



PeaceWomen Across the Globe
FRIEDENSFRAUEN WELTWEIT
نساء من أجل السلام عبر العالم
Femmes de Paix Autour du Monde
Женщины мира за мир на земле
MUJERES DE PAZ EN EL MUNDO
Mulheres pela Paz ao redor do Mundo
DONNE DI PACE NEL MONDO
ピースウーマン—国境を越え平和をつくる女たち
全球和平妇女

Demands on the Swiss Federal Council and the international community

Appeal on the first anniversary of the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine

One year after the start of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, there are no signs of a ceasefire, let alone peace. Since 24 February 2022, more than 200,000 soldiers and, depending on the source, up to 50,000 civilians have lost their lives in the gruesome war. Every day the numbers rise and the suffering increases. On the anniversary of the attack, we are issuing a renewed appeal with a special focus on the participation and protection of women.

The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security" lies at the centre of our actions and demands. It calls for the participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace processes and reconstruction after wars and armed conflicts. It also calls for the protection of women in armed conflicts, especially from sexualised and gender-based violence. The debates on arms deliveries triggered by the war against Ukraine ignore the fact that deliveries of war material fuel and prolong war – with direct consequences for women and vulnerable population groups.

That is why we stand for a peace policy of disarmament and demilitarisation. They are cornerstones of our feminist understanding of peace, which also forms the basis of our work in Ukraine. We continue to be in contact with women affected by the war and, together with our partner KFR Public Alternative, organise exchange forums. There, the focus is on issues that are of central importance to the women. In telling their stories and sharing their experiences of violence, they draw new strength and at the same time bear witness for the documentation of violence – this also enables the investigation of war crimes. Their experiences and stories also provide guidance for the planning of reconstruction and reconciliation work. One woman said: "The title of my narrative is Reinvention: We scarcely believe it today, but there is a 'life after'. Regardless of how scary it is today, there is a tomorrow. My story is about hope, and it will have an impact."

Our demands to the Swiss Federal Council and the international community are based on this exchange among women and our experience in working with our project partners in countries affected by war:

- All parties to the conflict are called upon to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence and other forms of sexual abuse. Cases of sexualised wartime violence must be documented and prosecuted. Corresponding demands of UN Security Resolution 1325 must be implemented and enforced by the conflict parties and the international community.





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- All representatives of civil society who practise non-violent resistance – both in Ukraine and Russia – need material support and solidarity from all governments and the international community.
- Demilitarisation programmes must be launched, including the monitoring of remaining war material. Switzerland should support the confiscation of weapons that are circulating uncontrolled, also with the aim to protect vulnerable groups, especially women. The proliferation of weapons, even after successful peace negotiations, has been proven to lead to more violence against women.
- Representatives of women's organisations must be involved at all levels in any peace negotiations. The participation of women is crucial for a genuine peace and comprehensive security in post-war Ukraine. Women should also be involved in the reintegration of ex-soldiers into civilian life.
- Local women's networks must be included consistently and at all levels in the planning and implementation of reconstruction. The diversity of women's lives, lifestyles and needs must be taken into consideration.

Further information on our website: 1000peacewomen.org

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Bern, 24.02.2023

