

Urgent Resolution

# Support of Youth of Ukraine and for the Implementation of the “Youth Peace and Security” Agenda in Europe

Highlighting that the term “Ukrainian crisis” ignores and hides the fact that the war was initiated by the Russian Federation, an external aggressor and occupier.

Underlining that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has caused a massive and multidimensional crisis, impacting human rights, the humanitarian situation, and mass displacement, for which it can be marked as one of the worst of its kind in recent European history.

Stressing that the Russian Federation is not only violating the sovereignty of Ukraine and its people, but it is also challenging the global security system and exploiting its weaknesses, including the ineffectiveness of the UN Security Council. Furthermore, through past two months Russia conducted numerous attempts of bombing and occupation of nuclear station facilities in Chornobyl, Zaporizhzhia and Enerhodar. This raises the question of global implementation of the “Youth, peace and security” agenda and emphasises the importance of youth participation at different levels even in times of war for reshaping and strengthening international institutions to become stronger and capable of a fast meaningful response in the future.

Considering the impact of war on vulnerable groups including young people, conscientious objectors to military service, young people with disabilities, Roma, LGBTQI+, people of colour, women and girls, and the increased risk they are in, as a consequence of war; noting with concern an increase in discrimination against Belarussian and other nationals living outside their country, due to their wrongful association with the actions of the undemocratic leadership in control of their country.

Referring to numbers of 6 million refugees fleeing Ukraine and more than 7.1 million people internally displaced in Ukraine.

Stressing on the fact that more than 700,000 people, including 130,000 children, were forcibly deported from Ukraine to Russia during the full-scale invasion and recognising the atrocious forced deportations of Ukrainian civilians carried out by the Russian Federation.

Accepting the horrible reality that, according to the preliminary investigation and the officially

confirmed statistics, more than 610 children were affected as a result of the full-scaled armed aggression of the Russian Federation – 217 children were killed, and 393 received injuries of varying severity.

Noting cases of kidnapping of volunteers and activists, including from NYCU member organisations, underlining that youth and civil society activists are the targets in the liquidation lists of Russian occupiers.

Drawing attention to the filtration camps, organized by Russia at the border with so-called self-declared Luhansk and Donetsk peoples' republics, recently occupied territories in Kherson, Zaporizhzhia regions through which Ukrainians are forced to go as the only solution for escaping from bombed cities such as Mariupol, while at the same time suffering torture, disappearing or even getting killed just for being Ukrainian.

Further noting the illegal and forced mobilisation of young people in the occupied territories to fight against Ukraine.

Referring to the evidence of the intention of Russian soldiers to destroy Ukrainians as a nation through mass rapes and killings, both from the liberated territories like Irpin, Bucha, Hostomel, but also from the occupied territories.

Considering the fact that mass rape were committed by young people, Russian soldiers aged 20-25 with insurance that raping is done in front of groups for others to see mocking the person being raped.

Furthermore, taking into account the statements of a large number of victims, who testify Russian troops were abusing especially young women and girls, so that women would never give birth to Ukrainian children.

Noting the creation of summer "retraining camps" by Russia for teachers from Kherson, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia regions in the occupied territories on the occupied Crimea in order to translate them into "Russian educational standards", thereby seeking to erase the Ukrainian identity.

Observing and taking into account the interrupted process of getting education in schools, VET and Higher education institutions for the thousands of

children and young people throughout Ukraine; their physical, mental and financial struggles to continue their learning process, as well as additional bureaucratic burdens for the third countries nationals studying in Ukraine.

Pointing to the crucial role that young people will play in the post-war context, positively transforming conflict situations and building the foundations of democratic and peaceful societies, while supporting efforts for the reintegration process of internally displaced people and refugees within the society, as well as physical rebuilding of the damaged cities.

Keeping in mind that formation of recovery and support plan with the assistance of international partners will play a crucial role for Ukraine as the country, which due to circumstances was forced to switch to a military economy with understandable budget cuts in the youth field.

Recognizing the role of civil society organisations in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, including youth-led organisations, which, from the start of the full-scale military invasion have been delivering humanitarian assistance on the front lines, helping internally displaced people and refugees to evacuate and find shelter, and providing them with basic supplies.

Highlighting the huge number of youth organisations, which were forced to dislocate and start activities from scratch without having basic budget and office supplies, while at the same time continuing providing a fast response to the society on the volunteering basis.

Recalling the YFJ Policy Paper on Youth, Peace and Security (22) and stressing the need for further implementation.

**Standing in solidarity with the young people of Ukraine and considering the crucial importance of implementation of “Youth, Peace and Security” Agenda, the European Youth Forum and its member organisations:**

### **Urgent solidarity measures**

- Condemn the terrors and war crimes taking place in Ukraine and the unspeakable, deliberate cruelty and violence against Ukrainian civilians.

- Recognize as act of genocide of Ukrainians by the Russian Federation, including the mass atrocities committed against civilians in the temporarily occupied territories, especially in the cities of Bucha, Borodyanka, Hostomel, Irpin and Mariupol, and in many other settlements in Ukraine, as well as numerous war crimes, including targeting of civilians, kidnapping, deportation, imprisonment, torture, rape, and desecration of corpses.
- Agree to call upon national parliaments and governments, the European Union, the Council of Europe, and other humanitarian organisations and institutions to formally recognise that Russia's invasion of Ukraine amounts to a genocide.
- Call upon governments of the European Union to reverse policies that for years helped the Russian federation build capacity for such atrocities to be committed; demand tougher sanctions, including an embargo on Russian oil and gas imports, as well as a cut off from SWIFT. Sanctions should not be reversed until full repatriations to Ukraine have occurred.
- Condemn forced mobilisation and involvement in hostilities of young Ukrainians from temporarily occupied territories by Russia. Ask for international support for those people who are seeking to leave these territories, helping them with temporary settlement.
- Call on national governments and international institutions to ensure an international presence and monitoring by international organisations in combat zones, including during the evacuation of civilians from isolated cities in the occupied territories.
- Call on international organisations and institutions, national governments and politicians to investigate war crimes committed by Russia and prosecute the suspected criminals for these crimes, including all cases of forced deportation of Ukrainian people and adoption of Ukrainian children by Russian families. Invest in proper documentation of the war crimes, creation of museums and memorial complexes in honour of war victims for the support of reconciliation culture.
- Call on European institutions to start rapid

response programmes on trauma and mental health rehabilitation as well as support of active youth NGOs activists and advocates (including training, campsites, retreats, mentoring, capacity building etc.) to retain an active civil society.

- Call on for rapid psychological and medical assistance, including the access to abortion and emergency contraceptives to help victims of sexual violence.
- Recognize the exceptional role of Ukrainian government and people, civil society organisations for setting conditions, also in time long perspective for peace building efforts with Russia, Russians and Russian civil society organisations, including support for youth exchanges.
- Call upon the European community, European institutions, and the civil society to create safe spaces for the Ukrainian youth while engaging in dialogue exchanges, Erasmus+ and other projects. The spaces should allow them to speak freely without being subject to situations that may cause additional trauma and a sense of insecurity.
- Call on all the educational institutions to give an opportunity for any person who was residing in Ukraine to continue their education regardless of the nationality, major, level or year of studies; to provide with all possible financial means of support including additional grants, scholarships, tuition fee waivers etc. Support their social inclusion and provide linguistic support to the students in the language of their choice. Ensure physical and mental well-being of the accepted students.

### **Investing in Youth, Peace and Security**

- Call on the European Parliament, European Commission, national governments, politicians and parties, and international organisations to invest resources and efforts into the development and implementation of the United Nations Security Council agenda on Youth, Peace and Security, namely UNSCR 2250, UNSCR 2419 and UNSCR 2535, and, in particular, into the institutional development of youth-led organisations.
- Call for the inclusion of youth civil society organisations and National Youth Councils in

coordination mechanisms and decision-making processes connected to the peacebuilding initiatives, humanitarian aid, work with internally displaced people and refugees, and recovery plans for Ukraine and in Ukraine, so that their priorities are included in the humanitarian response effort and recovery plans, and therefore young people can benefit from this support.

- Call for the support of the professional level of human resource development within National Youth Councils and youth-led organisations, while ensuring financing and mentorship development of secretariats with paid workers for grant management and general coordination.
- Recommend the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent, the Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies and other humanitarian organisations to further include young people in their activities, especially in planning, responding and supporting people affected by the humanitarian crisis, and by promoting and educating about International Humanitarian Law. Furthermore, empower, support and strengthen their own national youth branches for young people to be able to take on leadership positions and co-decision making.
- Call for the review and improvement of participatory mechanisms for the National Youth Councils and youth-led organisations within international institutions, which have mandate for peacebuilding and democratic development.

### **Long Term Commitments of Support**

- Commit to support the National Youth Council of Ukraine in any meaningful way for the development and implementation of the recovery plan for young people in Ukraine, and to support youth-led organisations through joint advocacy campaigns.
- Advocate for and provide mentoring and coordination support programmes for youth organisations that are protecting activists and youth organisations from Ukraine, and accompany them in their activities to strengthen their capacity.
- Commit to develop and support advocacy for the implementation of the European integration roadmap for Ukraine for the access to the Erasmus

+ as a program country, Discover EU, European Youth Dialogue and the Youth Guarantee.

- Commit to support the cultural Identity of Ukraine by acknowledging the inherent value of the Ukrainian language and the right of all languages spoken in Ukraine to coexist in a multilingual environment.
- Call for the support of cooperation schemes between government, business and civil society organisations to rebuild and revitalise old buildings in Ukraine to satisfy accommodation needs of internally displaced young people.