



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

European Women's Lobby calls for peace in Ukraine

4 March 2022

The European Women's Lobby stands in solidarity with our sisters and their families in Ukraine. We also commiserate with our sisters in Russia who have been deliberately silenced in their "No War!" rallies and expression of solidarity with their sisters in Ukraine.¹

As the largest umbrella organisation in the European Union, representing over 2000 women's organisations, the European Women's Lobby (EWL) strongly condemns all conflict and war.

The EWL calls on the European Union (EU) leaders, namely: European Commission President von der Leyen, European Parliament President Metsola, European Council President Michel, EU High Level Representative Borrell to continue their intense support for peace in Ukraine. The EWL also calls on the international community, in particular the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, the Security Council and Secretary General Guterres, to fully re-instate the **UN Charter**² and implement **UN Resolution 1325** (2000)³ and its whole agenda on Women, Peace and Security"⁴.

The EWL is deeply concerned that in all wars and conflict, women and girls are collateral damage and the use of violence and rape is systematically used as a weapon of war. The consequences of this conflict will be immense and we cannot lose sight of the disproportionate impact it will have on women and girls throughout Europe and in the geo-political space of a continent that was built on establishing permanent peace, since the end of the Second World War. As we gradually emerge from a public health crisis, in which women took their lion's share to keep society functioning - often to the detriment of their own and their families' health and care - generating poverty, heightening violence, sexual exploitation and prostitution that impact different groups of women. It is essential that Europe upholds the fundamental rights it is built on, in which equality between women and men is at the core. Conflict resolution must include women, and respect international law.

As we approach International Women's Day (8 March) and the UN Commission on the Status of Women (14-25 March), we will have little to celebrate if women and girls are ignored in the current situation and in subsequent conflict resolution processes.

In the immediate term, we call on the **EU leaders** to:

- Set up an **inter-institutional task force** to address and provide support to women and girls in Ukraine and to ensure that such a task force is comprised of a 50/50 parity democracy representation;
- Include **women's civil society** in this task force, to ensure that the voices of women and girls on the ground are heard and consulted to shape current and post conflict solutions;

¹ As in the appeal of 439 Russian NGO's to End the War in Ukraine of 24.2.2022.

² [uncharter.pdf](#)

³ [UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security \(2000\) | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

⁴ [Women, Peace and Security | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

- Provide **financial and emergency humanitarian aid** to women’s organisations to enable them to provide support and services to women and girls on the ground;
- Help create and **secure a humanitarian corridor** to and out of Ukrainian cities and villages to guarantee access of all Ukrainians to humanitarian aid, food, drinking water and medical treatment;
- Provide **safe passage** for women and children by prioritising them among quota refugees in EU countries and apply the Temporary Protection Directive⁵ and subsequently facilitating permanent residence if this is their choice;
- Stay focused and invest in **all possible efforts for an immediate ceasefire**, to re-establish dialogue with Russia for a peace settlement which guarantees the sovereignty of Ukraine and include women of both sides in all peace negotiations and phases of peace keeping;
- Plan to **rebuild destroyed infrastructure** as fast as possible;

In the **medium to longer term**, invest in and promote a **Culture of Peace**, throughout the life-cycle and include boys and men.

We call on the **United Nations** in the immediate term to:

- Adopt an **emergency resolution** on protecting Ukraine women and girls and safeguarding their human rights at the forthcoming Commission on the Status of Women (CSW);
- Relay and **seek full support** for the Resolution from the UN **Security Council**;
- Immediately guarantee women a seat at the table in peace negotiations, as per **Resolution 1325**, on Women, Peace and Security;
- Seize the opportunity to **revisit, revise and update the Security Council** with regards to permanent status and the right to veto;
- Strengthen **UN Women** to enable them to support and provide financial aid to women’s organisations on the ground;
- Continue to exert pressure on the **International Criminal Court** to start investigations in war crimes during the illegal aggression against Ukraine to ensure there is no impunity for war criminals;
- Stay focused on **disarmament** and efficient, transparent multilateral **arms control**;
- Abolish nuclear arms according to the **UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**, which entered into force on 22 January 2021.

In the **medium to longer term**, invest in and promote a **Culture of Peace**, throughout the life-cycle and include boys and men.

The EWL will continue to provide a **safe space** for our sisters in Ukraine, to listen, consult and dialogue to shape our demands to the EU and the international community.

*“We offer our **unconditional support** to our sisters in these very difficult times and to **all women and girls who are affected by conflict and war** in the world. Conflict and war are ultimate expressions of patriarchy. It’s time for a **new world order** in which women are in the driving seat.”*

Réka Sáfrány, EWL President

This Statement was endorsed at the end of a webinar with EWL members and the National Council of Women of Ukraine on 3 March 2022

⁵ [LexUriServ.do \(europa.eu\)](https://lexUriServ.do.europa.eu)