



UKRAINIAN SURVIVORS OF CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

CALL TO ACTION



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We, Ukrainian survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, join SEMA, the global network of victims and survivors of wartime sexual violence, as well as survivors and allies around the world, in our collective battle for a world where sexual violence is no longer used in conflicts, where states hold other states accountable, and where states fulfill their international obligations by taking concrete measures to prevent, respond to, and repair the serious harm caused by sexual violence in conflict.

We and other actors who support our fight for justice and reparation can't fight this war alone, **can't fight this war alone.**

We demand concrete actions from the government of Ukraine and the international community.

We, Ukrainian survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, welcome the existence of the SEMA Global Call to Action and call on the international community to support the demands set out therein.

However, the situation in Ukraine, in the context of the Russian Federation's ongoing war of aggression, requires considering the specific needs, wishes and demands of Ukrainian survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

Therefore **WE**, Ukrainian women and men who have survived conflict-related sexual violence, publish this **CALL TO ACTION** and we call on all actors to work with us to make these demands a reality.

Requirements set out in our Call to Action, are based on the following principles and realities specific to the Ukrainian context.

Since 2014, Ukraine has been involved in an international armed conflict caused by the act of aggression of the Russian Federation against the territorial integrity of Ukraine and the subsequent occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine. It is necessary to ensure equal treatment for all survivors and not make any adverse distinctions between those affected since 2014 and those affected after the full-scale invasion in 2022.



The Russian Federation's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine and occupation of Ukrainian territory have caused huge damage to the Ukrainian state and Ukrainian people. We, Ukrainian women and men who have survived conflict-related sexual violence, stand in solidarity with all those who suffered from the Russian Federation's war of aggression, including those Ukrainians who are currently in the temporarily occupied territories and on the front lines, as well as those who are missing, in captivity, and those who were displaced and/or forcibly deported to the territory of the Russian Federation. We call on the international community to assist in the release of all Ukrainians imprisoned by the Russian Federation. The needs and demands of many Ukrainians cannot yet be known due to the nature of violations committed against them. Justice, reparations and support services should be available to them when they are released in the future.

The specific context of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine means that, first of all, the Russian Federation must be responsible for reparations for the damage caused by its numerous international crimes, and seized assets must be used for this important purpose, as well as for the reconstruction of Ukraine.

Without displacing this primary responsibility, the reality is that many survivors need urgent humanitarian support and reparation measures. The state of Ukraine and the international community, including state and non-state actors, should fill this gap and provide urgent reparative measures to vulnerable victims and persons at risk.

We recognize the steps that the Ukrainian government has taken to update legislation in accordance with international human rights standards, in particular, ratification of the Rome Statute. We call on the government to continue to review legislation and existing laws in order to ensure their compliance with the international obligations set out in the human rights conventions ratified by Ukraine.

Finally, survivors should be at the center of all response measures and have the right to fully participate in the development of all measures aimed at overcoming conflict-related sexual violence in Ukraine.



To the Government of Ukraine:

Prevention

1.

IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM, by regional authorities, of timely informing and warning the population about the potential threats and consequences of occupation, including the risk of detention, torture, and conflict-related sexual violence, as well as a procedure for evacuating civilians.

2.

BRING TO JUSTICE those responsible for war crimes at the national and international levels as this is essential to preventing and deterring future acts of conflict-related sexual violence.

3.

IMPLEMENT A CLEAR PLAN of action to prevent stigmatization and discrimination against survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, and to ensure compliance with the Murad Code in the work of law enforcement agencies, medical institutions, media, social services, executive authorities and local governments. In addition, inform the public about what acts constitute conflict-related sexual violence, in order to avoid misunderstandings by the public.

4.

INVOLVE SURVIVORS OF CRSV AND TORTURE as consultants and experts, with reimbursement of costs and participation, where appropriate, in working groups on issues related to their rights, status and social protection.

5.

TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT CHILDREN affected by CRSV or born as a result of CRSV, including providing health care, security, housing, development conditions, and support for adoption processes for children left without parental care.



Response

6.

CIVILIANS who were deprived of their personal freedom as a result of the Russian Federation's war of aggression, survived CRSV and torture, or were forced to leave their place of residence, need long-term socio-economic and housing support.

7.

PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE survivor-centered care and reparations so that survivors can rebuild their lives, integrate into communities, and prevent further stigma and harm.

8.

SERVICES FOR CRSV survivors should be adapted in such a way as to ensure confidentiality and the protection of personal information.

9.

DEVELOP A LAW aimed at the social protection of persons who survived torture as a result of the Russian Federation's war of aggression.

Justice and Accountability

10.

INVESTIGATIONS, prosecutions and accountability of those who have committed or contributed to the commission of CRSV crimes must be carried out at both national and international levels.

11.

RECOGNIZE CONFLICT-RELATED sexual violence and torture as illegal methods of warfare.

12.

PERSONS guilty of CRSV, torture, and other war crimes must not be granted amnesty.



Reparations

13. **IMPLEMENT LAW 4067**, including approving all necessary bylaws and regulations.
14. **APPROVE BYLAWS** with a mechanism for implementing laws aimed at protecting the rights of people who have survived CRSV, torture, and illegal deprivation of liberty.
15. **THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION** provided as reparations must be proportionate to the harm and sufficient to support the dignified recovery of CRSV survivors.
16. **EXPAND THE MANDATE** of the Register of Damage to include those affected before the full-scale invasion starting from 2014.
17. **PROVIDE INFORMATION** to the public about the Register of Damage for Ukraine and respond to feedback from survivors of torture and CRSV on its functioning.

To the International Community:

18. **DEMONSTRATE** zero tolerance for those responsible for torture and CRSV crimes.
19. **ENSURE THE RELEASE OF ALL UKRAINIANS** deprived of their liberty by the Russian Federation.



To the UN Secretary General:

20.

RECOGNIZE that the Russian Federation meets the criteria by which in should be included in the list of parties who are reasonably suspected of committing rape or other forms of sexual violence, or are responsible for them, in situations of armed conflict.





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THE DR. DENIS MUKWEGE FOUNDATION IS AN INTERNATIONAL SURVIVOR-CENTERED HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION, WORKING TO CHANGE THE RESPONSE TO CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE