

Declaration of the Feminist Movement of Ukraine: We Amplify International Impact

The Ukrainian feminist movement is a powerful force that shapes the national agenda, upholds international human rights standards, and promotes Ukraine's interests worldwide.

Today, when in many countries the principles of democracy are being undermined, human rights institutions are being ignored, and women's rights are being attacked, the Ukrainian feminist movement shall be manifested clearly — from its own experience of war, resistance, responsibility, and recovery. Ukraine's voice must be heard more so that we can not only declare our problems and needs, but also actively shape the global agenda.



Our solidarity, joint principles, and coordinated actions are the main ammunition that make the voice of the Ukrainian feminist movement influential on the international stage.

The Ukrainian feminist movement operates in a specific historical context — the war, russian aggression, post-soviet legacy, economic challenges, forced displacement, rising violence, and prolonged societal exhaustion. Therefore, the Ukrainian experience should not be replaced by external frames; it should be presented as an experience of subjectivity, strength, and dignity.

We are ready to raise issues of priority for our sisters in the movement and for the women of Ukraine on international platforms, and to assert these priorities. We advocate for the inclusion of our sisters in those international dialogues where Ukrainian voices are scarce.

Our advocacy is flexible but uncompromising on issues of national security and human rights. We speak about feminism in a comprehensible way — for different groups in society, involving allies in dispelling myths about feminism.

Priorities that unite us

1. EU integration and gender equality

European integration must strengthen the protection of women's rights and gender equality. To make it happen, we systematically monitor the implementation of EU norms, work to ensure institutional support for feminist and women's organizations, support women's leadership, organize international exchange of experience, internships, training for representatives of the feminist movement, as well as communication, advocacy campaigns and other activities to include the gender equality agenda in Ukraine's European integration.

2. Gender responsive recovery and human capital development

Ukraine's recovery is a chance to build a just and resilient society, where a gender-responsive approach is an essential principle of all strategies, budgets, and decisions. We advocate for women's participation as key agents of recovery. We integrate gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting into state policies and international programs, promote the full involvement of women's organizations at all stages from planning to evaluation, conduct systematic gender analysis and demand the use of disaggregated data, advocate for the consideration of the specific needs of different groups of women, implement an intersectional approach, seek recognition of feminist organizations as key stakeholders with adequate funding, and ensure the connection of recovery with the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and post-conflict peacebuilding. The feminist movement of Ukraine consistently advocates, shares expertise and actively participates in gender-responsive recovery, as the recovery cannot be complete without women.

3. International technical assistance and inclusive humanitarian response

International technical assistance should be implemented in partnership with the feminist movement and be based on the real needs of communities, ensuring an inclusive humanitarian

response. We insist on the involvement of local communities in the formulation of requests and work with donor countries to lobby for support for civil society and specific target groups from marginalized communities. We implement gender mainstreaming as a binding principle of international assistance, strengthen women's representation in decision-making processes, spread successful international practices and identify key stakeholders for effective interaction.

4. Sustainable funding to support the resilience of feminist organizations in Ukraine

Unstable and short-term “project” funding weakens women’s human rights organizations, creates risks of losing hard-earned results, and undermines Ukraine’s implementation of international obligations. In contrast, long-term financial stability ensures institutional resilience, development of expertise, and continuous support to target groups. We therefore advocate for a shift by international donors from short-term grants to long-term institutional funding, promote direct investment in local and regional organizations in small communities, flexible grantmaking procedures adapted to security and crisis response, recognition of the economic contribution of women’s organizations to human capital recovery and GDP growth, and reform of international funding architecture to remove systemic barriers. We also voice concern about plans to merge UN Women and UNFPA, as this could weaken the global and national mandates to protect women’s rights and promote gender equality.

5. Impact on the global agenda of UN Resolution 1325 “Women, Peace, Security”

Ukraine has a unique experience of implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the context of full-scale war, and we are using this experience to influence the global agenda and strengthen international standards for the protection of women’s rights in conflict. We share Ukrainian experiences and women’s lived stories through the lens of Resolution 1325, scale up successful practices of women’s participation in the security and defense sector, implement comprehensive mental health rehabilitation programs, strengthen networking founded on the 1325 regional coalitions, and integrate territorial security audits into regional and national policies. Through these actions, we shape Ukraine’s contribution to the global Women, Peace and Security movement and strengthen international mechanisms for the protection of women and their participation in peacebuilding and recovery processes.

6. International justice, security and accountability

The return and rehabilitation of deported children and captive women require not only humanitarian solutions but also systemic political pressure and compliance with international humanitarian law, which is why we are shifting this discourse to the sphere of international justice

and security. We promote active participation of Ukrainian women's organizations in the processes of holding the Russian Federation accountable for the crime of aggression, war crimes, and war-related sexual violence; we are seeking recognition of the mass deportation of Ukrainian children as a systemic war crime and genocidal practice at the UN and European institutions; we are advocating for the protection and immediate release of civilian and military women held in inhumane conditions of Russian captivity; and we are also seeking long-term resources for the professional psychological and social rehabilitation of returned women and children and the memorialization of memory as a key element of post-war peacebuilding.

7. Support in the defense of Ukraine

Financial and military assistance to Ukraine is not financing war but an investment in protecting Ukraine's sovereignty and the security of all of Europe, so we are systematically working to reinforce international support. We are in constant communication with foreign governments, the European Parliament, the Ukrainian diaspora, and leading European human rights networks, including the European Women's Lobby and the WAVE Network, to ensure the protection of women's rights and human rights defenders in conflict situations and to strengthen international solidarity with Ukraine. Through this work, we are raising awareness of the fact that defense support is a contribution to the security of the entire democratic world.



Our international advocacy is guided by Principles that amplify our voice and strengthen the integrity and credibility of the movement

1. Inclusivity and representativeness for all

Ukrainian representation abroad should reflect the diversity of our movement. We care for the voices of different groups of women with different social experiences to be heard on the international stage, so that their needs and interests are adequately represented: regional activists, LGBTQI+ women, Roma women and representatives of other ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples, women with disabilities, rural women, feminists working in de-occupied territories, female military personnel and veterans, women survivors and victims of war crimes committed by Russia, and others.

2. Shared vision

The international work of women leaders and organizations is not an individual achievement, but a component of Ukraine's feminist diplomacy. We jointly identify strategic platforms, coordinate advocacy, and present a common consolidated position on key challenges.

3. Care for sustainability

International advocacy requires enormous emotional and intellectual resources. We practice the mutual support principle by assisting with the expert preparation of speakers within the movement to preserve our sisters' resources and expand the window of opportunity for new community representatives.

4. Strategic partnerships and alliances

We intentionally build long-term coalitions with international feminist and human rights movements that share our values. We seek common ground in global discourse (e.g., the fight against authoritarianism or the crisis of the care system) to integrate the Ukrainian context into the global agenda. We recognize the role of Ukrainian women's organizations in the diaspora as a strategic advocacy infrastructure and a network of trust. The diaspora helps to explain the Ukrainian

experience in the language of international institutions, governments, and the media, uniting the historical diaspora and the new Ukrainian presence in the world. We coordinate our actions and collaborate with the Ukrainian diaspora as ambassadors of Ukraine around the world.

5. Subjectivity and decolonial optics

We speak to the world from a position of subjectivity, circulating the unique expert experience of survival and leadership during the war. We actively counteract attempts by Western or post-soviet academic and political discourse to infantilize the Ukrainian feminist movement or impose outdated frameworks of “peacemaking” on us. The role of women in the resistance movement, history, and culture must be reinterpreted beyond colonial stereotypes of victimhood or inferiority.

6. Sisterhood and solidarity

We do not compete for space at international forums. Instead, we amplify one another’s voices by reinforcing colleagues’ key messages and supporting their advocacy campaigns. Organizations and movement leaders coordinate to nominate or recommend the expert best placed to represent a particular issue at each event. In doing so, we strengthen horizontal ties and mentor emerging teams.

7. Transparency and accountability of the movement

Participation in international events does not end with the final speech. The knowledge and experience gained are shared with the wider movement through debriefings, reports and publications, helping others plan their next steps and communicate about feminism in language accessible to society as a whole.

8. Contextualization and security sensitivity

We speak with one voice on key issues critical to Ukraine’s survival, combining feminist values with the realities of national security, including the right to self-defense, armed defense and the condemnation of ecocide. Our advocacy is flexible, but uncompromising when it comes to national security and human rights.

This Declaration was developed at the Fifth Feminist Forum in June 2026. All members of the women’s movement who share the values set out in the Declaration are welcome to disseminate it and use it in their work.

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