



Handicap International's (HI) Statement on the Overnight Attack on Ukraine

April 16, 2026

On the night of April 16, Ukraine was subjected to a massive combined assault involving hundreds of drones and missiles. HI is deeply appalled by these relentless attacks.

At least 18 civilians were killed, including children, and more than 80 injured across Kyiv, Odesa, Dnipro, Kharkiv, and Mykolaiv. Residential buildings, port facilities, and railway assets were damaged or destroyed. Emergency responders rushing to assist victims were also injured, underscoring the growing risks faced by those who provide life-saving aid.

Indiscriminate bombing and shelling in populated areas, randomly targeting civilians and civilian facilities, have become a systematic pattern in Ukraine. Such attacks are incompatible with international humanitarian law. The consequences for civilians' lives, health, and dignity are catastrophic. Survivors face lifelong injuries, loss of homes, disrupted access to healthcare, and diminished livelihoods.

According to local authorities in Russia, civilian casualties were also reported on April 16 in Tuapse. HI notes that, due to the absence of independent observers' access to Russian territory, full verification of civilian casualty data there remains impossible.

Civilians are not targets. Both parties must protect civilians from the consequences of conflict. We urge the international community to:

- Publicly condemn such attacks;
- Increase diplomatic pressure to protect civilians;
- Support efforts to document the consequences and provide assistance to those affected, including injured rescuers and humanitarian workers.

Handicap International continues to stand with affected communities, delivering support and advocating for their rights. Together we continue the fight for a safer present and a future free from explosive weapons.