On the 24th of February 2022 at 5 am, the first shells fell on the sleepy cities in Ukraine as Russia started its full-scale invasion. Many families were forced to flee their homes to find a safe place and protect their children from the physical and psychological horrors of war. On the twentieth day of the war, when the exodus from Ukraine reached more than 3 million people, the reports of the UN humanitarians estimated that a child in Ukraine was becoming a refugee almost every second. In this talk, I aim to call attention to the current situation of Ukrainian children and discuss how war, flight and migration forced by the Russian invasion impacted kids’ lives. I will touch upon children’s experience of internal displacement and migration, as well as their first encounters in the receiving points within and outside Ukraine. The talk will bring to the fore one of the key problems that Ukrainian children face. It will discuss the issues connected with separation from their friends, relatives and one or both of their parents, the loss of homes, and detachment from usual milieu and surroundings.

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