



WOMEN LEADING PEACE:

Standing with Women in Conflict

Nobel Peace laureates'
delegation to Poland and Ukraine

June 20-24, 2022



**“Peace is inseparable from justice.
Peace is inseparable from freedom.
Peace is inseparable from human rights.
The advancement of Russia into our
territory is the opposite of that.”**

– Oksana Potapova, Ukrainian Researcher and Activist

**“We came to listen to Ukrainian
women and to express our solidarity
with the Ukrainian people.”**

– Tawakkol Karman, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

OVERVIEW

Inspired by the courage and resilience of the Ukrainian women and committed to amplifying their voices, three Nobel Peace laureates unambiguously condemned the Russian war of aggression – as they condemn the indignity and horrors of war everywhere – and echoed the demands they heard for peace. Peace with justice. Peace with human rights. Peace with freedom.

The Nobel Women's Initiative delegation led by Nobel Peace Prize laureates Tawakkol Karman of Yemen, Leymah Gbowee of Liberia, and Jody Williams of the United States traveled to Ukraine and Poland in June 2022. The trip was a mission of solidarity with women displaced from and within Ukraine and to bear witness to the critical work of women and women's organizations since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The four-day mission was timed from World Refugee Day, 20 June 2022, to the four-month mark of Russia's invasion. Ukraine's bid to join the European Union was granted candidate status that week. It was the first Nobel Women's Initiative delegation since the start of the global COVID pandemic.

The delegation heard from women of diverse backgrounds and identities from all regions of Ukraine. They spoke to brave women who helped keep Ukraine trains running to bring thousands to safety, traumatized refugees who fled while under fire, and caring strangers



“The loss and separation mean all actors must act quickly. We call for credible negotiations that include women and centers [on] humanity.”

– Leymah Gbowee





who turned their businesses into shelters. They met a five-year-old girl who made a tiny blue and yellow house and tucked it inside her sock. "I want to hide it so no one would steal my Ukraine," she said.

The delegation held meetings with civil society activists, peacebuilders, volunteers, and journalists, as well as refugees and internally displaced women. They visited five shelters in Lviv, Ukraine, and in Krakow and Rzeszow, Poland. They met with representatives from an array of organizations, the Office of the Governor of the Lviv Regional Administration, and the mayors of Lviv, Ukraine and Krakow, Poland. They spoke with the head of the United Nations Mission in Ukraine.

What emerged was a range of testimonies, stories, and analyses of the war that underscored urgency for peace in its fullest form and how decision-makers could ensure women's voices are heard in all processes related to the invasion and in charting the course toward peace.

The need was clear for improved, flexible responses to the gendered impact of the war and mass displacement as the women adapt to uncertain, fluid circumstances. Women and children account for over 80 per cent of the 12 million Ukrainians displaced by the violence.





The Nobel laureates renewed the calls they have made since the early days of the invasion for:

- » The immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine.
- » Full accountability for Russian war crimes, including against women.
- » The meaningful participation of women and women's organizations in humanitarian responses to the war, peacebuilding, and rebuilding Ukraine.

AMPLIFYING THE VOICES AND ANALYSIS OF UKRAINIAN WOMEN AND CIVIL SOCIETY

URGENCY FOR PEACE

"I know what peace means to me. The full withdrawal of Russia from Ukrainian territory and accountability for war crimes. Without this we can never be sure that this situation will not be repeated."

– Maryna Pugachova, Director of Mariupol Women's Association.

The laureates heard from women with the clear demand for an end to the conflict. Surrender was not part of their equation, however. For them, enduring peace requires the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops and the return of all Ukrainian territory that Russia occupies or claims.



“To the people of Ukraine, to the women of Ukraine: we say that your pain is ours, and your struggle is ours. We will echo your voices to the world.”

– Tawakkol Karman

As Oksana Potapova, a Ukrainian researcher and activist, put it, “We need to stop the war. But Russia is the aggressor ... We did not start the war, but it is being fought on our land. Without this power analysis, we cannot achieve feminist peace.” Echoing many others, another activist said, “This is a genocide of the Ukrainian nation. Ukraine is the life shield for Europe. But it is Ukraine that is being torn apart.”

While Ukraine is the battlefield, the war has geopolitical implications for international relations, resource trade, energy supplies, global food markets and prices. War in Ukraine is not isolated from other crises in

the world where women's work for peace, broadly speaking, is ignored at the global level. While the war is felt in women's lives and in their homes, the end will not be found in Kharkiv, Odessa, or Donbass. Mediation and negotiations are required, but when, where and how is unknown at present.

Laureate Leymah Gbowee of Liberia shared wisdom from her experience of conflict about the timing of peace negotiations. "Right now, the pain is too heavy," she said. "There is zero way that you can put any two groups of people who have fresh wounds in the midst of intense propaganda in one room and say, 'Let's talk...' Who wants to talk peace and reconciliation after you just buried your son? After some time, when people have had the moment to process their grief, when they've had a moment to calculate that this is not what it should be, someone will break it." However, she added, "The loss and



separation mean all actors must act quickly. We call for credible negotiations that include women and center on humanity."



Increased militarization may threaten enduring peace for Ukraine and for the region. Western countries' military spending has increased as they supplied weapons to Ukraine. Many more civilians in Ukraine now have access to weaponry, jeopardizing long term safety and security in the country. "The ramping up of military might does not end wars or ultimately provide for long-term human security," said laureate Jody Williams. "The longer the war goes on, the worse the suffering will be for Ukrainians and their country."



Part of peace is creating safe spaces. Activists spoke about the importance of safe spaces for all women, including groups that face additional marginalization and isolation. "We need to build awareness that the LGBTQ+ community is also fleeing the war and they need safe spaces," said an activist in Krakow. The same applies to such other marginalized populations as the Roma and people of color.

"There is a need for this war to end," said Leymah Gbowee. "The cruelty and injustice that has been brought upon the Ukrainian people by the Russian invasion should not be tolerated by the world." Even as the war ensues, preparations must be made now for peace in its fullest form.

THE GENDERED IMPACTS OF DISPLACEMENT AND THE WAR

REFUGEES IN KRAKOW AND RZESZOW, POLAND

Within the first 12 days of the invasion, some two million people fled the country. By mid-summer, over a third of all Ukrainians had been forced to leave their homes, the largest displacement crisis in the world. Now more than seven million people are internally displaced and about five million are refugees across Europe. Most are women and children. The UN said one month of war in Ukraine led to the displacement of 4.3 million children – more than half of the country's child population.

Adjusting to life in shelters in the face of uncertainty, worry, and dependence on others heightens the stress of the women and children, many already traumatized by what they have experienced. Still, many if not most want to return home. "It seems like I have everything here, but I want to go home," one woman said. "I just want to go home. Here, I just survive."



“If women’s voices were allowed to be heard, the world would be a different place.”

– Jody Williams

The **City Social Welfare Center** in Krakow has supported more than 3,000 refugees since the war began. One described the night of the invasion. "On February 23, we were all enjoying our lives. A war coming was not like the weather where we could see that the weather was bad and that the rain will come. At four in the morning, we were asleep, then the mobiles started to ring, babies were waking up crying. The bombs were coming. We said the war has started."

She told how quickly her life was shattered. Her family lived near Russia and people from both sides of the border interacted regularly. First, propaganda, then the invasion. Friendly relations dissolved into hatred – even among families. She recounted how some relatives had said that if they saw her again, they would kill her.



The words of other women who joined the conversation at the shelter were heartbreaking:

These families have basic needs: shelter, food, health care, childcare, transportation, and work where possible.

“Until the last second, I did not want to leave my country, but I wanted to save my son.”

“My country is beautiful. I don't know why they came to kill my country.”

“When I heard the first bombs, I said this is war. The Russians were our brothers and sisters. We never believed that they would kill us. This is like a knife to our backs.”

“My homeland is Ukraine. I am Russian. I am the enemy for them. I am so ashamed of the fact that I am Russian.”

In Krakow, Anna Maria Kwiatek worked in fashion design before the war. As fleeing Ukrainians flowed into the city, she converted a large space behind her shop into the **Witalnia Mother and Safe Space**. It is a daycare center where women are offered psychosocial support.

“This day care center doesn't just help for now,” Kwiatek said. “It needs to be sustainable. A place for women to leave their kids so that the women have time to learn Polish, look for work, or get support, all while knowing that their children are safe.”

Dasha escaped Ukraine in the initial days of the war and found work at the Witalnia. “I thank God that I could find a job. A lot of people who were unable to find jobs had to return to Ukraine during the war. You know, in Ukraine I have my mother and brothers. My mom can't work.”

Iryna, another worker at the center, felt fortunate as she was unable to get another job in Poland without knowing the language. Her seven-year-old daughter stayed at the center while she worked.

The delegation observed a support session at Witalnia conducted by Yulia, a Ukrainian psychologist with the Azadi Project team. The 11 women in the session were from different parts of Ukraine. Some had endured Russian aggression in the eastern part of the country dating back to 2014. When the full-scale invasion began, they were forced to flee.

Women described bombing from both Russia and Belarus, of being shot at as they fled by car and fearing they would run out of gas before reaching Poland. Some had to hide from Russian planes overhead as they tried to escape. Each woman was amazed and grateful for the positive reception in Poland.

Witalnia is supported by the Jewish Community Center (JCC), which changed its regular rhythm of work to help more than 3,000 Ukrainians who fled the war. JCC assistance included finding shelter and providing food, medicine boxes, and clothes.

The delegation held a special consultation to discuss challenges with some 40 Polish and Ukrainian activists.

Delegation members shared recommendations and questions from the activists in a subsequent meeting with Krakow Mayor Jacek Majchrowski. They asked about access to schools for refugee children and language lessons for both adults and children. They expressed concern that the rights of the Roma community and other minority groups were or could be overlooked due to racism and other forms of prejudice. They sought systematic engagement between women's organization and the mayor's office and resources for their work. The mayor assured the group that all these issues were being worked on.

“ It is very rough for me right now because I sit here and think: Are we ever going to get over war? And I am angry. I am angry at every place in the world where there is war.”

– Leymah Gbowee





In Rzeszow, the delegation visited refugees at a hotel whose owner, Magda Mukomietow, had converted into a shelter for the refugees. About 80 people, mostly women and children, were staying there.

While Poland has generously welcomed refugees from Ukraine, support has not been equal to everyone. Before the war, about 2,000 Roma lived in Krakow. That number grew by hundreds as Roma fled the war. "The Roma face discrimination as refugees. Yes, other refugees wait for food, healthcare, and housing, but the Roma are always put at the back of the line," said a Roma support worker with **Integration Association SAWORE**. People of colour have also experienced discrimination.

Housing was a particular problem cited by Roma refugees. "We are making circles all the time from one hostel to another hostel," said one woman. "We have gotten the food...from the volunteers, but we do not have place to cook it." Another woman said she had a house, car, and job in Ukraine. "Now, there is nothing. I just grabbed my children and left." A woman needed cancer treatment and had no help. "Tomorrow, we have to leave our hotel. I do not know where I will be living."

The laureates explicitly called for non-discrimination and recognition of the rights of all displaced persons. Everyone seeking asylum must be treated with dignity. Seeking asylum is a human right and anyone fleeing any conflict has the right to protection. This right should be granted regardless of race, religion, gender, or country of origin.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) IN LVIV, UKRAINE

As women with children descended the steps from the platform at the Lviv train station to a makeshift reception area filled with tents and volunteers, they passed a sign reading "Need Help?". This marked the end of their journey away from the violence - a journey made possible by their strength, and courage, and the services of dedicated railway workers.

After Russia invaded, Ukrainian Railways kept running and played a critical role in transporting millions of people fleeing violence in Central and Eastern Ukraine. This came at a great cost: 166 staff were killed and 252 wounded. The Lviv railway station became a destination point and a hub for humanitarian aid and respite.

In Ukraine, 80 per cent of train conductors are women. The laureates met with two conductors and an engineer. They told how they continued to do their jobs under extreme duress, ensuring a key transportation route remained open to those fleeing the war.

"My first train ride was on February 27. It was difficult to leave my family as I realized it could be a one-way trip," said Natalia Kuolrych, a Lviv train conductor. "It was very scary at first. But someone needs to do this work. So, we kept going."

These women did not just work to keep the trains moving. They turned into sandwich makers for

their colleagues and hungry passengers. They provided support to many of the thousands on their trains who were experiencing the trauma of their families being torn apart.

"It was a difficult and moving experience to evacuate people from eastern Ukraine," said Kuolrych. "I can't forget one situation of a man seeing off his kids. He understood that they might not see each other again. He didn't want to leave the car of the train even though the train was pulling out of the station."

These women stayed on the job in the face of heartbreak, constant safety concerns and exhausting, cramped conditions. "I evacuated people east to Poland," said Nadia Zhinikovska, Lviv train conductor. "You can't imagine how crowded the trains were. If there were 54 seats in a compartment, 200 people were in that space."



The railway workers exemplify frontline actions by women to ensure safety for those escaping war. "Thank you for telling us your stories," said laureate Leymah Gbowee. "You are witnesses to humanity. You are the super-women conductors of Lviv."

At the **Women's Perspective shelter**, the delegation heard from displaced women inside Ukraine. As well as providing shelter, Women's Perspective helped locate long-term residences in safe areas of Ukraine or abroad and offered psychological counselling.

Speaking behind a room divider made of a quilt hung by clothespins, one woman noted that unlike many in the shelter, she still had a job as she could work remotely. What she lacked was reliable childcare and basic privacy to work, potentially jeopardizing her job. Even with these enormous daily stresses and deep concern for her husband's safety, she felt fortunate that she and her child had a roof over their heads.



"I don't feel confident about our future," said another woman. "But I can't show this to my children because it is our job to give our children a future."

A need for sustainable, structural support was apparent as the laureates were told of the ripple effects of converting all daycare centers in Lviv to shelters, practically overnight. "There are many challenges. One, is the need for robust daycare. Women cannot find employment because there are no daycare facilities. There are no daycare facilities

because they have been converted into shelters," said Roman Andres, Director of Social Services for the Lviv Regional Administration.

Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyy expressed need for broader discussions about reconstruction to ensure that support is ongoing and sustainable, with predictable funding that targets local initiatives. "We need to build a new ecosystem to deal with the results of this war. We need to understand the cost of rehabilitation and the need for rehabilitation facilities," he said.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN WAR

Ukrainian women told the delegation how, within days of the Russian invasion, they were forced to flee their homes with only a few possessions, leaving their husbands, brothers, and sons behind. They had to navigate the risks of potentially unsafe passage and resettlement while taking on expanded care roles for children, the elderly and the vulnerable.

Agnieszka Pens, a worker at the **City Social Welfare Center** in Krakow, Poland noted, "All of the women have had tragic experiences. Not only homes destroyed, not only being forced to flee, but they have often witnessed the cruel death of their loved ones." Additionally, and as occurs in all conflict situations, violence against women, including domestic violence, increased. The chaos heightened the risk of exploitation and human trafficking.

Women activists providing humanitarian aid reported Russian soldiers raping women as a weapon of war.

“ We have witnessed your courage, resilience and determination to save life, protect rights and build peace.”

– Maria Butler, Executive Director
Nobel Women's Initiative





Maryna Pugachova, Director of the **Mariupol Women's Association**, said, "The women have experienced instances of sexual violence. This happens in Russian camps where there are no human rights organizations present...It is necessary for international human rights organizations to monitor the situation. This would be a powerful tool against the violence that is taking place." She added, "It is difficult to register the cases because, even if there is physical evidence, the women don't want to talk about it...They are not prepared to admit the sexual violence."

Khrystyna Kit, Director of the **Association of Women Lawyers of Ukraine**, explained efforts to seek accountability and justice. "We give trainings to the legal community on how to work with survivors of violence...The first challenge is one of accountability – actually recording instances of sexual violence and then having the legal framework to deal with it. We don't have an article in our criminal code dealing with war and sexual violence. The criminal code refers to international acts, but not everyone is aware of this, so we do the trainings."

Access to medical care – including time-sensitive sexual and reproductive health interventions – was limited. There was need for individual, trauma-sensitive psychosocial support, as well as universal access to safe reproductive healthcare and abortion. Activists in Poland spoke about how difficult it can be to work with women survivors because of the strict anti-abortion laws in Poland. "Mostly we give information on how to access the abortion pill. We work with refugees all the time. But since the start of the war, we have been working seven days a week," said Polish reproductive rights leader Justyna Wydrzynska of the **Abortion Dream Team**.

WOMEN'S VOICES MUST BE PART OF THE PROCESS

Women must be meaningfully included in humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts as well as the rebuilding of the Ukraine. October 31 marks the twenty-second anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Resolution 1325. The resolution, proclaimed as a "landmark" by the UN, "reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses

“I am from a country that is still at war, so I understand your words.”

– Tawakkol Karman

the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.”

Yet 22 years later and although Ukrainian women play critical roles in responding to Russia's aggression, they are still largely excluded from both formal and informal humanitarian relief and peace processes. For example, in negotiations between Russia and Ukraine from 2014 to 2019, only two women out of 12 delegates were sent to the talks by Ukraine. There were no women in the Russian delegation.

By excluding women in these processes, the rights and needs of women and marginalized communities are largely overlooked. Women know what they need and by including them, responses to the multiple crises they face will be more effective.

Conferences, international meetings, humanitarian corridor decisions will proliferate in the months ahead. Talk will be plenty, including rhetorical gestures to women's participation, but action is vital to overcome the enduring, deep-seated sidelining of women and gender issues in humanitarian relief efforts, conflict resolution and recovery.





Activists are clear about what it means to have so much money flooding into the region and yet seeing very little of it. VOICE Amplified's seven-part report, [Waiting for the skies to close: The Unprecedented Crisis Facing Women and Girls Fleeing Ukraine](#) notes: "We have never seen more money flow into a crisis context than this one, yet despite the fact that international 'duty-bearers' have made many global commitments to uphold the rights of women and girls in emergencies, they are again failing. Even though women make up the majority of frontline responders, and despite the fact they are the most impacted, their solutions and their voices are not being centered. Their organizations should be leading, and we should be listening."

The political and humanitarian sectors need to include women working at all levels – local, national, and regional - in their efforts, and to direct funding to women's organizations and other actors working on the frontlines of the war. Bureaucratic entanglements blocking or delaying allocations of resources must be ended.



SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

It is fundamental that all actors in the conflict keep the humanity of the Ukrainian people at center of their decisions. True and lasting peace happens when women's voices are included, human rights upheld, international law respected, and when violence and militarization are rejected as long-term solutions in the quest for human security.

The Nobel Women's Initiative delegation in Ukraine and Poland June 20-24 heard a range of testimonies, stories, and analyses of the war that underscored the urgency for peace in its fullest form and the necessity of ensuring women's voices are heard in all processes related to the invasion and in building sustainable peace.

“The ramping up of military might does not end wars or ultimately provide for long-term human security.”

- Jody Williams.



The delegation was led by Nobel Peace Prize laureates Tawakkol Karman of Yemen, Leymah Gbowee of Liberia, and Jody Williams of the United States. They are committed to amplifying the voices of Ukrainian women calling for peace with accountability. Many women they met asked “Do not forget us.” They will not.

The vast majority of the 12 million Ukrainians displaced by the war are women and children. Resources must be directed to ensure they reach those in need at a local level in a timely way, with women and women's organizations participating in decisions on the allocation of funds and material.

The laureates call for non-discrimination and recognition of the rights all displaced persons. Everyone seeking asylum must be treated with dignity. Seeking asylum is a human right and anyone fleeing any conflict has the right to protection. This right should be granted regardless of race, religion, gender, or country of origin.

The laureates have called on the UN to increase funding to local women's organizations and funding for humanitarian responses to women's needs, in-country, and among the refugee population. The laureates also called on the UN to ensure women's meaningful participation in building peace.

Several important assessments underline concrete actions for the UN to take including those in [VOICE Amplified's report](#), *Waiting for the Sky to Close: The Unprecedented Crisis Facing Women & Girls Fleeing Ukraine*; in the [Rapid Gender Analysis of Ukraine](#), carried out by UN Women and CARE International; and in [Gender Analysis of the Situation in Ukraine](#) by the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.

The Nobel Women's Initiative commissioned a short documentary titled “Oh, Sister!” which was directed by Hanna Kopylova and produced by 2332.films, Ukraine. The film depicts the role of Ukrainian women in the fight for peace, justice, freedom, and prosperity of Ukraine. “Oh, Sister” is a collective portrait of women who face the challenges of this inhumane war and tells the stories of Ukrainian women. “Oh, Sister” was produced by an all-women Ukrainian creative team. Ukrainian women across the country and outside are contributing to the survival of Ukrainians, each in their own way every day. The documentary tells the stories of several women the laureates met during the delegation and other women who are working across different parts of Ukraine.





In “Oh, Sister” we meet:

Natalia Kuoltrych and Nadia Zhinikovska are working as conductors for Ukrainian Railways. Both women kept working and evacuating people from the very beginning of the large-scale invasion even though every journey could have been a one-way trip. The laureates called these brave women “Ukrainian superheroes” after meeting them at the Railway Station in Lviv.

Oleksandra Matviychuk is a Kyiv-based human rights lawyer and civil society leader. Oleksandra leads the non-profit organization The Center for Civil Liberties and is an active campaigner for democratic reforms in Ukraine. In June 2021, Oleksandra was nominated to the United Nations Committee against Torture and made history as Ukraine's first female candidate to the UN treaty body. Now she continues her fight for justice.

Alla Melnychuk is the head of “Mother and New-born” - a charitable organization which has been helping save lives of new-born with severe health issues for more than 20 years. Since the Russian invasion on 24 February 2022, Alla leveraged her network and expertise to rescue more than 400 heavily wounded children by evacuating them to European hospitals despite constant shelling and other challenges.

Tata Kepler is a tac medical volunteer supplying medical support to Ukrainian civilians and army on the front and in the de-occupied territories of Ukraine.

The Nobel Women's Initiative will support partners working for peace in Ukraine, including a special initiative titled “Women Lead” that aims to raise Eur10 million for grants to female-led civil society initiatives aimed at sustainable recovery. The Nobel Women's Initiative will advocate for peace in Ukraine and appropriate representation of women and women's organizations in all conversations, processes, projects, and conferences pertaining to peacemaking and reconstruction of Ukraine.

APPENDIX 1

WOMEN LEADING PEACE: STANDING WITH WOMEN IN CONFLICT

Delegation objectives, program and partners

JUNE 20-24

Purpose

- To show solidarity with women, women activists, and their networks on the ground.
- To highlight the solutions and analyses of women peacebuilders from the region.
- To inform analysis and advocacy in support of peace, inclusive humanitarian responses, and displacement.
- To shed light on women's stories highlighting the risks to women such as persecution, sexual violence and exploitation, trafficking, racial discrimination, greatly reduced access to maternal and reproductive health, and more.
- To call greater attention to ongoing conflicts in the world and the impacts on women and displaced persons.
- To share findings and recommendations from our mission with decision-makers.
- To document the delegation's insights and learnings and share widely through media.

Program

June 20
Krakow, Poland

Visit to the Witalnia Mother and Child Safe Space

A day care center where women can leave their children while looking for work, learning Polish or sorting through documents and paperwork.

Psychosocial support session conducted by The Azadi Project at the Witalnia Space

The women share their stories of fleeing Ukraine and finding safety, support and community in Krakow. Yulia, a psychologist and a Ukrainian herself with The Azadi Project, conducts psychosocial support sessions with women refugees.

Jewish Community Center of Krakow

The JCC feeds up to 1000 people and houses 400 people daily. A holocaust survivor and a Jewish refugee from Ukraine speak to the need to help each other and sing a song for peace. "Genocide continues around the world because of silence. Because the world is indifferent," said Johnathan Ornstein, JCC Krakow Executive Director.

Civil Society Meeting

The work Polish and Ukrainian activists – working on feminist peacebuilding, humanitarian response, women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights, displacement and refugee rights, and more. – was discussed. The activists expressed appreciation for the

recognition of their critical work as the delegation's visit came just as many service-providers were feeling burnt-out and invisible.

World Refugee Day Event

Tawakkol Karman speaks at a poetry and music event to mark World Refugee Day, standing in solidarity with Ukraine and with Ukrainians' right to live in dignity and peace.

June 21 Krakow, Poland

Ukrainian Assistance Center run by the City Social Welfare Center of Krakow

The center has supported over 3000 refugees – providing shelter, psychological assistance, food and legal services. "Sometimes the women meet here to talk about their homes," said Magdolema Niton-Tvala, co-ordinator at the center standing in front of a map of Ukraine with heart-shaped pins placed by the women to indicate where they lived in Ukraine.

Meeting with Mayor of Krakow

Bring a message of thanks and gratitude to the people of Krakow. The laureates also brought direct recommendations and questions from the meeting with civil society, asking about access to schools, language, rights of the Roma community, and systematic engagement between women's organization and Mayor's office.

Meeting with Roma Community

Roma face discrimination in access to housing, healthcare, and other supports for refugees. Delegation members discussed the issues with representatives of the Roma community.

June 22 Lviv, Ukraine

Lviv Railway Station

In Ukraine, 80 per cent of train conductors are women. In the midst of one of the worst tragedies of the 21st century, they have ensured that a key transportation route remains open to millions fleeing the war.

Shelter visit, Women's Perspective

The shelter offers support to internally displaced women and children helping to find long-term residences in safe areas of Ukraine or abroad and offering psychological counselling.

Meeting with Activists and Civil Society

Frontline women activists working on peace, sexual violence and war, and providing support to women impacted by the violence, spoke about the need to end the war, hold those responsible for war crimes to account and for their voices to be heard. The meeting was organized by the Ukrainian Women's Fund and United for Ukraine.

Meeting at the Office of the Governor of Lviv Regional Administration

Representatives of the Administration spoke to the war's impact on the region with an influx of internally displaced persons stretching an already-stressed social support system. Although grateful for the support given by the international community, much more financial support is needed.

Meeting with the Mayor of the City of Lviv, Andriy Sadovyy

In the midst of war, the City of Lviv is already looking towards reconstruction and rehabilitation with plans for a center to help those traumatized by the war. "We are resilient. We will survive. We are unbroken," said Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyy.

June 23 Rzeszow, Poland

Shelter Visit

Magda Mukomietow is a local Polish woman who has converted her hotel into a shelter for Ukrainian refugees. About 80 refugees live there, most of them women and children.

Meeting with United Nations

The laureates met remotely with Osnat Lubrani UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine, thanking her for her engagement and support for the delegation as well as discussing the political context and the centrality of women's rights.

Krakow, Poland - Press Conference

The delegation wrapped up with a live-stream press conference where the laureates called for an end to the war. <https://youtube.com/c/nobelwomen>.

June 24 Krakow, Poland

Interviews conducted for a documentary on Ukrainian women united in their common goal to end the war and to bring peace to Ukraine.

Partners

The delegation was possible thanks to the participation of Ukrainian women and organizations, and support of BMW Foundation, Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa-USA, Tawakkol Karman Foundation, Brian Kelly, supporters of NWI; along with the incredible partnerships with The Azadi Project, United for Ukraine, Ukrainian Women's Fund, and many others.

Delegation Participants

Leymah Gbowee, Laureate, Nobel Women's Initiative

Tawakkol Karman, Laureate, Nobel Women's Initiative

Jody Williams, Laureate, Nobel Women's Initiative

Maria Butler, Executive Director, Nobel Women's Initiative

Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland, Senior Director, CUNY Gender, Law and Transformative Peace

Hana Saleh, Journalist, Executive Manager, Belqees Media

Aswan Mohammed, Activist, Guest of Tawakkol Karman Foundation

Olga Hamama, Founder, United for Ukraine

Muhammed Alnehmi and **Vala Alnehmi**, Family of Tawakkol Karman

Villy Tentoma, The Azadi Project

Angelina Jamsched, United for Ukraine

**Communications**

Katia Gianneschi, Communications Consultant

Łukasz Popielarczyk, Videographer

Bartosz Ocipski, Media Fixer

Ania Bystrowska, Photographer

Olha Menko, Rapporteur

Kateryna Kaliberda, Interpreter

Oh, Sister Documentary

Hanna Kopylova, Director

Christina prylyp, producer 23/32 films

Jane Bondarenko, Director of photography

Sasha Cherniavsky, Executive producer 23/32 films

Further information and links:

Nobel Women's Initiative information on the delegation is [online](#).

Nobel Women's Initiative runs a database of experts to connect with journalists: [InterviewHer – Experts on Ukraine](#)

Media releases and advisories

Nobel peace laureates lead delegation to Poland and Ukraine (17 June 2022)


Three women Nobel peace laureates to visit Lviv on June 22 (21 June 2022)

Women of Ukraine demand peace. Peace with justice. Peace with Freedom (24 June 2022)

The delegation was covered in Polish, Ukrainian and international media: See [Nobel Peace Prize winners arrive in Ukraine](#). Ukrinform, 22 June 2022.

[Delegation to Poland and Ukraine 2022 \(Flickr\)](#)



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nobelwomensinitiative.org