

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality
Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
The Chair

To the Chairperson(s) of the Committee(s) concerned

D 307225 30.06.2022

Dear Colleague,

The Russian Federation launched an unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, which caused suffering of the civilian population and led by now to more than 5 million people fleeing Ukraine and seeking refuge in Europe, around 90 per cent of them being women and children. The citizens, Member States and the European Union reacted with an unprecedented outpouring of solidarity and for the first time, the Temporary Protection Directive has been activated.

In its resolution of 5 May 2022 on the impact of the war against Ukraine on women, the European Parliament strongly condemned the use of sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon of war and stressed that this constitutes a war crime, as well as sexual and gender based violence in the transit centres within Ukraine and across EU. It expressed its concern about the growing number of reports of human trafficking, sexual violence, exploitation, rape and abuse faced by women and children fleeing Ukraine and arriving in Europe and called on EU countries to address the specific needs of women and girls in reception centres, as well as called on the EU and host and transit countries to guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health and rights services, particularly emergency contraception, post-exposure prophylaxis and abortion care, including for survivors of rape.

Although the majority of refugees wish to return home one day, for many it will not be possible as their houses and the whole cities have been bombarded and destroyed. Women and girls fleeing the conflict therefore require long-term and specific support and protection. As many of Ukrainian women are already trying to integrate into the host countries, they are actively looking for work, enrolling children in schools, renting new homes. This is why we need to think about the immediate reception conditions of these women and their future integration in the EU countries.

Against this background, the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM), the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) would like to invite Members of the National Parliaments of the EU to attend an **Interparliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM)** on the theme:

“The rights of Ukrainian Women fleeing the war”

The ICM will provide a platform for the Members of the European Parliament and of the national parliaments to discuss the challenges faced by the people fleeing Ukraine, mainly

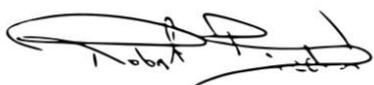
women and children, and the EU's policy responses. The ICM will consist of two panels. The first panel will be organised jointly by FEMM and the LIBE Committee and will deal with the situation of Ukrainian women refugees with regard to reception conditions, protection measures and safety risks. The second panel will be organised jointly by FEMM and the EMPL Committee and will deal with access to social protection and the labour market, housing, childcare facilities and education.

We are therefore very pleased to invite up to four Members of the corresponding committee(s) of each National Parliament (two from each chamber in the case of bi-cameral Parliaments) to attend this event on **Tuesday, 12 July 2022, from 14h.30 to 18.00 remotely**.

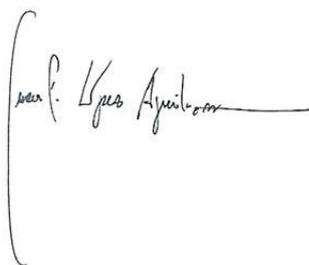
Practical details regarding the meeting will be forwarded in due course to your Parliament's representatives/services responsible for relations with the European Parliament.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to accept our invitation and we are looking forward to welcoming you remotely in the European Parliament on 12 July 2022.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Biedroń
Président
Commission des droits des
femmes et de l'égalité des
genres



Juan Fernando López Aguilar
Président
Commission des libertés
civiles,
de la justice et des affaires
intérieures



Dragoș Pîslaru
Président
Commission de
l'emploi
et des affaires sociales