



# UKRAINIAN WOMEN'S CONGRESS

Український Жіночий Конгрес

## STATEMENT

### based on the results of *Regional Ukrainian Women's Congress*

*Ukrainian Women's Congress* held an important discussion on the role of Ukrainian women during the war and after the victory of Ukraine. The *Regional Ukrainian Women's Congress* has taken place in the difficult conditions of a full-scale war, successfully coping with the challenges, collecting and telling successful stories of women's leadership. *UWC* continues to operate as a platform for sharing experience, an opportunity for professional growth through the exchange of information about the important for today practices and initiatives that bring our victory closer.

The *Regional Ukrainian Women's Congress* has focused on the topics of political participation and women leadership at the national level and in local self-management, on the territories where active hostilities are taking place and in relatively safe regions. The *UWC* has drawn attention to the economic opportunities created by women and for women, and to the changing social roles of women, which are part of the transformational processes during the global upheaval caused by the war.

*Ukrainian Women's Congress* appeals to state authorities and local governments, representatives of public, women's and human rights organizations, analytical centers, opinion leaders, as well as the international community **to join forces and overcome the challenges**, faced by women, women's organizations and communities, and the women's movement in Ukraine and in the world.

1. During the war, Ukrainian women are manifesting leadership – they lead military-civilian administrations and stay with their communities in conditions of mortal danger and hostilities, help to overcome migratory and humanitarian challenges, take on the coordination of large social and volunteer projects. At the same time, a threatening trend is observed – women and men often receive unequal opportunities in important decisions making regarding the life and development of the country and communities. We call on to support the leadership of Ukrainian women with all possible means and **to create conditions, in which, after the victory of Ukraine, women remain visible and have equal opportunities** for political, economic and social participation in all processes of the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine.
  2. Due to the long-term work and tireless efforts of Ukrainian parliamentarians, activists of the women's movement in Ukraine and with the help of international
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partners, today Ukrainian servicewomen have better opportunities to realize their potential in the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to protect Ukraine from the enemy. We call on the military-civilian leadership of the state to strictly follow the principles of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 for the integration of women into the security sector, as well as ***to guarantee appropriate conditions for women to serve in the military and to create opportunities for the transfer of combat experience*** after the victory of Ukraine to new generations of Ukrainian servicewomen, as well as within international projects.

3. In war conditions, women are staying in Ukraine, supporting the Ukrainian economy, finding opportunities for economic activity and business development, moving from competition to joint entrepreneurial initiatives. The economic front today is an important element of our struggle, because victory in the war is directly related to the economic stability of the state. We call for ***the creation of appropriate conditions that will guarantee women's access to economic opportunities, equal conditions for economic activity and decent reward***. Today it is important to create new jobs and offer a competitive product in Europe and the world, so that after the victory of Ukraine, we will have a well-functioning infrastructure and a functioning economy.
  4. The success in renewal of entrepreneurship lies in the awareness of a common goal that is the activity for victory. Today, there is no competition among the representatives of the private sector. Instead, entrepreneurs discover advantages in the synergy of businesses from different regions and create products that complement each other. We call on the local authorities ***to provide support to entrepreneurs' initiatives through creation of communication platforms and through information exchange about business relocation***, sales and logistics operations in new regions. Networking by professional affiliation and effective call centers with the ability to respond to the urgent requests of entrepreneurs become new tools for supporting entrepreneurship in wartime conditions. We also pay a special attention to the support of small agricultural family businesses that need to renew their development in new regions, because their main asset – land – is real estate from the temporarily occupied regions, and, therefore, it is necessary for them to create conditions for entrepreneurship through the state program for the recovery of Ukraine.
  5. At the same time, as a result of military aggression, a part of Ukrainian women, fleeing the war, were forced to leave their homes and found salvation abroad. We thank the governments, citizens of all countries, who have opened their doors to Ukrainian men and women, supported us in the most difficult time and now remain ready to provide assistance. We hope for a gradual solution to migration challenges, and we also ***encourage international organizations to cooperate with Ukrainian women's initiatives abroad*** in order to find the best solutions and start joint projects, in particular, in the field of education and employment, which should be
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interesting and effective for both parties. We also call on the state authorities to develop a strategy for involving women who are abroad in the post-war recovery process and their reintegration into the social and political life of Ukraine as soon as possible.

6. The war has caused a large-scale humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. The women's movement has effectively responded to such a challenge, joined in solving the most urgent humanitarian problems faced by vulnerable groups, in particular, by women, children, elderly people, as well as Ukrainian men and women who are in temporarily uncontrolled territories. The women's movement has also shown strong horizontal networks which emerged between women's organizations and communities. It is important in the future, ***grounding on the achievements and opportunities of the decentralization reform and gender-oriented governance, to maintain communication and unite***, as well as to build partnerships with international women's organizations, networks and platforms, in order to solve humanitarian problems within the existing initiatives or as new projects and ensure sustainable development of communities. We call on local authorities to take into account the gender perspective in the context of war, to analyze the needs of women and men from different social groups, and to implement gender-oriented governance tools in the development and implementation of local policies.
  7. The brutality of this war has shocked the whole world, and the crimes committed by Russian soldiers go beyond internationally recognized rules of warfare or morality. We call on national authorities and international organizations ***to promote the activities of Ukrainian women's and human rights organizations that document war crimes and provide assistance to women who have survived war-related violence***, in order to properly improve Ukrainian national legislation and harmonize it with international standards to ensure fair justice and retribution for crimes committed by Russia.
  8. Domestic violence remains a challenge, which has to be dealt with during wartime as well. We welcome the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and call on for further joint efforts of state authorities, civil society and international partners to ***harmonize Ukrainian legislation and guarantee appropriate conditions and standards for the survivors of domestic violence to receive protection*** and assistance.
  9. The trauma of the war affects the entire Ukrainian society. A difficult path of understanding the consequences of the armed confrontation and work on the psychological recovery of those who suffered from the war the most is waiting ahead. We call on for ***the development and support of psychological assistance projects for women*** to get opportunities to recover and successfully overcome this trauma.
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10. The issue of arms for Ukraine is a humanitarian issue today. We call on the international community *to provide Ukraine with weapons* that will help the Armed Forces of Ukraine to defeat the enemy faster, as well as *to strengthen sanctions* that will help weaken Russia and never allow bloodshed and large-scale war to happen again.
11. The information front is a part of the struggle for Ukraine's freedom. Women in this struggle are on the front lines – they tirelessly tell to Ukrainians and to the whole world war stories from epicenters of events, from hot spots and from occupied cities. We call on *support for Ukrainian women in the media* and believe that today it is extremely important to talk about the heroism and dedication of women in this important mission in order to hold the information front with joint efforts.
12. We praise the *significant contribution of Ukrainian women's diplomacy* in obtaining candidate status and membership in the European Union. These efforts united women who make decisions and influence them, women in the Ukrainian Parliament and in the Government of Ukraine, people's deputies in official delegations and experts in advocacy work, women leading the European institutions as well as the parliaments and the governments of the EU countries, who've received Ukrainian delegations with official visits and supported the arguments to grant Ukraine the status of a candidate for EU membership.
13. We also call for *the effective and comprehensive participation of women in international platforms and formats where decisions regarding support for Ukraine are made*, as well as the use of gender-oriented analysis in developing strategies and action plans. The new Marshall Plan for Ukraine must be written with the effective participation of women!

As a candidate country for EU membership, Ukraine has already demonstrated the determination and irreversibility of its European policy. The war is accelerating the transformational process, where the women's movement is a reliable backbone for further reforms. War weariness should not be an excuse for inaction. On the contrary, for four months now we have seen the leadership of Ukrainian women, which inspires and motivates us to act in order to overcome the challenges that Ukraine, Europe and the whole world are facing today.

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