
Russia's use of abduction, torture and sexual violence in war

6 February 2024, Joseph Gaggero Hall, Chatham House

Agenda:

15:00 – 15:15 Welcoming remarks

15:15 – 16:15 Sexual violence in Russia's war against Ukraine

Key questions:

- How has Russia used sexual violence in Ukraine since 2014 and how do these dynamics interplay with patterns and lessons from other contexts?
- How is Ukraine supporting victims of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)? What are some of the lessons learned from other conflicts?
- How can we align the criminal justice system of Ukraine with international human rights instruments and practices?

Confirmed speakers:

Emily Prey, Director, Gender Policy Portfolio, New Lines Institute

Anna Sosonska, Head of CRSV unit, Office of the Prosecutor-General of Ukraine (online)

Ewelina Ochab, Programme Lawyer, IBA's Human Rights Institute

Arminka Helic, Member, House of Lords

Chair: Kateryna Busol, Academy Associate, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House

16:15-16:30 Break

16:30– 17:30 Treatment of civilians and prisoners of war (POWs) in the occupied territories

Key questions:

- What specific repressions are people facing in occupied territories?
- How can the international community play a more active role in monitoring wellbeing and advocating for the release of unjustly detained and kidnapped people held captive by Russia?
- What is Russia trying to achieve by kidnapping of Ukrainian children?
- What measures must the Ukrainian authorities take in addressing the psychological abuse experienced by children who have returned to Ukraine after being abducted to Russia.

Confirmed speakers:

Shahida Tulaganova, Freelance documentary filmmaker and Director of “Ukraine’s Stolen Children”

Aarif Abraham, Founder, Accountability Unit and Barrister, Doughty Street International

Dame Melinda Simmons, Former British Ambassador to Ukraine (2019 to 2023)

Danielle Bell, Head of Mission, UNHR Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

Chair: Patricia Lewis, Research Director; Director, International Security Programme, Chatham House