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EROSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT: A COMPLETE VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

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ABSTRACT

The concept of war and armed conflict brings with itself death, destruction, displacement and serious violation of human rights. War has never solved any problem rather has always been a bane for the civilians where their lives become shattered. The basis of human rights is nearly completely undermined by acts of war. When human life is intentionally targeted or when it is viewed as “collateral damage” during large scale bombing campaigns that either directly or indirectly result in illness, disease, misery, home devastation and death, it is difficult to see any space for human rights. Every human right seems to be negatively impacted during periods of conflict, especially those that persist for years. Health system fail, education deteriorates and the judicial system, home, employment, food and water supplies, freedom of the press and free speech and accountability for abuses by the state or by the enemy state- all experience limitations, if not outright disappearances. Russia- Ukraine conflict is one of the leading examples of present times where human rights have become mockery and role of the United Nations has also been questionable.

Keywords: Human Rights, War, Russia-Ukraine Conflict, United Nations.

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I. INTRODUCTION

History has deeply engulfed itself with instances of war and armed conflicts which have always resulted in violation of human rights. The cause of conflict could be the violation of human rights itself or it can also be stated that war always leads to erosion and suppression of human rights. In recent few years war has become common phenomenon leading to blightment of lives of common people. War carries with itself serious repercussions like war crimes, genocide, infringement of human rights, migration, refugees, environmental damage and many more making lives of civilians extremely painful and vulnerable. Human rights are fundamental, inherent, universal, equal, non discriminatory and inalienable rights without which the survival of human beings is impossible. Violation of human rights become a cause of great concern in war torn areas where civilians bear the burn of mass atrocities being committed against them as wars have become more dangerous with catastrophic consequences.

The world has already seen two World Wars in which there was massive destruction and violation of human rights was a common scene. But after the World War II which leads to the establishment of United Nations it was felt that world needs peace now and a respectable place for human rights. But present era is full of conflicts and war torn nations are presenting starkest examples of violations of human rights. Millions of people are undergoing unimaginable trauma and enduring unending atrocities due to war and armed conflicts. Present situation in Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine is beyond words to describe where civilians are facing the wrath of war and have lost everything. The biggest risk to contemporary civilization is the continuous deterioration in context of respect for human rights which would pose a dangerous threat to humanity all over the world. The present paper is an attempt to look into human rights issues and role of United Nations in the contemporary world where war and armed conflict have multiplied and heightened abuses, violence and crimes against humanity.

The present study adopts a doctrinal and analytical research methodology to critically examine the legal framework governing armed conflict and evaluates the extent to which the Russia-Ukraine war has resulted in the violation of international law.

II. HUMAN RIGHTS- A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

More than 75 years have passed when Universal Declaration of Human Rights came into existence. It was the time when world was rising from the ashes of World War II. That era had

seen death, destruction and complete erosion of human rights at such a mass level which has taken lives of more than 60 million people. But it has to be understood here that human rights were universally recognized in 1948 by United Nations by UDHR but this concept is prevalent since time immemorial. The roots of human rights are very ancient which can be traced back to the reign of Cyrus the Great King of Persia (555-529) to the Code of Hammurabi to Magna Carta continuing to the modern origin of Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Cyrus Cylinder: The world's first bill of human rights was discovered on a clay tablet dating back from the reign of Cyrus who was the king of Persia. The text inscribed on this Cyrus Cylinder recognized various social and economic rights, religious tolerance, right to liberty and security, freedom of movement, freedom from slavery etc.

The Cyrus Cylinder, inscribed in Babylonian cuneiform script, records the reforms of Cyrus, the king of Persia following expansion of his rule over ancient Babylon. It narrates Cyrus restoration of sanctuaries, his liberation of captives, and his recognition of diverse traditions and religions. While deeply rooted in the political culture of its time, the document reflects values of tolerance, freedom, and justice that remain highly relevant today. The Cyrus Cylinder stands as one of the most ancient, fundamental, and conceptual documents of world civilization, while also serving as a unique historical and legal source for the peoples of West and Middle Asia in the study of early statehood. It embodies the enduring attempt to create governance rooted in spiritual and ethical values accumulated over millennia. It is often described as the "first charter of human rights", symbolizing the recognition of pluralism and religious diversity. The Cyrus Cylinder stands as a bridge between ancient traditions of governance and co-existence based on tolerance and modern principles of human rights and cultural diversity. It reminds us that the pursuit of freedom, justice, and coexistence is not a modern invention, but a legacy deeply rooted in human history.

Code of Hammurabi: One of the most significant and remarkable contributions to the historical evolution of law came from King Hammurabi (1792-1750 BCE), who ruled ancient Babylon. His famous Code of Hammurabi is the oldest set of complete laws known to exist in the world. Some laws are written in cuneiform script impressed on baked clay tablets, while the most famous ones are carved on solid stone steles designed for public display. In fact, Hammurabi himself described his code as representing 'the laws of Justice: 'Let the oppressed', he announced,

'come into the presence of my statute.' The text itself explicitly speaks of his desire 'to further the well-being of mankind' by creating protections 'so that the strong should not harm the weak.' The Code of Hammurabi, written in orderly groups of columns and paragraphs, contains nearly 300 separate provisions of commercial, criminal, and civil law. These provisions cover contracts, judicial procedures, penalties, or punishments, progressively scaled to the nature of crimes, family relationships, inheritance, and certain aspects of what we today call human rights. To illustrate, the code presents some of the earliest examples of the right to freedom of speech, the presumption of innocence, the right to present evidence, and the right to a fair trial by judges.²

Magna Carta: What were once referred to as natural rights in India, Greece, Rome, and other places is today known as human rights. Despite the polemics of natural law jurists, human conditions remained largely unchanged worldwide. As the Renaissance began, the situation shifted. It ushered in a new chapter in human history. As a result, even the King of England was compelled to sign the Magna Carta in 1215 A.D., which is regarded as the pivotal moment in the history of human rights in England.

The introduction of Magna Carta, which established the principles of due process and equality before the law and is widely regarded as one of the most significant legal documents in the development of modern democracy, marked a significant turning point in the fight to establish freedom and added and strengthened the philosophy of human rights. The Petition of Rights (1627) and the Bill of Rights (1689) came after the Magna Carta. Nearly a century later, the "American Declaration of Independence" (1776) declared that "all men are created equal" and guaranteed a number of inherent rights, including the right to life and liberty.³

III. UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND PREVENTION OF WAR

United Nations-the birth child of Second World War came into force on 24th October, 1945. The Preamble of United Nations is the cornerstone of the missions and goals which it aims to achieve and it states:

"We the Peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to

² P.G.Lauren, *The Foundations of Justice and Human Rights in Early Legal Texts and Thoughts*, available at: <http://www.corteidh.or.cr> (last visited on December 20, 2025).

³ Rakesh Kumar Mruti Kamble, *Human Rights Enforcement Machinery in India*, 3-4 (BlueRose Publishers, 2nd edn., 2023).

reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, And For these ends to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.”

The foundational instruments of modern international law are the 1945 Charter of United Nations and the annexed statute of International Court of Justice. It is no coincidence that the United Nations Charter and International Court of Justice statute were promulgated in the aftermath of World War II, much of contemporary law can be traced to a response to its devastating impact. Only much later, however in 1998 did states create a permanent International Criminal Court to punish individuals for war crimes. The UN Charter is the foundation of modern jus ad bellum. The cornerstone of its provisions in this field and a cardinal principle of contemporary international law is Article 2(4), whereby:

“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 United Nations was established in response to the atrocities of World War II with the primary goal of averting another catastrophic conflict of this nature. It was established in response to the shortcomings of the League of Nations, a global institution with the same aspirational objective of averting war.⁴ The Security Council has been given major responsibility by the United Nations members for upholding global peace and security. Maintaining the same is another duty that falls to the General Assembly. Articles 10 to 15 and 35 of the Charter outline the Assembly's general duties and authority with regard to maintaining world peace and security. The General

⁴ This House Believes That United Nations Has Failed, *available at*: <https://www.idebate.net> (last visited on December 21, 2025).

Assembly's and the Security Council's roles and authority should be viewed as complimentary rather than antagonistic.

Any question involving peacekeeping operations should first be examined by the Security Council in order for that body to take the appropriate action as soon as possible. This is because the Security Council has been given primary responsibility by the United Nations members to ensure prompt and effective action by the organization. Nothing stops the General Assembly from considering the issue right away and offering suitable recommendations in accordance with its duties and the pertinent provisions of its Charter if the Security Council is unable to adopt decisions in the exercise of its primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security for any reason.⁵

Moving further it is important here to mention that the United Nations members at 2005 World Summit agreed to a principle of "Responsibility to Protect" which aims at that genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity must be avoided. Paragraph 138 of the Outcome Document states as follows:

*"Each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means. We accept that responsibility and will act in accordance with it. The international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility and support the United Nations in establishing an early warning capability."*⁶

Despite of having such strong principles incorporated by United Nations the harsh reality is that world is still torn by war and there are numerous instances of violation of human rights. It cannot be denied that the United Nations has failed several times since its formation in preventing war. It is necessary here to mention the reasons behind the failure of the prime purpose of United Nations to prevent war and maintain international peace.

1. P5 Membership structure which gives Veto Power
2. National Priorities Over World Peace
3. Insufficient Enforcement

⁵ U.S. Government Printing Office, "Report on The United Nations Peacekeeping Dilemma" (1967).

⁶ United Nations: World Summit 2005, available at: <https://www.un.org> (last visited on December 21, 2025).

4. Delays in Making Decision
5. Targeted Intervention
6. Weak Compliance by Member States
7. Power Politics and Legacy of Cold War
8. Conflicts over Resources

IV. RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR: A COMPLETE VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The biggest armed conflict in Europe since World War II is the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. While the United States, NATO nations, and EU members are indirectly involved in the war in a variety of ways, these two major European nations are directly involved. Russia, Ukraine, and many other nations, especially EU members, are all significantly impacted politically, economically, and financially by this conflict.⁷ Every facet of world politics has been significantly impacted by Russia's conflict in Ukraine, which began in February 2022. The scope of this impact varies from the micro level, which includes the socioeconomic, political, and diplomatic facets of these two nations, to the mezzo level, where the effects are felt in nearby regions like the EU, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, and even globally, with experts addressing the global financial, economic, food, and health crises. Global and regional governance, international norms and institutions, and the current international order are all being called into question by the war, necessitating major revisions. States around the world have responded in different ways, both domestically and internationally, to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Central Asian nations, such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, which have historically, socio-culturally and geographically been close to Russia and have been economical, infrastructural and security-wise dependent on it since gaining independence in 1991, are the most affected of these states.⁸

Significant geopolitical ramifications for Central Asia have resulted from the conflict in Ukraine. The crisis between Russia and Ukraine has caused Central Asian nations to reconsider their relationship with Russia, which may reduce Russian influence in the region and encourage them to look for alternate alliances and assistance from other world powers. Concurrently, the region's

⁷ Ivan Katchanovski, *The Russia-Ukraine War and Its Origins: From the Maidan to the Ukraine War*, 2 (Springer Nature, Switzerland, 2025).

⁸ Assylzat Karabayeva and Ikboljon Qoraboyen (eds.), *The Russia- Ukraine War and its Implications on Central Asia: Resilience, Connectivity and Decolonization* , 1 (Lexington Books, London , 2024).

geopolitical landscape is changing due to shifting power dynamics highlighted by China's rise, Iran's aspirations, Turkey's interests, and India's engagements, perhaps leading to the creation of new alliances in the region.⁹

Geopolitically, the Russian-Ukraine war has led to the realignment of global alliances particularly strengthening the NATO response and its expansion in Eastern Europe. The war has galvanized a collective security approach among various nations advocating for stronger defense mechanisms against potential Russian aggression. The geopolitical reconfiguration has also included the emergence of new alliances which has seen countries reassessing their relations with Russia. The geopolitical ramifications of the conflict stretch to Asia and Africa which poses a significant challenge for them and forcing them to reassess their traditional allegiances in light of this geopolitical realities.

With the full scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia in 2022 mass disaster has occurred causing death and destruction everywhere. The reasons of war could be the early complicated history of tension between both the nations alongwith ongoing conflict of Russia with NATO.

Thousands of civilians have died, thousands more have been injured, and civilian infrastructure and property have been destroyed as a result of the conflict against Ukraine. Numerous breaches of international humanitarian law were perpetrated by Russian forces, including indiscriminate and disproportionate bombing and shelling of civilian areas that targeted residences, medical facilities, and educational institutions. Torture, summary killings, sexual assault, enforced disappearances, and cultural property plundering were among the alleged war crimes that Russian or Russian-affiliated forces committed in the areas they seized. In many instances, Russian soldiers forcibly moved large numbers of Ukrainians to Russia or Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine and subjected many to abusive security checks. Those who tried to escape areas of combat experienced harrowing ordeals and numerous difficulties.¹⁰

Russia has tried to use justifications like self defense and the safety of civilians in the Donbas region to defend its invasion of Ukraine. But these explanations fail to comply with international law. Article 51 of the United Nations, which upholds the principle of self-defense only allows the use of force in reaction to an armed attack. Since Ukraine did not launch an armed attack

⁹ Id. at, p.7.

¹⁰ Russia Ukraine War, *available at*: <https://www.hrw.org> (last visited on December 24, 2025).

against Russia, Russia's claim of self-defense is unsupported. Furthermore, the justification for using force to protect civilians in Donbas is insufficient. Any operation to protect civilians must be approved by the Un Security Council, according to international law, including the responsibility to protect doctrine. It is forbidden to deploy force unilaterally under the name of humanitarian assistance.¹¹

International humanitarian law forbids states from striking civilian targets on a global scale through both treaties and customary law. Parties to an armed conflict must "at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives and accordingly shall direct their operations only against military objectives, according to Articles 48, 51(2), and 52(2) of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions. The "principle of distinction," a cornerstone of international humanitarian law, was first outlined in the St. Petersburg Declaration and indirectly reaffirmed in the Hague Regulations. Clearly, Russian commanders have directed assaults on nonmilitary targets such shopping malls, hospitals, and medical facilities.

The concept of proportionality, which forbids assaults that are anticipated to cause excessive incidental civilian harm relative to the anticipated concrete military advantage, is another pertinent international humanitarian law norm that Russian forces have probably broken. Additionally, Russia has disregarded the precautionary principle, which states that civilian targets and the civilian populace must always be protected during military operations. Furthermore, Russian military personnel have committed rapes and other acts of sexual violence, abused and tortured civilians, and committed other flagrant violations of international humanitarian law.¹²

The Russia-Ukraine war is widely considered by international law experts and bodies to involve multiple, significant violations of international law by Russia. These violations fall into several major categories:

¹¹ Y.K.Verma,"The Russia-Ukraine conflict: Violations of international law and the future of global order" 4(1) *International Journal of Civil law and Legal Research*, 208-211 (2024).

¹² M.Sterio, *The Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Violations of International Law*, JURIST Academic Commentary, available at: <https://www.jurist.org> (last visited on December 27, 2025).

1. Violation of the Prohibition on the Use of Force

- **Crime of Aggression:** Russia's invasion and ongoing use of force against Ukraine is a direct violation of Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which requires all member states to refrain from the "threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state."
- **Rejection of Justifications:** Russia's attempts to justify the invasion under Article 51 (self-defense) or as a "humanitarian intervention" have been overwhelmingly rejected by the international community as lacking factual or legal basis.
- **Territorial Integrity:** The invasion and subsequent attempts to annex Ukrainian territory (Crimea in 2014, and regions like Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia in 2022) violate the fundamental principle of state sovereignty and territorial integrity.

2. Violations of International Humanitarian Law (Laws of War)

International Humanitarian Law (IHL), primarily governed by the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, regulates the conduct of hostilities and aims to protect persons not or no longer participating in the fighting. Violations of these laws constitute war crimes. Documented violations include:

- **Indiscriminate Attacks and Targeting of Civilians:** Russian forces have been accused of repeatedly directing attacks against civilian objects and infrastructure, including homes, schools, hospitals, cultural sites, and energy grids. Attacks that are not directed at a specific military objective are considered unlawful and potential war crimes.
- **Treatment of Civilians:**
 - **Torture and Ill-Treatment:** Widespread reports of torture, cruel treatment, rape, and extrajudicial executions of Ukrainian civilians in occupied areas.
 - **Arbitrary Detention and Forcible Transfer/Deportation:** Arbitrary detention of civilians and the forcible transfer or deportation of significant numbers of Ukrainian civilians, including children, to Russia or Russian-occupied territory, which can constitute a war crime and a crime against humanity.

- Denial of Humanitarian Access: Obstruction of humanitarian relief operations, particularly in besieged cities like Mariupol.
- Mistreatment of Prisoners of War (POWs): Allegations of widespread and systematic torture and inhumane treatment of captured Ukrainian soldiers, which violates the Third Geneva Convention.

3. Violations of International Human Rights Law

Even during armed conflict, human rights law remains applicable. Documented violations include:

- Right to Life: Unlawful killings of civilians violate their human right to life.
- Prohibition of Torture: The widespread use of torture and ill-treatment of detainees and civilians violates the absolute prohibition on torture.
- Freedom and Security of Person: Violations stemming from arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances.

4. Other Significant Violations

- Crime Against Humanity: The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine has concluded that Russian authorities have committed the crimes against humanity of murder and of forcible transfer of population through drone attacks and the deportation of civilians.
- Disregard for International Court of Justice (ICJ) Order: Russia has violated a provisional measures order indicated by the ICJ in March 2022, which demanded that Russia
- "Immediately suspend the military operations" it commenced in Ukraine.

V. ROLE OF ICC AND ICJ IN RUSSIA- UKRAINE WAR

International Criminal Court

On 2 March 2022, the International Criminal Court began a formal investigation into the situation in Ukraine, following referrals from a number of States Parties to the Rome Statute. The probe is looking into alleged war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in Ukraine

since November 21, 2013, including those related to Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

The most significant step taken by the ICC since the start of the Investigation into the Situation in Ukraine has been the issuance of six arrest warrants. In March 2023, the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber issued arrest warrants for Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ms. Maria Lvova-Belova, Commissioner for Children's Rights in the Office of the President of the Russian Federation. The Pre-Trial Chamber concluded that there were good reasons to suspect them of being criminally liable for the illegal forcible deportation and transfer of Ukrainian children from occupied territories of Ukraine to the Russian Federation. Two more arrest warrants were issued by the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber in March 2024 for Viktor Nikolayevich Sokolov, an admiral in the Russian Navy and commander of the Black Sea Fleet, and Sergei Ivanovich Kobylash, a lieutenant general in the Russian armed forces. The Chamber determined that there were good reasons to suspect General Kobylash and Admiral Sokolov of individual criminal responsibility for the crimes against humanity of inhumane acts, the war crime of directing attacks against civilian objects, and the war crime of causing excessive incidental harm to civilians or damage to civilian objects.¹³

This can be briefly summarized as follows:

Date	Decision of ICC	Against Whom	Alleged Allegations
2 nd March, 2022	Investigation started	Russia	War crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide
17 th March, 2023	Issuance of Arrest warrants	Vladimir Putin; Maria Lvova-Belova	Unlawful deportation and transfer of Ukrainian children
5 th March, 2024	Issuance of Arrest warrants	Sergey Kobylash; Viktor Sokolov	Attacks on civilian objects; crimes against humanity

¹³ Lee-Ann Conrod, "A Reflection in Three Years Later: The investigation into the Situation in Ukraine", <https://www.cba.org>. (last visited on July 31, 2026).

24 th June, 2024	Issuance of Arrest warrants	Sergei Shoigu; Valery Gerasimov	Missile attacks on civilian infrastructure; war crimes and crimes against humanity
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International Court of Justice

In the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the International Court of Justice has been playing a significant legal role, including interpreting international law, granting provisional measures, and adjudicating disputes between the two States. The Court cannot directly intervene in the war or prosecute individuals, but its rulings help clarify legal obligations and strengthen the international legal framework. On 26th February, 2022, Ukraine lodged a complaint against Russia before ICJ under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Ukraine alleged that Russia has falsely alleged genocide in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions as a pretext to justify its invasion. It further alleged that no genocide had occurred that could lawfully justify military action.

On 16th March, 2022, the ICJ has ordered certain provisional measures against Russia which are as follows:

- To immediate cease military operations started on 24 February 2022.
- To ensure that no steps are taken to continue military operations by military or irregular armed groups under its control.
- Not to escalate the conflict and drag it out.

But Russia did not comply with this order which shows that ICJ has no independent enforcement mechanism. Enforcement is largely a matter of voluntary compliance or action through the UN Security Council. Since Russia is a permanent member of the Security Council its veto power has effectively prevented enforcement through the Council.

VI. UNITED NATIONS: A TOOTHLESS TIGER OR NOT?

Due to excessive Western meddling, the United Nations Organization (UNO), which was founded in 1945 as the world's peacekeeping watchdog following World War II, is progressively

losing its core principles. In defending its commitment to maintaining global peace and security, the organization has all but lost its authority, credibility, and integrity. Similar to its predecessor, the League of Nations, which was established following World War I with the goal of preserving world peace and preventing future conflicts, the league's failure to defend its sanctum sanctorum charter and cherished ethos in respect to humanity and human rights ultimately resulted in mass murder during World War II.

It appears that the organization's current problems are similar to those of its predecessor. The United Nations is functioning like a toothless tiger despite the fact that there are countless threats against mankind occurring all over the world that fall under its purview. Today, the United Nations is nothing more than a monopoly of a few adversaries and overly ambitious nations that will stop at nothing to further their own agendas. The belligerent nations that claim to be priests and ambassadors of peace and brotherhood have also poured human blood in the past, and their terrible and demonic plans remain unchanged to this day.¹⁴ The Permanent Five the United States, China, Russia, France, and the United Kingdom now utilize the UNSC as a platform to exercise their veto power in order to defend allies and punish adversaries.

Today's world is no longer reflected in the UNSC. France and Britain are no longer as strong as they once were. When the winners of World War II made the decision to rule the world, it was established in 1945. The UNSC is now a toothless tiger that has lost all significance. Its expansion from 11 to 15 members in 1965, which added four seats to the two-year elected membership, was the last significant change. The right of Veto power only lies with the permanent members. In the words of PM Narendra Modi “*The international organisations that were created have become almost irrelevant, there is no reform in them. Institutions like the UN cannot play their role. People in the world who do not care about laws and rules are doing everything, no one is able to stop them.*”¹⁵

What good is it if the UN can't even uphold its own humanitarian standards when a nuclear-armed state violates international law? The UN's insignificance was further demonstrated by the latest missile exchange between Iran and Israel. Instead of mediating a de-escalation, the

¹⁴ T.Lap, “UN dancing to the tune of Superpowers”, *The Arunachal Times*, available at: <https://www.arunachal-times.in> (last visited on January 1, 2026).

¹⁵ Seema Guha, “The United Nations System is Broken”, *Outlook*, March 26, 2025.

Security Council remained impassed, with China reluctant to take a firm stand and Western nations supporting Israel and Russia. The UN has no real authority when large states are engaged, as demonstrated by the disregard for the Secretary-General's requests for moderation.¹⁶

VII. CONCLUSION

The war of Russia and Ukraine has posed several questions in front of whole world. What future we hold if world is going to become a war torn horizon and nothing else? Has the purpose for which United Nations created been achieved? The answer seems to be no as United Nations has failed to prevent war and Russia still holds the position as one of the permanent members of the Security Council where it enjoys its unbridled power of Veto. The current approach and vision of United Nations has drastically failed in maintaining peace at global level.

The UN was established in 1945 with the goal of preserving world peace and security, but it has failed to stop one of its most prominent members from invading a neighbor and carrying out war crimes that have not been seen in Europe since the height of tyranny in the twentieth century.

It is obvious that the UN Security Council is dysfunctional and that the UN's overall strategy for dealing with matters of war and peace is no longer appropriate. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia is a turning point in world history that will significantly affect how international relations develop in the future. The United Nations must be prepared to accept profound transformation if it hopes to endure as an organization and continue to be important in the coming decades.

The current proceedings before international judicial bodies demonstrate the strengths and limitations of the existing accountability systems. While international law provides a robust legal framework for protecting civilians and prosecuting serious crimes, effective enforcement remains dependent on state cooperation and international political will. As a result of these factors, the conflict emphasizes the need to maintain international institutions, increase legal compliance, provide victims with meaningful remedies, and uphold the rule of law and due process. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is a stark reminder that international peace and security must continue to be based on the rule of law. Preventing future conflicts and defending the rights of current and future generations require bolstering international institutions, guaranteeing the equitable application of legal principles, and encouraging an accountable culture.

¹⁶ United Nations: A Toothless Tiger, *available at*: <https://www.cemterline.com> (last visited on January 2, 2025).