



Women's Network
for Dialogue and Enduring Peace

We are women peacebuilders and civil society and humanitarian aid leaders from across Ukraine and both sides of the front line. We are members of the Women's Network for Dialogue and Enduring Peace which we founded in 2015. We have over a decade of experience in peacebuilding, dialogue and providing support to conflict-affected populations on both sides of the front line.

Our human-centered approach aims to protect the lives and well-being of all affected by the conflict, and we are dedicated to ensuring their interests are represented in the peace process. A human-centered approach can address the needs of all affected communities, prevent future violence and build a sustainable peace.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROVIDING SUPPORT TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Based on our first-hand, on-the-ground experience providing humanitarian aid and support for affected populations for more than a decade, we recommend:

1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Ensure **equal access** to humanitarian assistance based on need.
- **Needs-based support:** When organizing support, the needs of specific population groups must be taken into account. Different territories and population groups have diverse, sometimes unique needs. Preliminary needs assessments of populations should be conducted when designing aid programs.


- **Local partnerships:** International aid efforts should engage the participation of local organizations that understand the specific context and needs of the population and that are located in the immediate vicinity of the beneficiaries.

2. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Facilitate the return of children** who were taken to Russia without their parents, prioritizing the specific needs and best interests of the child.
- **Provide educational and support programs for children** who remained in Ukraine and those who have returned, taking into account their varied traumatic experiences and types of displacement, and protecting them from discrimination and bullying.
- When developing support programs for **internally displaced persons, refugees, and other vulnerable groups**, include resettlement and relocation assistance.
- Ensure people have the **freedom to choose where they live**, including across the former front line, providing relocation and resettlement support as needed. Create a **housing exchange fund**, modeled on Northern and Southern Cyprus.
- Develop mechanisms for the **safe crossing of the front line by civilians**, for the purposes of family reunification, restoring broken relationships, obtaining necessary documents, visiting relatives or the graves of loved ones, and regaining access to property.
- In addition to support for psychological services and treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, comprehensive **reintegration and rehabilitation programs for demobilized individuals** should include employment opportunities and retraining if needed. People returning from the front must have jobs.
- Programs providing **psychosocial support to families of demobilized**

soldiers should include family adaptation courses to support the reintegration of soldiers returning home from the front.

- Integrate **intra-community and intergroup dialogue programs** into peace processes, national reconciliation strategies, educational curricula, social support centers, and local government bodies. This is essential for building a sustainable peace.
- Establish **dialogue platforms and other mechanisms for working with historical memory** as a foundation for a durable peace. These are essential for providing the space for the voices of all affected population groups to be heard.

 For each of the above points, we have more specific, detailed recommendations informed by over a decade of first-hand, on-the-ground experience.