

# Statement by Civil Society Organizations:

**Governments must guarantee the sexual and reproductive health of all women, adolescents and girls, as well as gender diverse people, in the context of the refugee crisis in **Ukraine and its neighboring countries.****

March 2022

The organizations listed below express our deepest concern for the ongoing and escalating conflict in Ukraine, and call on governments to guarantee the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all women, adolescents and girls, as well as gender-diverse people, in the context of the refugees crisis affecting the Ukrainian border and its neighboring countries.

Of the 2 million refugees that have fled Ukraine in recent weeks, the majority are women, children and adolescents. Since the invasion began, we have witnessed disturbing reports of how the rights of women, girls, and adolescents' SRHR are being violated, including women giving birth in bomb shelters with little equipment and in unsafe conditions, while those crossing the border are facing barriers in their access to SRHR services.

We have seen equally disturbing reports of human trafficking and sexual violence against women fleeing the zones under attack, and rampant acts of violence and discrimination against refugees at the border, in particular LGBTI people as well as African and South Asian individuals fleeing Ukraine.

Governments hosting refugees have an obligation to guarantee the sexual and reproductive health and rights of those seeking refuge, and to ensure their unhindered access to free and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services as well as services for sexual and gender-based violence victims and survivors free from stigma, discrimination and violence, and with full and informed consent. Therefore, the sexual and reproductive health needs from those fleeing Ukraine, most particularly women, girls and gender-diverse people, must be prioritized and their rights must be guaranteed.

Specifically, we call on governments to:

- Ensure the integrity of all refugees without stigma and discrimination, particularly women, girls and gender-diverse people, including people of African descent, Roma, Asian and other ethnic groups.
- Remove restrictions for accessing contraceptives, including emergency contraception.
- Guarantee unhindered access to safe abortion and post-abortion care services and to pre and postnatal care services.
- Ensure access to emergency obstetric care.

- Ensure continued access to HIV care and treatment.
- Ensure access to services for sexual and gender-based violence victims and survivors, including psychosocial support services, and protection from gender-based violence.

We also call on States to guarantee the safety and integrity of human rights defenders working with refugees coming out of Ukraine, and to refrain from harassing and criminalizing their work, particularly women human rights defenders who advocate and provide essential sexual and reproductive health services to women, girls and gender-diverse people fleeing Ukrainian territory. Under international law, governments must ensure that human rights defenders are allowed to pursue their legitimate activities without reprisals, threats, intimidation, harassment, discrimination, or unnecessary legal obstacles.

We express our deepest solidarity with the people of Ukraine as well as with all those who have been forced to leave the Ukrainian territory, and reaffirm our call on all governments in the region to promote, protect and fulfill the rights of all women, girls, adolescents and gender-diverse people fleeing Ukraine without discrimination of any kind.

In solidarity,

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| Aduocates for Youth  | Washington, D.C. |
| AIDOS - Italian Association for Women in Development         | Italy            |
| Alianza por la Solidaridad                                   | Spain            |
| Anis - Instituto de Bioética                                 | Brazil           |
| Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) | Malaysia         |
| Association Femmes Leadeeship et Développement Durable       | Mali             |
| ATHENA Network   | Africa           |
| Balance Promoción para el Desarrollo y Juventud AC           | Mexico           |
| BIMBA  | Kiribati         |
| CAMPUS DE PENSADORAS URBANAS DELICIAS REGION CENTRO SUR      | MEXICO           |
| Center for Reproductive Rights                               | Global           |
| CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality                               | Netherlands      |

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| CLACAI, Consorcio Latinoamericano Contra el Aborto Inseguro                             | Peru                                    |
| COC Nederland   | The Netherlands                         |
| DIVA for Equality   | Fiji                                    |
| El Colegio de México  | Mexico                                  |
| FAMILY HEALTH OPTIONS KENYA   | NAIROBI                                 |
| Federation for Women and Family Planning  | Poland                                  |
| Femmes Leadwship et Développement Durable   | Mali                                    |
| Fiji Youth SRHR Alliance (FYSA)   | Fiji                                    |
| Fòs Feminista   | Global                                  |
| Fundacion para estudio e investigacion de la Mujer                                      | Argentina                               |
| FUSA AC   | Argentina                               |
| Generation Initiative for Women and Youth Network(GIWYN)                                | Nigeria                                 |
| ILGA World  | Switzerland                             |
| Iniciatiuas Sanitarias  | Uruguay                                 |
| INPPARES  | Perú                                    |
| MenEngage Global Alliance   | USA                                     |
| Our Circle  | Belize                                  |
| OutRight Action International   | US/Global                               |
| Pacific Human Rights Initiative   | Samoa                                   |
| Physicians for Human Rights   | U.S. and Kenya                          |
| Planned Parenthood Federation of America  | United States                           |
| Planned Parenthood Global   | United States, Latin America and Africa |
| PROLIDER  | LATIN AMERICA                           |
| PROMSEX, Centro de Promocion y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos         | Peru                                    |
| Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice   | Transnational                           |
| SEDRA-F`PFE   | SPAIN                                   |
| SEDRA-FPFE  | SPAIN                                   |
| SheDecides  | UK                                      |
| Shifting the Power Coalition  | Fiji / Pacific                          |
| Societatea de Planificare a Familiei din Moldova/Family Planning Association of Moldova | Republic of Moldova                     |
| Soroptimist international   | United Kingdom                          |
| Strumphet Alliance Network fiji   | Fiji                                    |
| Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH)   | Kenya                                   |
| UN Program, Occidental College  | USA                                     |
| Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights   | USA                                     |
| WECF International  | Netherlands, Germany, France, Georgia   |

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| WGNRR AFRICA   | Tanzania   |
| WHRDMENA Coalition                                     | Regionally   |
| WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform                           | Netherlands  |
| Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR)- New Ways        | Turkey   |
| Women's Council Denmark                                | Denmark  |
| Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) | Philippines  |
| Women's Health in Women's Hands CHC                    | Canada   |
| Women's Link Worldwide                                 | Transnational organization (Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Europe and East Africa)) |
| Women's Major Group                                    | Global   |
| WUNRN-Women's UN Report Network                        | Global   |