



SALZBURG  
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75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

# The Salzburg Statement of Ukrainian Civil Society

## CONNECTING AND SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN CIVIL SOCIETY IN TIME OF WAR

Since Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, over 12 million Ukrainians have fled to safety within the country and beyond. Ukrainian civil society will play a vital role in rebuilding the country post-war, but with people – women especially – so dispersed and in exile, how can the sector be better connected and supported?

To address this need, Salzburg Global Seminar convened Ukrainian civil society leaders at its home of Schloss Leopoldskron, which had offered refuge to fleeing Ukrainians in February and March. The program provided a safe retreat to strategize and consider options for how to support Ukrainian civil society in the face of an uncertain and complicated future.

Salzburg Global is grateful to our partners who have made this program possible, the United States Institute of Peace and 21st Century Trust; and to our supporters, the German Marshall Fund of the United States and the Institute of International Education.

These priorities and recommendations reflect the general outcomes of discussions at the meeting. They do not necessarily represent unanimous agreement. Nor did Fellows participate at the meeting in their professional capacities as representatives of their organizations, but rather in their personal capacities.

Fellows of Salzburg Global Seminar, predominantly coming from Ukrainian civil society (including civil society leaders displaced inside and outside Ukraine), gathered at Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria, on 11-15 July 2022.

- **Acknowledging** that Ukrainian civil society is one of the key driving forces in Ukraine to win the war;
- **Recognizing** that Ukrainian civil society will play a vital role in rebuilding the country immediately and continuing after the end of the current war of Russia against Ukraine;
- **Stressing** that this meeting was for (not about) Ukrainian civil society, and sought to connect and support this work;
- **Determining** to ensure that women will be essential to, and displaced persons remain central in, planning and decision-making, and should be heard by international and Ukrainian political and development sector leadership; and
- **Desiring** a deeper intra-Ukrainian social cohesion, resilience, and cooperation;

They have set out the following priorities and recommendations:

### 1. DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE UKRAINIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

- Create opportunities for dialogue on different levels of society and social groups in order to develop a shared vision of a peaceful and better future, to work with different social narratives, and to shape inclusive identity.
- Strive to return displaced Ukrainian citizens from abroad, but realize that some Ukrainians may not return and that diaspora can strengthen Ukraine; work on strengthening cooperation with diaspora and with refugees.
- Support and multiply the strength of resilience in Ukraine by rethinking the past and integrating it into a developed strategic vision of the shared better future included into the current social system.
- Organize a national dialogue to deconstruct existing positive and negative narratives, formulate the key country narratives based on positive parts of existing ones, and launch a country-wide discussion to increase cohesion and formulate the vision of a positive future, using digital tools for such communication.
- Embrace diversity and prevent practices of polarization in society.
- Promote social inclusion to address lack of trust in society.
- Expand cooperation with European and global civil society organizations.

## 2. REINVIGORATE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES TO STRENGTHEN UKRAINIAN SOCIETY

- Address corruption and vote-buying; ensure elections are held according to laws and democratic principles; ensure proper division of powers among branches of government.
- Revise and ensure apoliticality and independence of Ombudsman institutions.
- Follow through on public administration reform.
- Launch the lustration of Ukrainian political system and politics from Russian and pro-Russian influence.
- Replace councils which are based on collaboration or illegal (pro-Russian) parties.
- Support independent media (traditional and new) as a tool to combat manipulation of public opinion.
- Create a sustainable investment climate based on the rule of law.
- Understand the structural context and ecology of the community and environment with community-level needs-based assessments before development.
- Maintain pressure within the EU accession process to reinforce the rule of law and fight against corruption.

## 3. ADVANCE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER SOCIETY

- Include different social groups (civil society, grassroots organizations, veterans, children, refugees, etc.) into ongoing coordination and communication.
- Ensure that the system of coordination with international partners (as well as foundations, investors, etc.) is transparent and that civil society actors are included in its monitoring of planning and implementation of funding allocation.
- Stress that local (host) populations and displaced persons have mutually-supporting roles and values, to build and plan a future together.
- Emphasize that organizations carrying out work should be trusted by the communities they are serving.
- Set up good practice exchanges for local government and community leaders with villages, towns, and cities that have also experienced destruction.
- Ensure that SMART infrastructure fits the needs of local communities, with community-based assessment.
- In the medium-term, capitalize on Ukrainian self-organization, to facilitate vision and development of plans for the future with inclusive public outreach; in the long-term, coordinate system among state, civil society, and grassroots organizations to ensure democratic process.

## 4. ENSURE GENDER EQUALITY AND THE VOICE OF WOMEN

- Take gender-inclusive and anti-discrimination approach to process of reintegration and of implementation of reforms.
- Shift the narratives in media and public discourse from male-default to equality, from victimhood to agency, and from burden to value-added.
- Promote storytelling and blogging about the realities, challenges, and opportunities for women in Ukraine; leverage local level journalists – at village, small town and municipal levels.
- Launch an online campaign highlighting identities of women who are in host communities, internally and externally displaced, as well as in the diaspora.
- Conduct a comprehensive intersectional gender analysis in Ukraine to have an accurate picture of issues and data points to build impactful programs and projects.



- Address legislation in Ukraine and countries of displacement regarding employment practices and provide more transparent monitoring and protection for women in workforce, and encourage more flexible business practices and policies.
- Launch education campaigns for women about rights and resources available.
- Set up a network of mobile clinics that will access the most vulnerable women, such as women in rural areas, survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, women with disabilities, pregnant women, elderly women, and other women who are struggling to get to healthcare providers, to address the lack of reliable providers who are trustworthy and understand the sensitivity of the access to reproductive and mental health for women; ensure the mobile clinics and providers have sensitivity training and that women receive services anonymously.
- Create coalitions and partnerships at the intersection of religion and women's rights.

## 5. RECOGNIZE PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA

- Open projects and programs to address different traumas of Ukrainian society, including in rural and urban areas, host communities and the displaced population, and men and women returning from combat.
- Support and rehabilitate Ukrainians through (art) therapy and use of (artistic) space.
- Facilitate integration of the skills of trauma sensitivity in the work of civil society, as well as in providing services by the public and business sector.

## 6. ENSURE JUSTICE FOR UKRAINE

- Advocate for further sanctions on Russia and providing weapons for Ukraine.
- Better coordinate the process of collection of evidence for war crimes including gender-sensitive services.
- Increase the capacity of the law enforcement and judicial systems in investigating and prosecuting war crimes.
- Ratify and enforce the Rome Statute.
- Improve the law on collaboration and adopt transitional justice mechanisms in the current law system (in order to remove the fear of prosecution of Ukrainians in the occupied territories by Ukrainian authorities upon de-occupation).

## 7. SUPPORT PEOPLE LIVING IN BOTH OCCUPIED AND DE-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

- Develop recommendations based on the best practices for people living in the occupied territories (teachers, doctors, conscripts, deputies, mayors, and other civilian public officials).
- Build interim connections to people in the occupied territories.
- Develop secure digital platform-based education for children and students (for citizens living in the occupied territories as well as for displaced persons).
- Develop the national reconstruction strategy of Ukraine and a strategy for economic development for the de-occupied territories, developed as a part of national dialogue inclusively involving civil society.

## 8. PROMOTE UKRAINIAN CULTURE AND PROTECT CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Address the problem of destroyed or damaged cultural heritage and museums through archiving and digitalization; enhance the application of methodology on preserving and development of cultural heritage (together with UNESCO, the government, and civil society initiatives).
- Promote Ukrainian culture domestically.
- Promote Ukrainian culture internationally through building and developing bilateral and international cultural relations



## 9. REORIENT THE EDUCATION SYSTEM TOWARDS THE FUTURE

- Prioritize the key goal of the educational systems at all levels to heal the Ukrainian identity by acknowledging its valuable and functional parts, and consolidating what is pertinent to the Ukrainian identity, rethinking the (Soviet/colonial/traumatized) past and integrating the future.
- Make education value-based, with fundamental values of life-long learning, democracy, inclusivity, gender equality, well-being for all, social trust, international partnership, knowledge as the main asset and problem-solving tools.
- Develop everyone's unique skills, including critical thinking needed to integrate democratic values and soft skills (entrepreneurship, project management, emotional intelligence, and creative thinking).
- Use new approaches in facilitation and mentoring for educators, creative thinking programs to discover and follow everyone's dreams, learning to learn and solution-based learning.
- Provide education for veterans and war survivors to re-integrate veterans and war survivors into social life, as well as inclusive education and infrastructure for people with war injuries and people with disabilities.
- Design and implement short but condensed education courses for educators inside and outside Ukraine to include those individuals who are already working with internally and externally displaced persons in language and skills classes they teach.
- Access global education platforms and institutions, including informational campaigns to inform Ukrainians and international students of opportunities available inside and outside Ukraine.

## 10. SUPPORT GREEN, SUSTAINABLE, AND INCLUSIVE RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF UKRAINE

- Mitigate environmental impacts of war, such as environmental pollution, release of contaminants as a result of shelling of industrial facilities (chemical plants, oil depots) and destruction of ecosystems.
- Ensure that Ukraine's reconstruction plan will include strategic environment assessment (SEA) and particular reconstruction projects will include the environmental impact assessments (EIA).
- Ensure that Ukraine's reconstruction is based on the principles of the EU Green Deal and Paris Agreement, and supports clean technologies and the circular economy.
- Prevent the risk of a "New Chernobyl" disaster by de-occupying Ukraine's nuclear power plants seized by the Russian Federation and ensuring the safety of the nuclear reactors.
- Build Ukraine's energy strategy on decentralized renewable energy sources rather than big and vulnerable nuclear power sources.

## 11. TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION: WINTER IS COMING

- Consider as a priority immediate livelihood needs: address food, water, energy, and shelter, as well as housing, education, income, and jobs.
- Ensure that temporary solutions are good enough to address immediate needs and are carried out transparently and in consultation with the affected public.

