX was adopted by the Parliament on March 30, 2020, as the first legislative response to the growing threat⁸. The document provides additional social and economic guarantees to support citizens and businesses in the context of countering the spread of coronavirus in Ukraine.

The law provided for additional payments of up to 300% of wages to medics and other workers involved in the treatment of patients with COVID-19. The government was granted the right to establish price ceilings for anti-epidemic goods during quarantine, provide partial unemployment benefits for workers of small and medium-sized enterprises for whom jobs will be kept during quarantine, and all social payments during the quarantine were simplified.

Financial support for measures to protect vulnerable groups was established in Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 385 of May 20, 2020,

⁷ . Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. (1996). *Constitution of Ukraine: Law of Ukraine*. Retrieved from <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/254%D0%BA/96-%D0%B2%D1%80#Text>.

⁸ Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. (2020). ‘On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Aimed at Providing Additional Social and Economic Safeguards in Connection with the Spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)’ / Law of Ukraine. URL <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/540-20#Text>.

'On Allocating Funds for Financial Assistance to the Social Insurance Fund of Ukraine'⁹.

On the other hand, the need for a rapid response to the crisis has led to many hasty steps to introduce necessary and justified measures to preserve human life as the supreme value of rights restrictions. For example, the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of March 11, 2020, #211 'On Prevention of the Spread of Acute Respiratory Disease COVID-19 Caused by Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 on the Territory of Ukraine' (further completely reorganized by Resolutions № 215, 239, 241, 242, 255, 262, 284, 291, 313, 332, 343, 377, 392, 641 and 760)¹⁰, caused reasonable discussions in legal circles about the possibility of the very fact of limitation of a significant amount of human rights enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine in a single bylaw. Although the question of compliance of this by-law with the Principal Law was raised immediately, the reaction of the Constitutional Court followed only after a complete reorganization of the act, which led to the closure of proceedings, since the act itself no longer contained unconstitutional definitions.

It should be noted that during the development and implementation of the adaptive quarantine system, another process took place in parallel – the adaptation of people and civil society to new living conditions. In fact, the mitigation of quarantine and the introduction of adaptive measures dependent on statistical indicators of sickness and mortality was, to a certain extent, a legal and social compromise between the state and the population, the achievement of which was influenced by the following factors: deepening of the economic crisis and general decline in spending power, aggravation of socio-political confrontation (taking into account the purely political aspect of conflicts between representatives of local self-government and state power on the eve of the local elections), and the emergence of a new system of adaptive quarantine.

⁹ Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. (2020). 'On Allocating Funds for Financial Assistance to the Social Insurance Fund of Ukraine'. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. URL <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/385-2020-%D0%BF#Text>.

¹⁰ Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. (2020). 'On Prevention of the Spread of Acute Respiratory Disease COVID-19 Caused by Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 on the Territory of Ukraine' / Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. URL <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/211-2020-%D0%BF#Text>.

Moreover, the imperative regulation of public relations through strict restrictions (and difficulties in implementation by law enforcement agencies, as evidenced by the judicial practice of reviewing administrative protocols for violation of the quarantine regime) had a negative impact on the general level of legal consciousness and legal behavior of citizens, although such a situation is common for most states and is not a purely Ukrainian problem.

Despite this, we can already predict the rejection of the possible introduction of similar rules in the event of relapse (the so-called second wave) or the emergence of similar phenomena by the population. This may significantly affect the effectiveness of all systems of crisis management, which are to be implemented in the future and threaten to safeguard the rights of citizens in Ukraine.

Moreover, funds that were allocated to populate the special fund for assistance during the pandemic were provided through cuts in other areas such as education, science, law enforcement, and others. Such a situation arose as a result of problems with securing the budget as such, which in turn will be a problem for future budget consolidation and will cause long-term complications.

In such a situation we could only count on international support, however, one of the peculiarities of the current global crisis is the isolation of states and their focus on solving local problems in the first place, which makes the prospect of the introduction of financial crisis assistance to the international systems questionable in the future.

2. High-risk groups in Ukraine and the general situation around ensuring citizens' rights

As noted in the introductory part of this article, the most vulnerable groups have suffered serious negative consequences. Older people (pensioners), internally displaced persons, health care workers, homeless people, detainees, and people with chronic diseases found themselves in a situation that directly threatens their lives.

Returning to the above normative documents, we should note a number of the most critical factors: 1) as of September 2020, in many regions medical workers are still not fully funded, and coronavirus departments

in cities of regional significance and lesser are still inadequately staffed (provided that there is a relatively high rate of sickness and mortality among medical staff¹¹); 2) people aged over 60 were effectively prohibited from leaving their homes without a valid reason, which imposed additional obligations on local governments and social protection institutions without providing additional funding; 3) measures to restrict the functioning of commercial and entertainment facilities caused a significant negative impact on the population and ensuring that state and local budgets are replenished with direct and indirect taxes and fees¹²; 4) penitentiary healthcare was not adequately provided to detainees and employees of the relevant institutions; 5) internally displaced persons faced not only the consequences of the economic “pause”, but also a number of other problems, such as employment, housing and crossing the border with the temporarily occupied territories (which led to the transition of some members of this vulnerable group to *de facto* homeless without means for survival)¹³.

Having lost a lot of time to develop a unified strategy regarding the state existence and its population in the conditions of the pandemic, Ukraine has not paid enough attention to the recommendations of international organizations to help vulnerable groups.

For example, the Draft Law on Amnesty of Convicts (to Prevent the Spread of Acute Respiratory Disease COVID-19 Caused by Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2)¹⁴ was withdrawn from consideration by the Parliament. Moreover, even with a positive decision on the said bill, the further fate

¹¹ Zakharov, D. (2020). *Starting from September all Ukrainian medical personnel will start to receive additional payments: the Ministry of Health stated the amounts*. URL <https://www.unian.ua/health/country/koronavirus-v-ukrajini-ukrajinski-mediki-pochnut-otrimuvati-doplati-v-moz-nazvali-sumi-novini-ukrajini-11137034.html>.

¹² BBC News. (2020). *2020's Budget and Coronavirus: the Parliament cut costs and established a special fund*. Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/news-52269568>.

¹³ Radnyk. (2020). *Coronavirus has created a risk of failure to pay pensions and outstanding debts of the pension fund to IDP pensioners*. Retrieved from <https://radnyk.org/noviny/koronavirus-stvoryv-ryzyk-nevyplaty-pensij-ta-zaborgovanosti-pensijnogo-fondu-pered-pensioneramy-vpo/>.

¹⁴ Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. (2020). *'On Amnesty of Convicts (to Prevent the Spread of Acute Respiratory Disease COVID-19 Caused by Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2)'*. Draft Law of Ukraine. URL https://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=68676.

of the amnestied was left unattended, as the rehabilitation function of the Ukrainian penitentiary system did not demonstrate positive dynamics without the coronavirus pandemic.

Despite the one-time surcharges and increases in social benefits for pensioners, older people in Ukraine face a number of new challenges during the pandemic. Firstly, discriminatory policies to restrict the rights of at-risk groups are evident, and although some of them are justified, age discrimination cannot be an appropriate legal basis for such measures. Secondly, there is a lack of adequate communication, testing of the elderly population, and the necessary provision of homes for the elderly (both state-run and private ones). Thirdly, this risk group overlaps with others, increasing the risk of infection, besides, older people are more likely to have chronic diseases, which also require medical care, the availability of which decreased significantly during the pandemic, this may have long-term negative consequences due to health care reform and decentralization (due to the imposition of an additional organizational and financial burden on local governments and their subordinate institutions). Finally, representatives of this group are more severely experiencing self-isolation, but this factor was not taken into account at all when developing the strategy (despite the recommendations of the WHO to mitigate tolerable isolation by older people). Also, inadequate provision of health care facilities often puts health care workers in front of the moral choice to preserve the lives of one person before another, as evidenced by international jurisprudence (again raising the issue of protecting the lives of every citizen without discrimination based on age).

These groups were vulnerable to a number of risks even before the pandemic, including within the context of health care and access to health services. The coronavirus crisis only aggravated the already difficult situation of pensioners, IDPs, detainees, and other risk groups. It is worth noting that according to different forecasts, the pandemic may come to an end before late 2021 in developed countries, and only after 2022 in more economically unstable ones. At the moment, it is not possible to say that any such timeframe has been set within the strategy to combat coronavirus in Ukraine, but it should be understood that temporary measures are not sufficient, and even if it would be possible to

start simultaneously developing an effective tool to combat such crises in our state it would be possible only after 5–10 years of targeted social welfare reforms and building an effective system of communication and response to further threats. In other words, the consequences of the current events will be felt by all population groups in Ukraine for many years to come, which may lead to aggravation of the political and social situation in already challenging conditions.

3. Short-term and long-term state support

The above normative documents, which cumulatively constitute the actual state strategy to combat the pandemic, are more focused on rapid response to individual crises and minimization of negative economic and social consequences. At present, it is difficult to unambiguously assess Ukraine's success in ensuring social rights and the overall effectiveness of measures to combat the disease, because the representativeness of official statistics is questionable. Such a situation has arisen not only because of insufficient testing and information on sickness and mortality (despite the stable increase in testing) but also on a number of selected measures. The adaptive quarantine system encourages regions to lower their statistical data to avoid the introduction of stricter measures (and their negative socio-economic impact). Also, there are a number of purely political factors, including the approaching local elections, problems with the execution of the state budget, the problem of annexed and temporarily occupied territories, compliance with international obligations, and other internal and external factors.

Short-term financial support was partially implemented in Ukraine compared to other countries. The following programs were introduced: Credit Cuts, Tax Preferences, Small and Medium Business Support, Agribusiness Support, and Business Information Support¹⁵. The effectiveness of these measures can be fully assessed only in the next fiscal year.

Typical measures such as direct payments to citizens (exemplified by the United States) are characterized by an ambivalent effect according to

¹⁵ Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. (2020). *Business Support Programs*. URL <https://covid19.gov.ua/prohramy-pidtrymky-biznesu>.

various estimates¹⁶. The stimulating effect of such assistance in Ukraine cannot be predicted unequivocally. On the one hand, it may stimulate purchasing power and restore its pre-pandemic level, on the other hand, such measures may encourage people to save even more and not cause the projected effect.

The global practice of introducing a guaranteed minimum (or unconditional basic income) is also ambiguous. The problem of introducing such measures in Ukraine is greatly enhanced by the general financial capacity of the state to support the population. Moreover, in the conditions of the pandemic it is impossible to count on international financial support, because, as practice shows, the developed states and supranational associations (European Union) primarily focus on solving internal problems, implementing a course on regionalization and localization of problems.

WHO has developed and published several recommended long-term measures (in particular, the introduction of long-term care, not yet considered in Ukraine), among which¹⁷: 1) to mobilize adequate funding for long-term care to respond to and recover from the pandemic; 2) to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of the impact of COVID-19 on long-term care and to ensure effective information exchange between health and long-term care systems to optimize activities; 3) ensure the safety of staff and resources, including medical personnel and supplies, for appropriate responses to the pandemic and the provision of quality long-term care services and many other measures (available in the official WHO bulletin).

Taking into account the above steps and the possibility of creating and implementing a system of long-term care, today in Ukraine, it is necessary to pay first attention to the following: 1) to flatten the curve of new infections; 2) to delay the peak of morbidity; 3) to introduce the so-called "light switch" mode (the possibility of rapid strengthening and weakening of quarantine measures).

¹⁶ Forbes. (2020). *The Individual Covid-19 Aid Is Rescue, Not Stimulus, Money and Should Continue*. Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/eriksherman/2020/06/29/covid-19-id-stimulus-money/#cbb68784b5b9>.

¹⁷ World Health Organization. (2020). Preventing and managing COVID-19 across long-term care services [Електронний ресурс]: URL https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Policy_Brief-Long-term_Care-2020.1.

In our state, only the last point is effectively introduced, because the effectiveness of statistical information collection and its representativeness is not sufficient to implement the first two steps. An insufficient number of tests and time frame required to obtain the results do not allow to effectively use the adaptive quarantine mechanism.

In fact, we are still in the waiting phase for a vaccine that should solve some of these problems, but we are not ready for the phase of effective vaccination and gradual recovery from the crisis.

At the beginning of 2020, the government was faced with the question of developing a strategy to fight the pandemic and further recovery from the crisis. Out of two options, the so-called “soft” and “hard” quarantine, both were chosen. Consequently, as a result of incomplete implementation of the hard quarantine measures, they were later replaced by softer ones; in the long run, Ukraine may face negative consequences of both.

Therefore, given the economic and social consequences of the pandemic, which will become evident in the next few years, we will not be able to effectively implement a new system of response to such possible future crises. This may lead to a spiral movement to reduce the ability of the state to guarantee the realization of human rights because an underdeveloped system of their provision will not be ready for a new possible pandemic or other crisis phenomena.

Implementation of the current strategy and development of long-term solutions is not only restricted to the financial insolvency of the state in the context of supporting citizens and ensuring their rights. The political aspect also plays a big role in this respect, in particular, general politicization of the process, unwillingness to assume political responsibility, and policy of avoiding involvement in crisis processes.

Relatively young statehood of Ukraine is again threatened, because “fresh” young politicians may not be ready to make tough decisions in this environment. It is possible to count on international assistance only in the context of maintaining overall stability in the problematic region and implementation of a less evident future integration into the European economic space and the European Union.

Conclusions

In conclusion, it should be said that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed all the existing problems in the system of ensuring social rights of the population in Ukraine: 1) disorganization and insufficient funding of the social protection system; 2) unpreparedness of the under-reformed health care system before the global crisis; 3) inability to provide effective legislative regulation and lack of political will to take and implement socially unpopular steps; 4) a significant level of politicization of the processes of adopting the social protection system in Ukraine; 5) the impossibility to build consensus between the state and civil society during the crisis (unlike, for example, the Swedish strategy, exemplified by the WHO leads as a paragon, which was built on the principles of trust without introducing strict mandatory measures). Despite the questionable data on this strategy, it seems more acceptable in the long run than to impose severe restrictions and regulatory enforcement, which is impossible to implement due to a huge number of factors mentioned above. It is necessary to accept the current situation as it is, instead of building the strategy on illusions and possibilities that cannot be achieved. Several negative characteristics were catalyzed by unpreparedness to solve such a crisis, again, it is not typical for Ukraine only. Noting the significant work that has been done, it is impossible to ignore the general underdevelopment not only of social institutions but also of the state as a whole. The failure to address this problem is the result of the unfinished and ill-conceived reforms that have been implemented since independence.

Analyzing the general state of the situation and the first results of the fight against the pandemic, we can predict a number of priority measures that must be implemented to avoid such exacerbation in the future: 1) provided the existing format of adaptive quarantine is maintained, it is necessary to develop a fundamentally new concept of comprehensive reforms not only of the social sector, but also of all state legal institutions (tax, labor, administrative, law enforcement, etc.) in order to provide a rapid response to possible repeated phenomena of this nature (unfortunately, reforming the crisis areas in harsh conditions is not a new phenomenon for Ukraine); 2) create new information channels and en-

sure that the population is informed about all activities carried out and planned (which should eliminate the need to introduce strict measures in the future and keep a number of issues accountable to the population); 3) to prepare the health care system for conducting vaccination; 4) establish a system of mutual cooperation between the state and local authorities to avoid conflicts in the future 5) take respective measures to depoliticize crisis decision-making processes; 6) ensure the participation of Ukraine in the work of interstate international organizations whose activities are aimed at overcoming the consequences and preventing such phenomena.

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Summary

The paper reveals modern problems of limiting, ensuring, and realizing human rights during crisis events in Ukraine. The unsatisfactory state of the social protection system of Ukraine in the pre-crisis period is revealed (including problems of unstructured legislation, excessive financial burden, etc.). The article analyzes the existing guarantees and standards of human rights during the pandemic (included in the selected international documents and the Constitution of Ukraine).

Several negative factors faced by the most vulnerable social groups during the crisis were addressed (for IDPs – problems of displacement, residence, job search; for the older population – problems of social security, treatment of chronic diseases, movement restrictions, and relevant age-based discrimination; for the homeless – absolute insecurity from all manifestations of the COVID-fueled crisis; for the detained and imprisoned – problems of penitentiary medical care, postponement of amnesty and subsequent rehabilitation).

The paper assesses the relevant normative documents regulating social relations during the pandemic in terms of their positive and negative impact on the above risk groups (facilitated with the analysis of additional financial aid and payments, legal restrictions, the impact of the increasing financial burden on state and local budgets due to quarantine, the unconstitutionality of certain provisions and the lack of adequate legal response from the Constitutional Court of Ukraine).

Conclusions were drawn based on the analysis of the officially established strategy to combat COVID-19, supplemented by a prognosis of the long-term consequences of its implementation (the pros and cons of the selected strategy of simultaneous “hard” and “soft” quarantine measures, the lack of long-term care policy, unpreparedness for vaccination and the restoration of the pre-pandemic way of everyday life).

Keywords: COVID-19; vulnerable population groups; limitation of human rights; social welfare; pandemic