

MUNLawS 2025 Position Paper

Delegation: Ukraine



Committee: United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Topic A: Marking the 25th Anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)

This year, the world celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary since the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Adopted unanimously, it affirmed that lasting peace is impossible without the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in all peace and security decision-making processes.

Resolution 1325 represents an intersection of hard and soft law. Adopted under the Council's thematic practice rather than Chapter VII, it does *not* carry formal binding power. Nevertheless, it carries strong normative power by establishing expectations for Member States and UN actors, influencing their behaviour, and setting important international standards on women's participation in peace and security decision-making and their rights in times of military conflict. Together, these principles form the framework of the WSP agenda, advocating for a gender-responsive approach to peace and security.

As of January 2025, 112 countries, representing more than half of the UN membership and accounting for a total of 56% of all Member States, have adopted National Action Plans (NAPs) to implement the WPS agenda.¹ However, only half of which have made explicit commitments on women's participation in peace processes.² Nearly one-third of these NAPs are currently outdated, as research suggests that many lack the funding, support, proper record of performance indicators, consistent monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to advance. These discrepancies ultimately undermine the credibility and often reduce NAPs to symbolic diplomatic recommendations rather than enforceable decisions.

Despite some progress, the promotion of women to senior leadership roles remains an exception rather than the rule. A quarter century after the adaptation of Resolution 1325, transition from norm to practice remains contingent on political will, consistent resourcing, and structural reform. As of July 2025, women lead only 29 countries, but as of September 2025, 102 countries worldwide have never had a women serve as Head of State or Government even in liberal democracies like the United States.³ Interestingly, between 2015 and 2024, only 23% of the Permanent Representatives of the Member States represented in the Security Council

¹ European Parliament, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)689356](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI(2021)689356)

² UN Women, October 2025, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures-women-peace-and-security>

³ UN Women, October 2025, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures-women-peace-and-security>

were women.⁴ This clearly shows the ultimate paradox, where the very institutions mandated to protect and promote women's rights, fall short on gender equality, and ultimately weaken the impact of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

The impact of the Russian conflict against Ukraine has had devastating consequences on women and girls, with 6.7 million women in need of humanitarian assistance, and more than 3,799 recorded women and 289 girls killed, with the actual number likely to be much higher, according to the United Nations.⁵ Women's experience of the war has been especially harsh, as they have to face *not only* the military conflict, but also face heightened exposure to gender-based violence. Therefore, women are subjected to a double layer of violence where gender violence has increased to 36% since the start of the war in February 2022.⁶

After twenty-five years, Resolution 1325 remains one of the most transformative frameworks in the history of the United Nations Security Council. Its successes are undeniable, yet its implementation remains uneven and largely dependent on political will and bias. Therefore, Ukraine advocates for **1)** the WPS agenda to gain legally binding power and authority rather than remaining a normative, as this would ensure the full respect, recognition, and appreciation it deserves. Moreover, **2)** the Council must create meaningful space for adolescent girls and women to participate in peace and security processes to ensure that diverse perspectives and experiences are being represented. Importantly, **3)** To protect women from threats of gender-based violence by humanitarian responses that are gender-responsive, ensuring equitable access to resources, healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities for all women affected by armed conflicts. Ukraine reaffirms its commitment to ensuring women's participation, protection, and inclusion in all peace and security matters and decision-making processes.

⁴ UN Women, October 2025, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures-women-peace-and-security>

⁵ UN Women, February 2025, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/press-release/2025/02/three-years-of-full-scale-war-in-ukraine-roll-back-decades-of-progress-for-womens-rights-safety-and-economic-opportunities>

⁶ UN Women, February 2025, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/press-release/2025/02/three-years-of-full-scale-war-in-ukraine-roll-back-decades-of-progress-for-womens-rights-safety-and-economic-opportunities>

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Topic B: Addressing the Disproportionate Effect of Armed Conflicts on Children

As one of the most vulnerable and fragile demographic groups, children experience the impact of armed conflict more intensely and permanently than any other. Their inability to fully comprehend what constitutes danger further implies that they cannot recognise threats or have the cognitive capacity to know how to respond in a crisis situation. Exposure to extreme violence or loss of life can shape their emotional development in lasting ways that follow them in adulthood. As a result, they may become more prone to radicalisation, particularly due to trauma and unresolved grievances. Their repeated exposure to violence can desensitise their sense of normalcy, increasing the likelihood of perpetuating further conflict in the future. Therefore, their safety, emotional and physical well-being, and right to life must guide all humanitarian and international peace and security decision. Despite the global consensus that children require special attention and care due to their particular vulnerability, children continue to remain disproportionately affected by the consequences of war.

To this argument, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has identified six grave violations against children in times of armed conflict. These include killing and maiming, recruitment and use of children, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abduction of children, and attacks on schools and hospitals.⁷ Each of these violations are systematically monitored through the UN's Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM)⁸, and constitutes serious breaches of international law, often rising to the level of war crimes prosecutable before the International Criminal Court (ICC)⁹. The ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, continue to demonstrate that each of these grave violations persist and continues to be practiced. Ukrainian children are being killed both directly, from targeted or collateral attacks on civilian *safe haven* infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, or their very own homes, and indirectly due to the consequences of displacement, lack of humanitarian services, and the long-term trauma. On July 4th, 2025, UNICEF reported a verified number of children killed or injured in Ukraine between March 1st and May 31st, 2025, to have increased by more than 200% compared to the previous quarter.¹⁰ The Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine disturbingly reports a 17% increase of suicidality and attempts amongst minors possibly due to the struggle

⁷ Children & Armed Conflict, Annual Report <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Children-Armed-Conflict-Annual-Report-Summary-2017-web.pdf>

⁸ MRM, <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/tools-for-action/monitoring-and-reporting/>

⁹ ICC, 2023, <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2023-12/2023-policy-children-en-web.pdf>

¹⁰ UNICEF, 2025, <https://www.unicef.org/eca/press-releases/threefold-increase-number-children-killed-or-injured-ukraine-over-past-three-months>

to process the witnessed violence.¹¹ The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among the population of Ukraine to be at approximately 25%, and more than half of the population, or 57%, is at risk of developing it.¹²

However, one of the condemnable violations has been the forcible transfer and deportation of Ukrainian children, from occupied territories across Russian borders.¹³ Thousands of children, including orphans, have been forcibly and unlawfully deported or abducted by the Russian Federation and brought across borders.¹⁴ In occupied territories, the Ukrainian curriculum has been replaced with Russian propaganda, the use of Ukrainian language is suppressed, and some children are being subjected to military training.¹⁵ The children who have been deported, have been subjected to forced Russification and patriotic ideological indoctrination with the goal to be completely stripped of their national, Ukrainian identity.

When we protect children, we, as a direct result of, are actively protecting peace, strengthening security, upholding justice, and effectively safeguard the future of humanity itself. The world cannot allow for another generation to grow up haunted by violence. It cannot build a better future with youth that is scarred and grieving, carrying the burden of the collective trauma they have experienced. The UNSC must move beyond expressions of concerns to concrete, enforceable actions. Therefore, Ukraine advocates for the immediate implementation of an action plan that **1)** guarantees the safe and dignified return of all children who have been forcibly and unlawfully deported or abducted by the Russian Federation. Following their repatriation to Ukraine, the plan should prioritize reunification with families in full accordance with the Geneva Conventions, as well as compliance with international law. For children who are left orphaned as a consequence of armed conflict must be provided with appropriate placements and childcare services. **2)** There is critical lack of mental health services and structures, as efforts remain focused primarily on removing children from any immediate physical danger. Donor communities should be encouraged to confront and mitigate such deficiencies and discrepancies by allocating more funding to establish more and strengthen existing mental health support systems. This is important to both aid the psychological *recovery* of the child, as well as prevent unresolved trauma and grievances from growing and potentially escalating into new future conflicts. Importantly, **3)** the mandate of Special Representatives of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF, OHCHR, and other relevant humanitarian bodies should receive stronger endorsement, to further ensure that the need of every child is being met. This is to align with the principles set forth in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), ensuring protection from violence, and safeguarding children's dignity, education, health, and development in times of military conflict.¹⁶ Ukraine reaffirms its commitment to protect the rights of every child and ensure that their childhood is not sacrificed in times of war but safeguarded with their right to life of quality and peace.

¹¹ Prosecutor General's Office, October 2025

¹² NLBI, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11523818/>

¹³ European Parliament, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI\(2023\)747093](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI(2023)747093)

¹⁴ AIK, https://ambkiev.esteri.it/it/news/dall_ambasciata/2023/06/deportation-of-ukrainian-children/

¹⁵ GRC, <https://globalrightscompliance.org/rewriting-childhood-the-russification-of-ukrainian-children/>

¹⁶ OHCHR, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>

