



Committee “NGOs as advocates for gender equality and women’s rights”

Statement on women’s situation in Ukraine

War is not gender neutral: In times of conflict and war, women and girls suffer disproportionately. Especially those who are refugees and displaced from their homes are at increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence. Women also bear the burden of keeping their families together, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of their children and coping with the long-term physical violations of war.

The conflict in Ukraine cannot leave us silent. We fear for the safety of all Ukrainians, recognizing that women and girls demand our special attention and protection:

We encourage civil society in the Council of Europe’s member states to use their voice to ensure women’s and girl’s health and wellbeing, to safeguard their rights and integrity as stated in the European Convention on Human Rights, to which all 47 Council of Europe member states are obliged to adhere.

We call for women’s full and meaningful inclusion in peace talks and humanitarian processes crucial for gender-responsive decision-making and solutions.

The overwhelming helpfulness of European countries we are witnessing in these days is impressive. Council of Europe member states, NGOs and civil society organizations have to pursue their efforts to amplify the voices of women and girls for a world safe from fear, safe from violence.

Committee Co-chairs:

Bettina Hahne (Soroptimist International of Europe)

<https://www.soroptimisteurope.org/sie-statement-womens-situation-ukraine/>

Anita Schnetzer-Spranger (Zonta International)

https://www.zonta.org/Web/News_Events/Articles/Zonta_International_stands_with_our_members_in_Ukraine.aspx.

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