

GNWP Activities Supporting Ukrainian Women Peacebuilders

- 16-18 November 2022** Crisis Communications and Digital Security Workshop
18 November 2022 Hybrid Event on Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security
19-21 November 2022 Training on Accompaniment and Support to Victims and Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and other War Crimes
-

HYBRID EVENT

Regional Solutions, Global Impact: Can a Regional Action Plan on WPS counter the effects of ongoing wars in the region?

18 November 2022

2:00 to 3:30 PM CET (Poland Time) | 9:00 to 10:30 AM EST (New York Time)

Convened in a hybrid format

Organized by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Democracy Development Center (DDC), the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO), the NGO Commission on the Status of Women - NY, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

There have been many discussions on Russia's invasion of Ukraine in the Security Council, the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other multilateral and high-level policy-making spaces. While there have been references to UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), there has been no effort to put women central in response to the conflict and crisis.

Regarding humanitarian work in Ukraine, local women's rights organizations are often excluded in the design and implementation of humanitarian response. Their extensive experience on the ground, their first-hand knowledge of the situation, their profound understanding of the context, and the trust they already have in their communities are vast untapped resources. Research commissioned by the UK Humanitarian Innovation Hub revealed that [f]or the first six weeks post-invasion, virtually all humanitarian aid inside Ukraine was organized and implemented by local actors, including around 150 pre-existing national NGOs, church groups, and about 1,700 newly formed local aid groups.

If local women are involved in the setting up coordination structures, design, and implementation of humanitarian response, and the needs of women and girls are prioritized, efforts to address humanitarian crises can foster social cohesion and contribute to long-term peace, development and stability.

Ukraine entered its ninth month of fighting Russian invaders just after the 22nd anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. These coinciding milestones highlight the importance of WPS in Ukraine today and the vital work of Ukrainian women peacebuilders in its implementation. It is clear, however, that Russia's war on Ukraine is not simply a conflict between two nations. Instead, it is a regional and global conflict that requires regional and global solutions.

GNWP and DDC, in cooperation with other civil society groups and Member States, are organizing a panel discussion featuring local women peacebuilders from Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Moldova on 18 November 2022.

The objectives of the panel discussions are:

1. To enable local women peacebuilders from Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova, to present their experiences in advocating for the implementation of the WPS resolutions; and gender-responsive humanitarian action;
2. To discuss the relevance of a Regional Action Plan (RAP) on WPS in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus in the ongoing war in Ukraine, including the impact of the war in Georgia and Moldova; and the resurgence of violence between Armenia and Azerbaijan; and
3. To discuss how a RAP WPS in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus can be an instrument to guarantee local women and youth peacebuilders' meaningful participation in peace processes and gender-responsive humanitarian action in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus.

Format, speakers, and audience:

The event will be convened in a hybrid format (a combination of in-person and virtual participation). Rather than hosting the event from New York, we will be holding it from Poland, where local women peacebuilders from Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova, are gathered. This reinforces the message that Ukrainian women peacebuilders should set the WPS agenda themselves!

GNWP will simultaneously interpret English, Ukrainian, and American Sign Language.

IN-PERSON TRAINING

Crisis Communications and Digital Security Workshop

16-18 November 2022 | Poland | Closed event to participants

GNWP and DDC will organize a three-day training on crisis communication and digital security to increase capacity and form a network among Ukrainian women peacebuilders, journalists, and press officers from oblast-government departments responsible for implementing the oblast action plans on 1325. Specifically, this training aims to:

1. Enhance the capacities of the participants to detect and prevent the spread of disinformation and fake news, and promote digital security;
2. Equip the participants with knowledge in producing and disseminating timely and factual information on Ukraine's conflict and where to access humanitarian support; and
3. Develop viable and sustainable local Crisis Communication Strategies that combine online and offline media and platforms.

**Training on Accompaniment and Support to Victims and Survivors of
Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) and other War Crimes in Ukraine**

19-21 November 2022 | Poland | Closed event to participants

GNWP and DDC will organize a three-day training that aims to fill in the gap in accompaniment and support mechanisms in the documentation of war crimes in Ukraine. The training participants are local women and youth peacebuilders and local authorities from Kirovohradska, Odessa, and Volynska oblasts, who will form community-based groups that will accompany and support victims and survivors of CRSV and other war crimes against women when they decide to testify about the crimes committed against them.

The training will include sessions on international and national laws, norms, standards, and existing mechanisms for documenting war crimes. It will present a trauma-informed approach to establishing a multi-disciplinary, community-based victim and survivor-centered support mechanism in war crimes documentation. In addition, the training will include a session on sustained advocacy for the ethical and systematic gathering of survivor testimonies and on access to justice. The training will also produce an initial mapping of support services that victims and survivors need including but not limited to medical services, psychosocial counseling, and legal assistance. The initial mapping will also identify the service providers in the Kirovohradska, Odessa, and Volynska oblasts and the gaps in such services.

Following the training, GNWP, DDC, and the participants will work with the Prosecutor General's Office, relevant government and UN offices, and accredited documenters of war crimes in Ukraine to establish a support system for victims and survivors who wish to testify about the crimes committed against them. The advocacy strategy for the ethical and systematic gathering of survivor testimonies and access to justice will also be developed and rolled out after the training.