

Recommendations of Ukrainian Women's and Non-Governmental Organisations to the UN Human Rights Council

27th of June 2014

This week WILPF brought representatives of Ukrainian civil society to the Human Rights Council to enable their views to be heard by States. Please find attached the recommendations that they have made and which they would like to draw to your attention.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM



Recommendations suggested for inclusion in the UNHRC Resolution on Cooperation and Assistance to Ukraine in the Field of Human Rights (A/HRC/26/L.15):

- 1) To acknowledge the vulnerability of women due to the annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol and military conflict in the Eastern regions of Ukraine and to recommend to the Government of Ukraine employ gender perspective when working with Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs);
- 2) To recognise the opportunities and capabilities of women and women's organisations to contribute to bringing peace to Ukraine.

Recommendations to the Government of Ukraine:

- 1) To improve the efficiency of gender policies through:
 - a. The application of strategic planning techniques in regards to gender policies and an gender impact assessment of existing policies;
 - b. Strengthening national gender mechanisms, enhancing human and resource capacities and enlarging its mandate;
 - c. Increasing financial allocations to gender policies;
 - d. The prioritisation, implementation and monitoring of gender policies, by including NGO and expert communities;
- 2) Bring gender into the mainstream when planning and providing assistance to IDPs, in particular:
 - a. To collect gender-disaggregated statistics on IDPs;
 - b. To comprehensively address the needs of IDPs, the vast majority of whom are women and children, including information on how to flee conflict areas and where to access assistance, provision of housing, employment, education, childcare, health care, social benefits and payments, legal and psychological assistance, re-issuance of documents, etc.;
 - c. To develop and launch initiatives on business training and providing micro-credits to the IDPs who want individual entrepreneurship;
- 3) To capture the experience and lessons of women's input to Euromaidan developments, the contribution of peaceful resolutions and the provision of assistance to IDPs from the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Sevastopol and Eastern regions of Ukraine. To use this experience in development and delivery of programmes promoting women's leadership in political, social and economic fields;

- 4) To take measures to expand the influence of women on political processes, particularly apply provisional measures to increase the political and social representation of women in decision-making structures;
- 5) To improve the level of knowledge and awareness of people about gender equality and the benefits that the country and every citizen will enjoy from it;
- 6) To address new trends and developments due to the aggravated economic and social challenges that women and men face due to economic slowdown. To consider how governmental reforms aimed at economic development would influence women and men of different social groups.

Recommendations to the international community:

- 1) To provide support to the Government and NGOs of Ukraine with the objective of strengthening women's rights and promoting gender equality, including the expert and technical aid;
- 2) To carry out monitoring and bring the attention of the Ukrainian Government to their responsibility to observe and protect human rights of Ukraine, women's rights in particular;
- 3) The EU and Russia should engage in discussions to facilitate trade and economic policies, enabling Ukraine to have trading partnerships inclusive for all parties, which would lead to the de-escalation of tensions.
- 4) The European Union should consider changes to their stringent visa regime for Ukraine, in order to increase confidence and address the trafficking of people.