



*Council of Europe  
Parliamentary Assembly*

*The President*

Strasbourg, 8 March 2022

**Open letter to the Chairperson of the Ukrainian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly**

Dear Chairperson, Dear Mariia,

Today, 8 March 2022, on International Women's Day, my thoughts of solidarity are especially with all women in Ukraine, who now suffer indescribably from the Russian military aggression against them and all the citizens of our member State.

On International Women's Day, we see you, women of Ukraine, protecting your children, organising first aid for the wounded, collecting food for those in dire need, bravely protesting against the aggressor; we see you caring for your children, for the sick, the disabled and elderly people who have to leave their homes to seek shelter somewhere, inside or outside your country. We see you, women of Ukraine, participating in keeping your country organised, at all levels, however difficult that is.

Let us face facts. It is the President of the Russian Federation who started this disaster. He bears the responsibility for this violation of the fundamental rights and freedoms of millions of women and men in Ukraine. This man is also responsible for hurting his own people: his own soldiers who he makes attack, suffer and die; his own citizens who will have to pay the price for his recklessness. He isolates his own people from the rest of the world, and from the oldest and largest treaty-based organisation in Europe, the Council of Europe. After 25 years of participating in this organisation, which wants to protect and promote the rule of law, human rights and democratic society, this man breaks away from civilisation and sends his people into a desert without rules and without protection.

Let us face facts. It is mainly male generals who command the invasive armies and spread the disaster throughout Ukraine. It is mainly prominent male politicians from Russia who allow their President and generals to violate international law. It is mainly male officers from Russia who order their mainly male soldiers to bring despair to millions of Ukrainian citizens.

In a way, this war is literally a man-made disaster.

Today I call on the President, the politicians, the generals and the soldiers of the Russian Federation to immediately and unconditionally stop their violent aggression towards the people and State of Ukraine.

Be aware: they will all be held accountable. Sooner or later – but there will be no escape.

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Today I also call in particular on the women of Russia to reclaim their role in ending this war, which never should have started and which has to stop immediately. I know of the dangers you face in Russia when protesting. But we need your support now, women of Russia, to help the women of Ukraine, and all Ukrainians with them.

In the first year of this century, the United Nations Security Council recognised in its Resolution 1325 the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace building, peace keeping, humanitarian responses and in post-conflict reconstruction. Twenty-two years ago, the Security Council stressed the importance of equal participation and the full involvement of women in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. If ever, it is now that we should put these words into practice.

UN Resolution 1325 urges all parties to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. Our Ukrainian colleague Yevheniia Kravchuk will soon present to our Parliamentary Assembly a resolution and a report on protection and justice for women in peace reconciliation, which will contain a roadmap for future action. I sincerely hope it will help us to help you a little, women of Ukraine, in your grand efforts to end the war and rebuild peace.

Dear Mariia, I hope you will be able to attend our Assembly's extraordinary session, on 14 and 15 March 2022.

Please take care, stay safe.

Yours sincerely,



Tiny Kox

Ms Mariia Mezentseva  
Chairperson  
Delegation of Ukraine to the Parliamentary Assembly  
of the Council of Europe