Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Resolution 2672 (2026)[1]

The need for systemic support to Ukrainian soldiers who became disabled as a result of hostilities

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Parliamentary Assembly deplores the Russian Federation's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine and highlights that one of its most dramatic and long-term consequences is the unprecedented increase in the number of soldiers and civilians who became disabled as a result of the war, including through deliberate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, torture and ill-treatment of prisoners of war and civilian detainees. The scale of this phenomenon constitutes one of the greatest social challenges facing Ukraine today and in the years to come, and one in which all European countries should feel engaged. Not least because this challenge, if well addressed, may also help to understand and develop the most forward thinking and successful approaches to the full inclusion of persons with disabilities to all aspects of society, on an equal basis and without any discrimination.

2. The number of persons with disabilities resulting from the war exceeded 200 000 in 2024 and continues to rise. Between 15% and 20% of this group may consist of persons with sensory impairments, including hearing loss, vision loss or dual sensory disabilities. In 2025, more than 33 000 soldiers received rehabilitation in military medical facilities.

3. More than 435 000 people received free rehabilitation services in 2025 under the Medical Guarantees Programme, compared with approximately 366 000 patients in 2024. In the first half of 2025 alone, 229 159 Ukrainians received rehabilitation services through the National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU), including more than 89 000 in inpatient settings. Veterans and military personnel make up a significant portion of service recipients.

4. As there are over 75 000 women serving in the Ukrainian armed forces, their specific needs and circumstances should be integrated into the country's veterans' policy so that it fully addresses the reintegration and rehabilitation of women veterans with disabilities.

5. With regard to prosthetic care, in 2024 Ukrainian services provided prostheses and assistive devices to approximately 11 400 individuals, including 2 500 military personnel, while the total number of prostheses of various types distributed reached nearly 20 000. In the first six months of 2025, 9 400 upper and lower limb prostheses had already been provided.

6. The Assembly welcomes the measures already taken by the Ukrainian authorities under wartime conditions, including the creation of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, the deployment of a network of veteran support specialists in local communities, the digitalisation of veteran services, the expansion of the national rehabilitation and prosthetic network, and the development of specialised centres such as the Superhumans Center and the Unbroken National Rehabilitation Centre. It also welcomes the establishment, with Canada, of a new international multi-donor fund for Ukrainian veterans and their families, launched in September 2026, which provides an open platform for States and other partners willing to support Ukraine's veterans to

1. *Assembly debate* on 29 September 2026 (31st sitting) (see Doc. 16464, report of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, rapporteur: Mr Jan Filip Libicki; and Doc. 16483, opinion of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, rapporteur: Mr Georgios Stamatis). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 29 September 2026 (31st sitting).
See also Recommendation 2312 (2026).
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contribute to a common, co-ordinated effort. These achievements demonstrate that Ukraine is building the foundations of a modern veterans' policy and provide a sound basis on which international support should build.

7. The Assembly firmly reaffirms the obligations of member States under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and emphasises the necessity of ensuring that Ukrainian veterans with disabilities can fully participate in social, professional, family, and civic life.

8. It underlines that the obligation to ensure rehabilitation, accessibility, and full social participation of persons with disabilities derives not only from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but also from the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5), the European Social Charter (ETS No. 35), and Council of Europe standards concerning the protection of human dignity, non-discrimination, and social inclusion. Rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons affected by armed conflict should be regarded as an element of human rights protection and as an obligation of a democratic State.

9. The Assembly recalls that the Russian Federation bears full responsibility under international law for the injury, loss and damage caused by its aggression, including the lifelong costs of rehabilitation, prosthetic care and social reintegration of persons who became disabled as a result of the war.

10. The Assembly emphasises that support for veterans cannot be limited to hospital treatment, prosthetic care or the provision of equipment. Rehabilitation should be understood as a continuous process of returning to independent living, encompassing clinical rehabilitation, adaptation of the home environment, with particular attention to family support, mental health care, access to information, social and professional reintegration, and professional case management.

11. The Assembly highlights the particular needs of veterans living outside major urban centres, persons with dual sensory disabilities, families acting as informal caregivers and unemployed veterans. It further highlights the particular needs of women veterans, who should be given visibility, in particular as they face gender stereotypes concerning their role in society.

12. In light of the above, the Assembly calls on member States to earmark at least 10% of their national funds allocated to the reconstruction of Ukraine for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of veterans and civilians with disabilities. Part of the frozen Russian assets and their proceeds could be used for this purpose.

13. It urges member States that have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify the Convention establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine (CETS No. 229).

14. The Assembly also calls on the Ukrainian authorities, with the support of Council of Europe member States and partners to:

14.1. develop a comprehensive and coherent veterans' policy encompassing: a single transparent pathway for access to benefits and services ("one-stop shop"); long-term rehabilitation; a specialised military medicine pathway; psychological support; home-based care; adaptation of the living environment; professional reintegration; development of veteran peer mentoring; accessibility of public infrastructure and transport. All veterans with disabilities should have access to all the rights, benefits and support services included in the veterans' policy, without discrimination on any ground;

14.2. ensure the full participation of veterans with disabilities in all their diversity, and the organisations that represent them, in the development of Ukraine's veterans' policy;

14.3. ensure the systematic training of health professionals, social workers and case managers specialising in disability and veteran support, with particular attention to rural areas and outreach;

14.4. foster and enable the active inclusion of families and informal caregivers in support programmes, with access to psychological care, training and respite services, tailored to their specific needs;

14.5. establish a common system for monitoring data concerning the situation of veterans, including the number of persons receiving rehabilitation services; waiting times for services; regional accessibility of services; employment indicators; the situation of families; mental health; accessibility of infrastructure; the needs of persons with sensory disabilities. Such data should be disaggregated by sex and regularly published and used in the planning of public policy;

14.6. implement programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence, targeting military personnel and veterans.

15. The Assembly further encourages the use in Ukraine of the opportunities provided by instruments of the Council of Europe Development Bank as a source of financing for social projects with long-term impact, including rehabilitation centres, supported housing, environmental adaptation, family support, professional reintegration and services accessible outside major urban areas.