

UN Women

*United Nations Entity for Gender
Equality and the Empowerment of
Women*



Committee: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-WOMEN)

Topic: Addressing the Effects of the Ukrainian Conflict on Women

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Welcome to SPISMUN 2024's CSW Committee; it is a pleasure to have you here. We are expecting excellent work from every delegate, where each delegate will be finding, searching, and proposing solutions that will not only help the topic but also daily life problems. We cannot wait to meet you and we aim for each delegate to enjoy the event that we, the secretariat, staff, and teachers have been preparing.

We are very excited to see you at the event soon; we wish you all the best and hope that this turns out to be a good experience full of learning. In case of any doubts, questions, or comments, feel free to ask your Chairs (Moderator: Julieta Ornelas Benavides, Director: Carol Sofía Esquivel Flores, and Secretary: Diego Montalvo Guajardo). Good luck to all the delegates!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at:

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Sincerely, Rebeca Naranjo

I. COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, also known as UNWOMEN, is a really important entity in the United Nations that ensures the focus of gender equality. The delegates hold conferences in New York and discuss topics of high importance to the global agenda.

Commencing in 1987, UN WOMEN created a plan that aimed to help the rights and lives of women around the world. In this document, they agree on actions and resolutions that strive towards the goal in mind. With the help of The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which takes these resolutions into reality, is also part of the realization of the goal.

An important aspect of UN WOMEN is their cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Non-Governmental Organizations are groups of interested leaders in a specific topic or issue. UN WOMEN is aware of and currently cooperating with the NGOs who strive towards SDG number 5. UN WOMEN is committed to helping women around the world achieve their goals and dreams, while always striving for innovation in its policies.



II. HISTORY OF THE TOPIC

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, sparking widespread difficulties for its inhabitants. This crisis extended beyond the individuals directly affected and impacted their families, creating a global fear of escalating conflict. The situation raised concerns about the possibility of World War III.



The Russia-Ukraine War has resulted in loss of life, human rights violations, and actions that are possibly debated to be classified as war crimes. The invasion has given rise to human rights issues, including discrimination in public areas and the destruction or damage of homes.



Beyond these consequences, the war has led to sexual exploitation, abuse, violence, and a significant concern for this committee: the impact on women in conflict. Women continue to face risks to their safety and well-being due to the ongoing situation. According to a UN report, the war in Ukraine has contributed to global issues in areas such as food, energy, and the economy. These challenges have affected not only individuals in Ukraine but also women worldwide. Women and girls have taken drastic measures, such as reducing their food intake, to provide extra sustenance for those in need or other family members, reflecting the widespread impact of the conflict.

III. CURRENT ISSUES

The United States

The United States is a country that has exerted significant influence on the war, mainly through providing Ukraine with economic resources and military support against Russia. The impact on the United States has been primarily economic, distinct from the issues such as sexual abuse mentioned earlier. The U.S. played a crucial role by offering Ukraine substantial financial aid and military assistance. In March 2023, the United States provided Ukraine with an estimated almost \$48 billion in support. This financial aid was part of a broader effort, with EU countries also contributing, but with a focus on providing financial assistance. In contrast, the U.S. concentrated on military aid, emphasizing its commitment to helping Ukraine address the challenges posed by the conflict.

Russia

Russia has been proven to have strong connections with the people of Ukraine, several families in Russia come from Ukrainian descent because of their historical and cultural relationship. As such, the conflict between the two nations has had a ripe effect on Russian



women. As increasing numbers of men have been drafted to the war, women in Russia have had to adapt to the reality of becoming the primary caregivers of their children until their fathers come back, and that is if they do survive. Women in Russia have also suffered from increasing gender-based violence, women who show their support for Ukraine and its

people are often threatened to death. Women may face challenges in accessing humanitarian aid and assistance, and the distribution of aid must consider the specific needs of women and girls, including access to hygiene facilities, reproductive health support, and protection services. Along with all of this, the complicated state of the economy, and the processing of the entire conflict for the women of Russia has caused increased emotional unrest, as the people of Russia are uncertain of where they are headed.



Belarus

Belarus is one of the most notable Russian-supportive nations, as its president, Alexander Lukashenko, has voiced the country's pro-Russian status and support. Belarus directly neighbors Ukraine, as such, it has been met with a massive influx of migrants coming in trying to escape the conflict area, women in Belarus have had a substantial role in supporting and providing aid for the refugees. In addition to the humanitarian challenges posed by the refugee crisis, the conflict in Ukraine had broader geopolitical implications, affecting relations between Belarus, Russia, and other European countries. The situation prompted discussions about regional security and stability, which can have indirect consequences on the well-being of women and families in Belarus. However, Belarus remains a country with heavy human trafficking rates which has been highlighted during the migrant crisis, women in Belarus are quite susceptible to being kidnapped or raped, and most importantly, migrant women have also suffered from forced relocation and exposure to insecure refuge locations.

IV. UN ACTION AND RESOLUTION

The war has increased and continues giving difficulties to families, women, and girls. These difficulties include violence, trafficking, sexual abuse and all that was previously stated.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has been working to help Ukraine and neighboring countries to give protection, health, and services. These services include online support to avoid acts of any kind of violence with health services by giving protection to women and girls in all areas.

Through various agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP), it provides humanitarian assistance to those affected by conflict, including women and children. This might involve providing housing, nourishment, medical assistance, and emotional support.

Also, the UNWOMEN committee is providing women peace and security after the conflict by supporting their participation in working on their special needs, security, and other stuff to be able to help correctly for their objective: providing women peace and security.

V. ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What was the reason for the war to start?
- What are the main effects on women because of the conflict?
- How have women developed in the work environment?
- How has the problem affected the development of underdeveloped countries?
- What has been implemented for the improvement of the effects on women and girls?

VI. CONCLUSION

As we already know, this committee focuses on women as the topic states: Effects of the Ukrainian Conflict on Women. After the Russia-Ukrainian War, that started in 2022, many conflicts and disasters have happened in general, but on the other hand, the committee of UN WOMEN on this Model UN is searching for resolutions on the issues present in this document. The committee should be focusing on all of what was mentioned in the background paper.

After the Ukrainian conflict, many women were affected and UNWOMEN as well as other organizations had been working on the issue and addressing some effects where they found violence against women that created challenges for them, barriers to education, and lack of healthcare. Women were very affected by this in many other ways apart from what just was mentioned before, depending on the different impact on each country and their different effects but these were the main ones, the ones that more influenced, the ones more disused about and the ones that had more impressions.

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