

ABSTRACT

Civilians are on Fire: Twelve Months of Traumatic Stress and Moral Injury in Ukrainians Under the Russian Invasion

Moral injury (MI) is a relatively new construct strongly associated with PTSD. However, an understanding of how MI contributes to PTSD, depression, and anxiety symptoms is lacking. Of particular concern is MI in civilians compared to military service members. This study was initiated as part of the project "Moral Injury and Healing of Combatants: Neurocognitive Correlates and Psychological Interventions," funded by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science. Psychosocial support and health services are being provided to the military and civilian population by the Ukrainian Psychotrauma Center (UPC) in Lutsk, Ukraine, which has suggested that clinicians and researchers have the opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of MI during the military conflict in Ukraine and develop approaches to help mitigate PTSD and MI consequences. Therefore, this study **aims** to extend the understanding of MI as often co-occurring but still different from PTSD in military and civilian populations during wartime. The mechanisms of transgenerational transmission of genocidal trauma in the face of war atrocity have been discussed.

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