possible to prepare well-educated and disciplined military personnel who can quickly adapt to the conditions of service.

Models of mobile training reserves, such as in Switzerland, are extremely relevant for Ukraine, as they allow for the rapid deployment of well-trained people to defend the country in the event of an emergency. Given the military and social challenges, it is important to create a flexible system that allows students to combine their studies and military training without disrupting their academic process. Such an approach will allow Ukraine to create responsible, trained and patriotic young people who are ready to act in the event of a threat, which will ensure the country's long-term security.

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ENHANCING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AS A FACTOR IN MITIGATING THE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF ARMED CONFLICTS

Abstract. Active political participation lessens the social fallout of armed conflicts by mobilising resources, coordinating aid and giving voice to vulnerable groups. When citizens influence decisions through advisory councils, e-petitions and participatory budgets, assistance grows relevant, inequality narrows and radicalisation recedes. Political efficacy, social capital and digital platforms convert spontaneous solidarity into lasting civic institutions, while media-literacy safeguards cohesion. Engagement must rely on transparent, accountable and truly influential channels; otherwise unmet expectations fuel unrest. International evidence shows that post-war reconstruction steered by citizen input lowers the risk of renewed violence. Thus, enhancing participation is a core condition for social resilience and durable peace.

Keywords: political participation, social capital, political efficacy, e-democracy

Political participation plays a pivotal role in alleviating the social shocks generated by armed conflicts. In countries where citizens are actively involved in decision-making, a society's capacity to pool resources, coordinate actions, and craft inclusive crisis-mitigation strategies increases markedly. Classic research underscores that participation supplies citizens with a "voice," compelling elites to respond to the needs of diverse groups (Verba, Schlozman & Brady, 1995, p. 32). In wartime, this process helps to identify humanitarian challenges in a timely manner, adapt social policy, and forestall destructive radicalization.

The social consequences of armed conflicts—mass displacement, loss of livelihoods, and psychological trauma—are exacerbated where mechanisms for collective influence on government are lacking. Comparative studies of political behaviour demonstrate that uneven participation generates "political traps," leaving vulnerable groups invisible to state institutions (Lijphart, 1997, pp. 3–4). War only deepens this inequality: internally displaced persons, veterans, and bereaved families often encounter bureaucratic hurdles and insufficient representation. Enhancing the participation of these

groups through advisory councils, e-petitions, or public hearings not only legitimises assistance policies but also renders them responsive to actual needs.

An essential indicator of effective participation is the level of political efficacy—the conviction among citizens that their actions can influence decision-making processes. Empirical findings (Rosenstone & Hansen, 1993, pp. 57–58) show that even under crisis conditions, a sense of efficacy boosts willingness to engage in volunteering, local initiatives, and electoral processes. In wartime, this translates into more organised volunteer networks, rapid responses to humanitarian needs, and tighter oversight of international aid distribution. When citizens feel capable, they more readily contribute to designing programmes for veterans' reintegration, psychological support, and infrastructure reconstruction.

Social capital, according to Robert Putnam (Putnam, 2000, p. 44), serves as a resource for coordinating action and fostering trust—attributes that are especially vital amid wartime instability. Conflicts can destroy local ties yet also stimulate new forms of solidarity. Heightened participation facilitates the conversion of spontaneous mutual aid into durable civic institutions. For instance, fundraising initiatives for the wounded or displaced, once integrated into formal local-government procedures, become part of long-term social policy. This reduces pressure on the state budget and enhances transparency, since citizens possess oversight tools for resource utilisation.

Information technologies broaden the repertoire of participation by offering citizens rapid channels for mobilisation and monitoring. Empirical evidence confirms that targeted social-media messages can increase both electoral and extra-electoral engagement (Jost et al., 2018, p. 88). Under wartime conditions, digital platforms help to identify evacuation needs, coordinate humanitarian logistics, and expose disinformation. Yet without adequate media literacy, online participation may intensify polarisation, complicating post-conflict reconciliation. Hence, the state and civil society must invest in media-literacy and fact-checking programmes to transform digital mobilisation into a driver of social cohesion.

Political participation also shapes the psychosocial dimensions of post-conflict recovery. Hirschman's "voice and loyalty" theory (Hirschman, 1970) posits that in situations of collective trauma, individuals choose between "exit" (emigration, abstention) and "voice" (active engagement). Expanding opportunities for "voice" through consultative platforms, participatory budgets, or local initiatives lowers the risk of mass "exit," preserving the human capital essential for reconstruction. Experience from post-conflict societies shows that involvement in decision-making mitigates feelings of powerlessness and aids psychological rehabilitation, as people observe concrete outcomes of their actions.

Participation is not, however, a panacea; its effect depends on institutional design. If engagement channels remain merely formal and fail to influence actual policy, an "expectations trap" emerges, provoking additional frustration and potential radicalisation of protests (Tarrow, 1998, p. 87). Consequently, increased participation must be accompanied by institutional guarantees: open access to information, budgetary accountability, and independent mechanisms for contesting decisions. Studies on anti-war demonstrations indicate that combining street mobilisation with expert consultations heightens the likelihood that movement demands will be incorporated into state policy.

The representation of particularly vulnerable groups warrants special attention. Armed conflicts disproportionately affect women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Research (Strolovitch & Townsend Bell, 2013, p. 370) reveals that without deliberate inclusive mechanisms these groups remain under-represented even within civic coalitions. In Ukraine, participatory-budget practices that reserve funds for projects initiated by internally displaced persons or veterans' families illustrate the potential to reduce inequality. Institutionalising such approaches eases social tensions because affected communities gain direct influence over resource allocation.

International organisations recognise that political participation fosters sustainable peace. A United Nations Development Programme report stresses that countries engaging citizens in recovery planning exhibit lower rates of renewed violence. This finding aligns with conclusions by Leighley and Oser (2018, pp. 343–344), who demonstrated that high levels of engagement diminish political

inequality and bolster institutional trust. For Ukraine, this implies that integrating displaced persons into local communities, involving veterans in advisory bodies, and maintaining open dialogue with civil society must become the core of post-war reconstruction strategy.

In sum, enhancing political participation is a necessary condition for minimising the social consequences of armed conflicts. It enables efficient resource distribution, strengthens social capital, and reduces psychological trauma by cultivating a sense of control and belonging. To achieve these effects, the state must guarantee genuine—not merely symbolic—mechanisms for citizen influence, support digital tools for engagement, promote media literacy, and establish inclusive forms of representation. Only through the synergy of these factors can political participation evolve from a formal right into an effective instrument of societal resilience, capable of mitigating the most acute social challenges wrought by war.

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ШЛЯХИ І ЗАСОБИ ПОСИЛЕННЯ ЗАХИСТУ СОЦІАЛЬНИХ ІНТЕРЕСІВ ОСВІТЯН І НАУКОВЦІВ В УМОВАХ ПОВОЄННОЇ ЄВРОІНТЕГРАЦІЇ ОСВІТЯНСЬКОЇ ГАЛУЗІ

Анотація. У статті розглянуто шляхи і засоби посилення захисту соціальних інтересів освітян і науковців в воєнних умовах та в час повоєнної Євроінтеграції галузі.

Визначено роль та місце не лише державних освітніх та науково-дослідних закладів, а і громадських організацій в реалізації завдань пов'язаних з цією проблематикою. Визначено управлінські колізії в організації захисту соціальних інтересів освітян і науковців у контексті повоєнного розвитку держави. Внесено пропозиції з вироблення організаційно – економічних та соціально-психологічних механізмів захисту та реалізації в українських умовах досвіду та