

STATEMENT

ON THE NECESSITY TO PROTECT WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES IN CONFLICT

Kyiv, Ukraine
August 23, 2021



The escalating security situation in Afghanistan once again reminds us of the devastating impact of conflict on human rights.

The situation of women, children and families in armed conflict is particularly threatening. These are the most vulnerable groups, as evidenced by their overwhelming share among internally displaced persons and refugees as a result of armed conflicts.

Therefore,

Recalling UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) «Women. Peace. Security», General Recommendation No. 30 of the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations (2013), and UN Security Council Resolution 2427 (2018) on measures to protect children affected by armed conflict,

Emphasizing that the joint efforts of the international community must be aimed at protecting the most vulnerable groups from violence and violations of their rights and freedoms, including by ensuring full respect for international humanitarian law and human rights law, protecting the rights of women and children in and post-conflict, as well as preventing forcible family separation; and

Condemning all forms of discrimination and any actions and decisions, including political ones, which may violate or jeopardize the rights and freedoms of women and children, including right to education, work, and free choice of a job, freedom of speech, thought, conscience and religion, freedom of beliefs and their free expression, as well as the right to free movement,

We make this statement and:

- **Call** on all parties monitoring the situation in Afghanistan and other conflict zones to ensure safety of women and children and observance of their rights and freedoms, as well as to prevent the forcible separation of families;
- **Call** on international organizations, religious communities, non-governmental organizations and public initiatives to stand up for women and children, in particular to provide as a matter of priority the required humanitarian assistance to ensure security and prevent violence and all forms of discrimination against women and children in armed conflict;
- **Invite** first ladies and gentlemen, politicians, experts, opinion leaders, and all concerned citizens around the world to join this Statement and the #AfghanistanWomen movement across social media - to actively circulate information about the situation of Afghan women and girls in conflict and ways to assist them;
- **Launch** across social media the #WeCanSaveThem movement and encourage all concerned citizens to actively circulate information about the situation and ways to assist women, children, and families in conflict, and invite them to join this Statement and movement; and
- **Call** on UN Women, UNICEF, UNHCR, and OHCHR, as well as other key international actors, to support such efforts by all means available to prevent violations of rights and freedoms of women, children, and families in conflict zones.

Anyone is invited to become part of this Statement to support women, children and families in conflict zones around the world.

Each of us should become the voice of women and children deprived of the opportunity to be heard.