

# Mapping of Dialogue and Peacebuilding Organizations and Initiatives in Ukraine





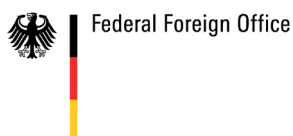


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# Introduction

This study was conducted by the experts of the Mediation and Dialogue Research Center at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv, Ukraine on the request of the CivilM+ Platform between September and December 2020 as a part of the bigger project on Mapping Actors of the Conflict in Donbas.

**The goal of this study** was to develop a comprehensive research-informed inventory of organizations and initiatives (including NGOs and other registered civil society organizations as legal entities, as well as informal initiatives and collaborative projects) currently active in Ukraine and focusing on dialogue and peacebuilding.

**The study focused on** as many organizations and initiatives as possible including (1) Ukrainian civil society organizations and initiatives; (2) international non-governmental organizations and initiatives; (3) international inter-governmental organizations and initiatives. This classification was based on the public perceptions of the "ownership" of the organization/initiative rather than formal legal criteria.

In terms of the **methodological approaches**, the focus on the dialogue and peacebuilding conditioned clear understanding of these terms. First, dialogue in this study was limited to the concept of "facilitated dialogue" as developed by the Ukrainian facilitators themselves in the document "Dialogue Standards: Definition and Principles" (facilitated dialogue is "a specially prepared group process that takes place with the help of a facilitator, aims to improve the understanding/relationships between participants, and may also have the goal of making decisions about common actions or the resolution of a conflict in a way that provides equal opportunities for the participants of the meeting to express their opinions")<sup>1</sup>.

Peacebuilding is a more challenging concept to define. In general terms, peacebuilding refers to the measures and structures aimed at sustainable peace beyond just negative peace (seizure of military actions).<sup>2</sup> Yet, the scope and specific attributes of these measures vary and are contingent upon local context and strategic vision of the particular organization implementing peacebuilding measures. This study relied on the previous research by the Mediation and Dialogue Research Center<sup>3</sup> and Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative (IPTI), Geneva, Switzerland, in particular on the functional approach to peacebuilding developed by the IPTI<sup>4</sup>.

This methodology clusters various contributions of civil society into seven functions that they can fulfil at different stages of a conflict/peace process. The functions were adopted to the Ukrainian context by the MDRC and included:

1. **Protection** of people and communities against violence from all parties where the state can't or won't fulfil this role, and as a precondition for all other peacebuilding activities. In Ukrainian context this function includes activities on various aspects of human, information and cyber-security in Ukraine.

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1 Dialogue Standards: Definition and Principles (IPCG, 2018), доступ по ссылке: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JN3QR E8EXU5D1FvY3Go1H19ZvRNHNxAo/view>

2 UN Peacebuilding Support Office, UN Peacebuilding: An Orientation, (New York: Peacebuilding Support Office, September 2010), доступ по ссылке: [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/peacebuilding\\_orientation.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/peacebuilding_orientation.pdf)

3 Tetiana Kyselova, Mapping of Civil Society Peacebuilding in Ukraine: Peacebuilding by Any Other Name (IPTI, MDRC, 2019), доступ по ссылке: <https://md.ukma.edu.ua/publications/>

4 Thania Paffenholz, Civil Society and Peacebuilding: A Critical Assessment (Lynne Rienner Boulder, 2010).

2. **Monitoring** of conflict trends and issues, including human rights violations, ceasefire and peace agreement implementation and early warning information.
3. **Advocacy** for peacebuilding agendas and human security issues, through public communication, mass action, or "behind the scenes" advocacy.
4. **In-group socialization** to foster attitudinal change and build capacities for a culture of peace, and to empower marginalized groups, including peace education, peace journalism and art as peacebuilding.
5. **Social cohesion** activities that bring together people from adversarial groups towards peaceful coexistence; including facilitated dialogue.
6. **Intermediation and facilitation** between citizens, the state or conflict parties, often in support of other peacebuilding functions, including cross-contact-line activities and contacts with the population on the temporary occupied territories.
7. **Service delivery and development as entry points for peacebuilding**, including humanitarian aid organizations, but only those that expressly incorporate (for ex. through their websites) peacebuilding program component as a systematic activity.

Based on the functional approach to peacebuilding, this study aimed to represent at least several organizations/initiatives in each of the above functions of peacebuilding and arrived at the following **selection criteria**: (1) organization/initiative should be active as of September 2020; (2) organization/initiative should be active at any part of Ukraine including temporary occupied territories; (3) organization/initiative should receive at least three referrals from other participants of the study; (4) organization/initiative should have a proved track record of activities in at least one peacebuilding function (as identified through their websites and social media); (5) organization/initiative should give a consent to be included into the mapping and proof-read information to be published.

**Methods** that were used to identify peacebuilding organizations/initiatives and their activities in this study included the following:

- Desk-research of the Internet and social media;
- Review of the previous studies and mappings of the peacebuilding sector in Ukraine;
- Snowball referrals from organizations/initiatives that have been already contacted as well as from the CivilMPlus Platform and their experts;
- Triangulation of the information with two other databases: public database on Ukrainian peacebuilding organizations by Peace Insight (21 organizations)<sup>5</sup>; and intra-organizational database of the GiZ CPS (kindly shared by the colleagues — 196 entries).
- Self-identification of the organization/initiative — all the organizations were personally contacted by e-mail or social media for express consent including the wording of the text for each organization/initiative. Thus, at large, the description of the organizations/initiatives represent their self-reflection — their vision of themselves. Therefore, the researchers decided not to use a unified terminology throughout the text but to rely on the wordings and terminology of the respondents with minor technical editorial changes.

5 <https://www.peaceinsight.org/en/locations/ukraine/?location=ukraine&theme>



Thus, the research team has contacted 46 organizations/initiatives and received positive responses from 42 of them who are presented in this Report in alphabetical order. Despite the fact that there is a strong human rights movement in Ukraine and some human rights organizations perform certain peacebuilding functions, they were not included in this mapping due to the large amount of material. The description of human rights organizations requires a separate mapping.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge **methodological limitations** of this study. First, the persistent challenge for any researcher of civil society refers to difficulties of reaching out to grass-root organizations/initiatives. And that was also the case in this study, although we specifically asked our respondents to provide contacts of the local organizations/initiatives. Second, given that the peacebuilding field is rather new for Ukraine, it is in the formative stage and some activities that we included as peacebuilding may not be ultimately seen as such. This was for example, the case with the organizations working on human and informational security (out of four organizations that we contacted, only two gave positive answers). Finally, as the project ran to its end, the snowball effect continued to work and we received more information about peacebuilding organizations that we regretfully were not able to include due to the time-limits of the project. Therefore, we hope that this basic mapping becomes a "living project" that will allow for other peacebuilding organizations/initiatives to join; for organizations active in other sectors — to consider expanding their activity to peacebuilding; and for current peacebuilders — not to feel themselves alone and disconnected.



# Ukrainian civil society organizations and initiatives

## Art-Playback Theatre

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

NGO Inclusive Theatre Association "Art-Playback" was established in June 2018.<sup>6</sup>

### Mission

Working with various social groups, communities, individuals to overcome stereotypes, prejudices, oppression of people and systems, and to form a peaceful, healthy, diverse society where citizens with different opportunities and abilities, social, psychological and economic capitals can build a dialogue with each other and become active participants in their own lives, the life of their region and the country.

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

NGO "Art-Playback" explores and deals with social patterns of behavior and communication in Ukrainian society through Participatory Theatre and Art for Change methodologies (PTAC). It implements projects at the intersection of civic activism, art, and popularization of PTAC as civic activism tools.

The following projects have been implemented recently by the "Art-Playback" organization:

- 2014–2019, International Inclusive Theatre Festival "Together"<sup>7</sup> for theatre practitioners from different countries, focusing on inclusivity and dealing with important social topics through participatory theatre methods.
- 2019–2020, Project "Art-Workspace «Pulse of the City» promote respect for diverse identities and inclusive narratives in Odesa through modern art"<sup>8</sup>, спрямований на просування ідеї поваги до різноманітності та інклюзивності in partnership with forumZFD Ukraine. A group of activists from Odesa was trained to use theatre and other artistic techniques to evoke social dialogue. Through the workshops, they formed a group and created public performances in both offline and online formats. In the performances, the actors and their audience explore their connection to the city of Odesa and socially important topics and learn how to be more proactive in public life, how to take responsibility and act.
- 2020, Online Laboratory "Theatre on Borders"<sup>9</sup> in partnership with forumZFD Ukraine, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and KURVE Wustrov. The laboratory hosted participants from 7 post-Soviet countries and aimed at creating a space for dialogue, networking and expanding the application of participatory theatre

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/art.playback.ngo>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/artplaybackfest>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/pulse.in.odesa>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/613433409265692>

methods during the COVID-19 crisis. This is a long-term project with further plans to develop as an international community and a platform, conducting online events with regular bigger events (festivals, laboratories), where the international community of theatre practitioners is continually growing and interacting with the civil societies of their countries.

## Art Projects by Alevtina Kakhidze

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

Alevtina Kakhidze is an artist who has been working systematically on peacebuilding since 2014.

### Mission

Art for introspection and critical thinking; political mission of visual art.<sup>10</sup>

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

Alevtina Kakhidze is an artist, performer, curator, teacher, and gardener. She was born in Zhdanivka (Donetsk oblast) but has been living in the village of Muzychi since 2008. She is the co-founder and curator of the private residence for international artists called "The Extended History of Muzychi". Alevtina developed a methodology of "thinking through drawing" and teaches art for children based on this methodology. In her gardening projects, she developed the terms "adult garden" and "totalitarian flowerbed". Since 2013, she has been creating visual materials on the themes of Euromaidan and the Russian-Ukrainian war.

Alevtina Kakhidze is the UN Envoy of Tolerance<sup>11</sup> and takes part in communication campaign for tolerance in Ukrainian society initiated by the UN Development Program in Ukraine. The project team focuses on developing a regional network of leaders who will become the promoters of the ideas and values of respect, mutual understanding, and human rights at the regional level in Ukraine.

Alevtina Kakhidze's projects on the topic of dealing with conflicts:

- "Method of constructing political truth"<sup>12</sup> (December 2018), Mystetsky Arsenal. The artist gave answers to critical political questions posed by the audience and presented different positions and experiences of the Tourist, the Mediator, the Fighter with Electricity (a person who talks about events experienced personally, not borrowed from TV), and the Gardener.
- "Klubnika Andreevna"<sup>13</sup> (April 2014 – 16th January 2019). In this project, the artist carefully documented through texts and drawings daily life of her mother, whom she calls Klubnika Andreevna, and who had been living at the non-governmentally controlled area since April 2014. The works depict moments of her life: calling to her daughter from the cemetery because only there one could find mobile connection; crossing checkpoints under shelling, etc. This project was

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.5.ua/ru/kultura/za-chaysom-khudozhnytsa-alevtyna-kakhydze-v-efyre-5-kanala-189041.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/uk/home/operations/get-involved/reinvent-respect-campaign/tolerance-envoys.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://artarsenal.in.ua/vystavky/ekspozycja/pres-konferentsiya-abo-metod-konstruyuvannya-politychnoyi-pravdy/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://hromadske.ua/posts/alevtyna-kakhidze-pro-rozmovy-z-klubnikoiu-andriivnoiu>

interrupted by Alevtina's mother's death at the checkpoint on January 16, 2019. Art as a means of conveying personal history is a powerful way to rehumanize the "other" and actualize the problem.

- "Seeds of Ukraine" — Alevtina Kakhidze has constructed a moving stall for collecting seeds, and plans to get closer to the "zero zone" with the stall – the point where the occupied part of Donbas begins – by the first days of spring when the time comes to plant the seeds. The collection of seeds started on February 25 at the Ivan Honchar Museum. In exchange for the brought seeds the artist accepted special orders – something to be brought back from the Donbas' occupied part. On August 21, Alevtina set off to the "zero zone" (Stanytsia Luhanska) to exchange seeds for the ordered items. The project is still ongoing.<sup>14</sup>
- "HURTOBUS"<sup>15</sup> (2019–2020). The project created by the Platform for Cultural Initiatives "Izoliatsia" in cooperation with the US Embassy in Ukraine a bus was transformed into a mobile cultural center for master classes, lectures, interactive projects, etc. The project's goal is to popularize contemporary art and culture in the most remote places of Ukraine, support the decentralization of the cultural sector, and stimulate its development in small towns and villages.

## Detector Media

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

"Detector Media" was founded in January 2004 (until April 2016 it was called NGO "Telecritics")<sup>16</sup>.

### Mission

Detector Media is an analytical center and media platform that contributes to developing democratic, free, and professional media in Ukraine and the world, promoting media consumers' critical thinking and awareness.

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

The organization's core activity is to inform readers about the most important events in Ukrainian and international media space in the context of political and social processes; assistance in improving the quality of the content of the media in Ukraine (including news); increasing citizens' media literacy.

In the area of countering propaganda, Detector Media has developed the Index of Kremlin's Information Influence, which evaluates the level of influence of Russian propaganda on Ukrainian media and monitors messages of the Kremlin propaganda in the Russian and Ukrainian media. In 2018, Detector Media experts drafted a Concept of Propaganda Monitoring to be used by their partners from Belarus. The well-known Ukrainian media expert Igor Kulyas has also published a brochure "How to recognize propaganda in the media".

Detector Media monitors the communication policy of the Ukrainian authorities concerning the war in Donbas. Detector Media's representatives join the working

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.ostro.org/video/595491/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://supportyourart.com/columns/community-culture-bus>

<sup>16</sup> <https://detector.media/>

and expert groups, advisory bodies involved in countering propaganda and publish books that summarize the experience of analyzing and countering propaganda from the previous two decades.

The following analytical reports were prepared during the Russian-Ukrainian war: "The Index of Kremlin's Information Influence"; "Information consumption, needs and views of the residents of eastern Ukraine", "Countering Russian information aggression: joint efforts to protect democracy, 2015", "Public attitudes towards the media, propaganda and media reform during the conflict, 2015", "How Russian propaganda affects public opinion in Ukraine, 2017", "Effectiveness of state policy in the field of information security, 2018", "Sources of information, media literacy and Russian propaganda, 2019", "How the preferences and interests of Ukrainians towards the media have changed after the 2019 elections and the beginning of the COVID pandemic, 2020 (research)," Assessment of the media needs of Donetsk and Lugansk regions, controlled territory, 2017 "(special report)," Activities of public authorities in the field of information policy and media regulation "(regular report). Detector Media experts participated in developing laws on excluding Russian programs from the European product quota and quotas for songs and radio broadcasting in the Ukrainian language.

On a daily basis, Detector Media debunks fakes of Ukrainian and foreign media and analyze journalistic mistakes and deliberate manipulations.

## Women's Initiatives for Peace in Donbas

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

Women's Initiatives for Peace in Donbas (WIPD) is a peacemaking dialogue platform that brought together dozens of women from Ukraine (controlled as well as non-controlled territories), Russia and European countries.<sup>17</sup> WIPD began its work as a platform in 2016.

### Mission

Establishing relationships between representatives from different conflict sides; offering mechanisms to decrease tensions and de-mythologize fears and enemy images; analyzing expectations and needs to find common constructive resolutions to urgent problems; giving civil society from different parties to the conflict a voice to be heard by the other sides of the conflict and by the international community; making members of the local population from conflict zones and other parties to the conflict aware of their roles, and demonstrating options for participation in peacebuilding; identifying potential actors of peaceful development in the region.<sup>18</sup>

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

The project "Women's Initiatives for Peace in Donbas" (2017 – 2020) is implemented through close partnership with the German NGO OWEN — Mobile Academy of Gender Democracy and Peacebuilding (Berlin, Germany), the Center of Public Initiatives "Ideas for Change" (Kyiv, Ukraine), and the Foundation for the

<sup>17</sup> <https://novocherkassk.net/lavochka/category/%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3%D0%B8-%D0%BC%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B0/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://ideizmin.com.ua/projects-ukr/pidstorinka-dva/>

Development of Civil Society and Human Rights "Women of Don" (Novocherkassk, Russia)<sup>19</sup>. The project creatively combines the areas of peacemaking and women's activism using dialogue and diapraxis. During the project's implementation, seven dialogue meetings and one online assembly were held, more than 30 joint mini-initiatives were implemented belonging by the project participants. The WIPD participants have an opportunity to take a course on negotiation skills held by the Netherlands Institute of International Relations.

Apart from the dialogue meetings under closed doors, the dialogue platform of WIPD holds various events for attracting attention of the multiple public groups and experts. Given the high risks for the project and individual participants, events and discussions are held in specialized expert forums directly related to the conflict, in particular among human rights and humanitarian organizations, within the international, diplomatic, and donor communities.

## Journal "Commons"

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

The Journal of social criticism "Commons" is a Ukrainian left intellectual journal that was founded in 2009<sup>20</sup>.

### Mission

The Journal's mission is to analyze and criticize the social system using modern critical social theories. To contribute to and spread the vision of a more politically free and economically egalitarian society.

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

The Journal editors try to support the coverage of the views of various groups of Ukrainian society about the war and create a safe environment for constructive public discussion of sensitive and controversial topics regarding the war in Donbas.

In 2019, the Journal launched the annual "Feuerbach 11" conference that brings together researchers and activists to discuss Ukraine's socio-economic and political issues. On October 31, 2020, the following discussions were held: "The future of Donbas: freezing the conflict or reintegration", "Memorialization of civilian victims: between dialogue and propaganda", and "Gender and war: experiences of sexual violence against women in the army." The conferences addressed the issues of war and its various dimensions — the experience of women who went to the Army, the memory about civilian victims of war, and the prospects for resolving the conflict.

The Journal publishes articles that analyze current issues related to the consequences and different perceptions of the armed conflict in Donbas. An example of such publications is a study by Taras Bilous on memorialization practices in respect to civilian victims of the conflict who died in different locations in eastern Ukraine. The articles were prepared in the framework of the project "Memory guides: information resources for the peaceful conflict transformation", carried out by the Center for Independent Social Research — CISR e.V. Berlin. As a part of this project, the Journal

<sup>19</sup> <http://ideizmin.com.ua/projects-ukr/pidstorinka-dva/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://commons.com.ua/ru/p/pro-nas/>

published an interview with Nina Potarska about inclusive peace and opportunities for dialogue between people on both sides of the contact line<sup>21</sup>.

In addition to the website publications, the Journal "Commons" was published as a "thick magazine" format. Thematic issues dealt with the certain socio-economic problems and current political processes. In 2015, the ninth issue was published that presented various positions to analysis of the Maidan phenomenon. In 2016, the tenth issue — "War and Nationalism" was published where the authors analyzed the concepts of war and nationalism, the consequences of the armed conflict in Donbass for Ukraine<sup>22</sup>.

## Ideas for Change

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

Centre of Public Initiatives "Ideas for Change" (IfC) was founded in November 2015, it started its full-fledged activity in January 2017.<sup>23</sup>

### **Mission**

Transformation of the Ukrainian society from survival values to self-development and actualization values at the national and local levels.<sup>24</sup>

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

The organization implements dialogue and peacebuilding projects aimed at the conflict settlement in Donbas, i.e., confidence-building among the representatives of different regions and communities; identifying the potential actors for peaceful development in the region; enhancing women's capacities according to the UN Resolution #1325 "Women, peace, and security".

In 2019, the project "Joint History Textbook — 2090" was implemented<sup>25</sup>, resulting in the publication of the "Common and Different: Research of Narratives in the Public Consciousness of Ukraine, Germany, and Russia", developed by experts from academic institutions, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, and the media of three countries. The project developed an innovative online dialogue tool that allows many users to work together on the same text based on consensus.

As part of the project "Women, Peace and Security: A Chance for Georgia's and Ukraine's Protracted Conflicts?" (2019)<sup>26</sup>, five analytical documents concerning specific aspects of "Women, peace and security" were published; a number of seminars and a research conferences were organized.

"Women's Initiatives for Peace in Donbas" (2017 – 2020) is also an important project<sup>27</sup>, which is being implemented through close partnership with the German

21 <https://commons.com.ua/ru/civilni-zhertvi-vijni-na-donbasi-j-pamyat-pro-nih/> <https://commons.com.ua/ru/nina-potarskaya-o-mire-vojne-i-zhenshinah-na-donbasse/>

22 <https://commons.com.ua/uk/viina-i-natsionalizm/>

23 <http://ideizmin.com.ua/>

24 <http://ideizmin.com.ua/pro-nas/>

25 <http://ideizmin.com.ua/projects-ukr/jointhistorytextbook-2090/>

26 <http://ideizmin.com.ua/projects-ukr/women-peace-and-security-a-chance-for-georgia-s-and-ukraine-s-protracted-conflicts-2019/>

27 <http://ideizmin.com.ua/projects-ukr/pidstorinka-dva/>



NGO OWEN – Mobile Academy of Gender Democracy and Peacebuilding (Berlin, Germany) and the Foundation for the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights "Women of Don" (Novocherkassk, Russia)<sup>28</sup>. The project creatively combines the areas of peacebuilding and women's activism using the methods of dialogue and diapraxis. During the project's implementation, seven dialogue meetings and one online assembly were held, more than 30 joint mini-initiatives were implemented belonging by the project participants. The WIPD participants have an opportunity to take a course on negotiation skills held by the Netherlands Institute of International Relations.

## "Dialogue in Action" Initiative

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

The "Dialogue in Action" Initiative (DiA) has been operating since 2016 within two partner NGOs – the "Dukh i Litera" and the "St. Clement's Centre: Communication and Dialogue of Cultures" at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy<sup>29</sup>.

### **Mission**

"Dialogue in Action"<sup>30</sup> is an initiative aimed at developing a culture of communication and cooperation in small local communities of Ukraine through sustainable support in the format of facilitated dialogue, training, and consultations, which promote mutual understanding and cooperation between different groups of people: representatives of civil society, government, business, education and local religious communities<sup>31</sup>.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

The feature that distinguishes the initiative from other dialogue projects in Ukraine is its openness to participation of religious organizations (Christian, Muslim, Jewish) — both ministers and believers — because they often have a high trust and are able to influence the development of their own city, village, or local community in collaboration with other social groups<sup>32</sup>. The coordinators of this initiative set the task to promote development of religious communities as well as their inclusion in civil society and interfaith cooperation.

DiA works in three directions: work with communities (holding a week-long School of Dialogue and long-term work in small local communities at the request of the initiative group), work with young people (at the community level and through the "Equal to Equal" project), and publication of specialized literature.

Work with communities. For the first time, "Dialogue in Action" was held by the NGO "Dukh i Litera" in 2016–2017 with the support of the Human Rights Protection Program of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ukraine, and covered 12 cities and villages in different regions. In 2018–2019, "Dialogue in Action 2.0" was organized on behalf of the "St. Clement's Centre: Communication and Dialogue of Cultures" with the support of the "Renovabis" (Germany) and "Mondo

28 <http://ideizmin.com.ua/projects-ukr/pidstorinka-dva/>

29 The main page of the DiA Initiative: <https://www.facebook.com/dialogue.in.action>

30 Video about the project: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyaRJ2\\_fdWg&ab\\_channel=UKRLIFE.TV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyaRJ2_fdWg&ab_channel=UKRLIFE.TV)

31 Additional video about the project: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2w1AITNVxw&ab\\_channel=UKRLIFE.TV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2w1AITNVxw&ab_channel=UKRLIFE.TV)

32 Description of the initiative: <http://www.ethos.org.ua/dialog-u-diyi/>



Unito" (Vatican) foundations, and covered five local communities, mainly in central Ukraine. In 2019–2022, "Dialogue in Action 3.0", implemented by the "St. Clement's Centre" and the "Dukh i Litera" NGOs with the support of the Mennonite Central Committee (USA) and "Kerk in Actie" (the Netherlands), is taking place in seven small communities of Ukraine; five of these territorial communities are located in the western regions and two in the east of Ukraine.

Work with young people. In 2017–2018, the initiative group also implemented a youth project to develop a culture of dialogue: "An equal to an equal – development of a culture of communication and cooperation in society"<sup>33</sup>. Twelve young trainers from all over Ukraine took a 16-day training in dialogue practices, and then conducted their own trainings for peers at different sites. The project received financial support from the Dutch foundation "Kerk in Actie".

Specialized literature. The books "Building Peace. Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Communities"<sup>34</sup> by John Paul Lederach and "Building Dialogue" by Goran Bozichevich have been translated into Ukrainian, published and are available for ordering<sup>35</sup>.

## Different Education (Insha Osvita)

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

NGO "Different Education" was established in 2008. The main office is located in Kyiv<sup>36</sup>.

### Mission

The mission of the organization: "We bring learning back to life. We celebrate change. We help communities to become self-sufficient." The organization's vision is aimed at the horizontal, self-sufficient communities that use the potential of diversity for development. These communities are capable of transforming themselves and other people in a complex world.

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

"Different Education" is an NGO and professional community that develops curricula in culture and art as forms of collective learning, and creates mental and physical education spaces. The "Dialogue for Change" project aims to help overcome social divides by strengthening civil society and dialogue in Ukraine. The program works at several levels.

At the local level, it includes programs for the development of civic engagement and peaceful dialogue that consist of 14 seminars for approximately 280 young people from eight regions of Ukraine. During six workshops, sixty young professionals learned how to be "community animators" as a part of an informal civic education program.

33 Video about the project: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=external&v=2548479778516841>

34 Access to the book: <https://duh-i-litera.com/bookstore/rozbudova-miru-stale-primirennja-v-rozdilenix-suspilstvax>

35 Additional video-discussion about the books: <https://cutt.ly/FkuPyG2>

36 <https://insha-osvita.org/>

At the European level, it includes 12 long-term partnerships (tandems) between Ukrainian and German/European civil society organizations. The tandems are jointly implementing projects on "Local Community Development" and the culture of the democratic dialogue.

Another peacebuilding project is called the "Habit of Thinking". It is a series of seminars aimed at getting acquainted with the theory and practice of developing critical thinking together with facilitators from Ukraine and Russia; developing/adapting and testing methods for development of critical thinking educational activities. The project offers an opportunity to be included into the context of Ukrainian-Russian relations on a personal level, to get acquainted with people who work on critical thinking in their communities, to form one's own opinion about the social processes in both countries and to gain experience of interaction in a Ukrainian-Russian group of participants.

## Women's Information and Consultative Centre

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

Women's Informational and Consultative Centre (WICC) was established in 1995<sup>37</sup>.

### Mission

Collection, analysis, and dissemination of information on the activities of women's organizations and women's initiatives in Ukraine and abroad and discussion on gender issues<sup>38</sup>.

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

In its activities, the organization uses three main strategies: research, education and advocacy.

The "Empowering Education" program, which was established by WICC in 1996, is based on the approaches of non-violence and culture of peace, and works in 12 countries: Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Armenia, Georgia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine<sup>39</sup>. In 2012, WICC developed an unofficial Ukrainian translation of the UN Resolution No 1325.

Long before 2014, WICC had been conducting research on resolving conflicts by peaceful means and does so now ("Transforming conflict by peaceful means: the Transcend Method" 1999, "Do not steal conflicts better help resolve them" 2000, "Do not steal conflicts better love them and let them go" 2015).

WICC has been systematically working with the security and defense sector since 2015. It developed and distributed the "soldier's card" on gender equality in the Armed Forces of Ukraine<sup>40</sup>, as well as the card on prevention of violence among the military personnel<sup>41</sup>. Memorandums of cooperation on gender issues were signed

37 <http://www.wicc.net.ua/post/1995--doteper>

38 <http://biblio-nivki-pdg.blogspot.com/2013/01/>

39 <http://www.wicc.net.ua/category/upovnovazhuval-na-osv-ta>

40 <http://www.wicc.net.ua/post/kartka-dlya-v-ys-kovosluzhbovih-zsu>

41 <http://www.wicc.net.ua/post/kartka-schodo-zapob-gannya-nasil-stva-sered-v-ys-kovih>

with the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (2018) and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (2020).

Since 2015, WICC has been systematically working in the conflict zone – both on the territory controlled by Ukraine and on the temporarily occupied territories. In 2015, WICC, together with the Ukrainian Helsinki Union for Human Rights, conducted the first expedition to the Donetsk region to document the facts of sexual violence related to the conflict. In 2018, they held meetings and trainings for women from the temporarily occupied territory and conducted two assessments of the needs of women and girls who live along the line of contact.

Since 2016, WICC has been a co-founder of the "Women Peace Dialogue" regional network, which began as a Ukrainian-Russian dialogue of women. The network includes Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Russia, USA and Ukraine.<sup>42</sup>

## Institute for Peace and Common Ground

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

Ukrainian Center of Common Ground (UCCG)<sup>43</sup>. was established in 2001 in Kyiv as a sister organization of the US NGO Search for Common Ground. In 2012, UCCG was reorganized into the Institute for Peace and Common Ground (IPCG)<sup>44</sup>.

### Mission

The work of the Institute for Peace and Common Ground is aimed at building dialogue for development of groups, organizations and communities; and achievement of positive sustainable change.<sup>45</sup>

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

Фокус організації зосереджений на подоланні наслідків збройного конфлікту, запровадженні шкільної медіації, відновного правосуддя та медіації у кримінальних справах в Україні.

The main focus of IPCG is at the restorative justice, mediation in criminal cases and school mediation. Within the framework of restorative justice projects<sup>46</sup>, the strategy of the UCCG was aimed at bringing together governmental agencies, pre-trial investigation agencies, courts, mediators, victims and offenders in order to mediate cases and establish effective interaction between all these actors. This multilevel mechanism has already been introduced in 17 regions of Ukraine. IPCG organized and conducted dozens of seminars and presentations in the media; published over thirty original and translated books and periodicals; created an educational film about the restorative justice; developed a university course on mediation and social work taught at the National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy". IPCG set up 22 self-sustainable school services of understanding (SSU) in different regions of Ukraine; trained over 5,000 students and teachers on conflict resolution and

42 <http://www.wicc.net.ua/category/women-s-peace-dialogue>

43 <http://ipcg.org.ua/>

44 <https://www.facebook.com/NGO.IPCG/>

45 <http://ipcg.org.ua/about/missiya-i-tsennosti/>

46 <https://rj.org.ua/>

mediation; compiled training materials and guidelines; developed an algorithm for SSU implementation; and translated books that help to make SSU operation more effective<sup>47</sup>.

Current activities of the IPCG are aimed at overcoming the consequences of the armed conflict in the east of Ukraine. To this end, IPCG has created a national network of 17 partner civil society organizations which, among other things, organize and facilitate dialogues with engaging civil society. In 2018, IPCG mapped conflict potential and communities needs of 20 local communities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>48</sup>; helped 11 communities to develop individual development plans and to build capacity to implement security initiatives and to resist polarization.

Other activities of the IPCG include establishing school mediation centers in Mariupol and other regions of Ukraine; producing educational film about dialogue in Ukraine; conducting trainings and security marathon<sup>49</sup>. In 2016, 2017 and 2019, IPCG trained specialists and supported the work of pilot programs for the reintegration of veterans in Chugyiv, Kharkiv, Ivano-Frankivsk and conducted a study about reintegration of war veterans in these communities within the framework of the Folke Bernadotte Academy project "Local self-government and the rule of law in Ukraine".

## Laboratory of Peaceful Solutions

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

The organization was established in 2014.<sup>50</sup> The main office is located in Kharkiv.

### **Mission**

Conflict analysis and diagnosis, conflict resolution and conducting of dialogues and peacebuilding activities.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

The Laboratory's activities include conflict analysis and diagnosis – various types of mapping, development of a strategy for a dialogue process (preliminary meetings with participants, dialogue design, etc.); facilitation of group dialogues, and post-dialogue support. The Laboratory convened and facilitated dialogues on the conflicts of values, public safety issues, and peacebuilding; organized educational events – lectures, training for mediators, psychologists, sociologists, civil society activists, and other experts.

The interregional project "Conflict Resolution and Reduction of Polarization in Ukraine" in Kharkiv was focused at facilitated dialogues and included context analysis (content analysis, focus groups, expert interviews), organizing and facilitating dialogues between the ideological opponents. The project was implemented in partnership with the Institute for Peace and Common Ground (Kyiv) with the support of the international organization "Humanitarian Dialogue" (Switzerland). In 2015, the Laboratory carried out an international project "Culture of Dialogue".

47 <http://safeschools.com.ua/about/>

48 [https://issuu.com/ipcg/docs/annual\\_report\\_ipcg\\_2018](https://issuu.com/ipcg/docs/annual_report_ipcg_2018)

49 <https://www.prostir.ua/event/bezpekovyj-marafon-2020/>

50 <https://nakipelo.ua/uk/organisation/laboratoriya-mirnyh-reshenij/>

Conflict Resolution. Reconciliation", aimed at the organization of educational events (lectures, seminars, dialogues, conferences, and round tables) for the development of a culture of dialogue as a method of peaceful conflict resolution.

In 2018, the Laboratory implemented two projects — "Facilitation of dialogues on demining" in Mariupol with the support of the OSCE Project Coordinator Office in Ukraine and "Dialogue as a tool for conflict resolution and decision-making at the community level" in Donetsk and Luhansk regions with the support of the Institute for Peace and Common Ground. The Laboratory took part in the development of the policy recommendations for local governments "Dialogue in local communities" with the support of the Institute for Peace and Common Ground (Kyiv) and the Peaceful Change Initiative, UK. In 2019, the Laboratory implemented a pilot project "Community Score Card (CSC) in Rubizhne Municipality" under the DG EAST program, USAID.

In 2019–2020 the Laboratory has been taking part in the project to test Methodological Recommendations for Assessing the Risks of the Emergence, and Resolution of Conflicts in several communities of Donetsk, Lugansk and Kherson regions. The Recommendations were developed by the Ministry of Reintegration and Temporarily Occupied Territories and included tools for qualitative sociological research, expert surveys, focus groups, organization, and facilitation of dialogues<sup>51</sup>.

## National Association of Mediators of Ukraine

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

The National Association of Mediators of Ukraine (NAMU) was founded in 2014 in Kyiv as a voluntary, professional, independent, self-governing public association in the field of mediation and conflict resolution<sup>52</sup>.

### Mission

Mission — to form a systematic, structured and sustainable societal request for mediation in Ukraine. NAMU's primary goals are to promote the development, usage, and dissemination of mediation as a high quality services and as a practical approach to resolving and transforming conflicts in various spheres of life; to unite specialists to develop mediation profession according to international best practices; protect common interests of its members; represent their interests in Ukraine and abroad, and promote a culture of dialogue.

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

Currently, NAMU unites 185 members – mediators from all regions of Ukraine who have professional training in mediation and practice mediation. A significant number of NAMU members are also involved in facilitation of dialogue processes in eastern Ukraine and other regions.

NAMU conducts legislative drafting activities on the development and adoption of the law "On Mediation" by the Parliament of Ukraine, as well as other legal regulations governing mediation aspects in various spheres of life. NAMU has developed the draft

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.osce.org/uk/project-coordinator-in-ukraine/450472>

<sup>52</sup> <http://namu.com.ua/ua/>

text of the mediation law and coordinated it with representatives of the mediation community and other stakeholders. NAMU conducts regular consultations with MPs, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, courts of all levels, the Administration of the President of Ukraine, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and other stakeholders.

With the support of USAID's "New Justice" Program, NAMU has developed the Code of Ethics for Mediators<sup>53</sup>, Foundation Principles for Basic Mediator Skills Training<sup>54</sup>, which make the ground for the professional development of mediator community in Ukraine.

NAMU regularly initiates campaigns to promote mediation and dialogue culture and co-organizes the annual Mediation and Dialogue Forum held by the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine. NAMU assists in recruiting experienced dialogue facilitators by the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine into the programs for dialogue between/within the central and local governments, between government, civil society, and local communities on civil service reform, decentralization, education, and other issues.

With the support and co-operation of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, NAMU promotes a culture of dialogue in the civil service. NAMU assists in methodological support for dialogues – development of training materials and conducting trainings on conflict management, mediation and dialogue for the central and local authorities; an online educational course for civil servants of category B "Mediation and Dialogue Services for Public Service"<sup>55</sup>; a series of publications explaining the value and algorithm of dialogue for the needs of civil service<sup>56</sup>.

## National Platform "Dialogue for Peace and Secure Reintegration"

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

National Platform "Dialogue for Peace and Secure Reintegration"<sup>57</sup> was founded in February 2018.

### Mission

Strengthening consensus and resilience in the processes of conflict prevention and resolution in Ukraine.

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

National Platform "Dialogue for Peace and Secure Reintegration" is a platform for discussion of issues related to the resolution of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the secure reintegration. The initiative conducts its activities with the support of the Crisis Management Group — Martti Ahtisaari Center (CMI) in cooperation with the Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research (UCIPR) and is funded by the

53 <http://namu.com.ua/ua/info/mediators/ethical-code/>

54 <http://namu.com.ua/ua/info/mediators/sfrsvrk-iafaey-ravarrya-baisvyp-ravynap-pyeekakhsua/>

55 [https://courses.ed-era.com/courses/course-v1:OSCE\\_EDERA+Med\\_101+2020/about](https://courses.ed-era.com/courses/course-v1:OSCE_EDERA+Med_101+2020/about)

56 <https://www.osce.org/uk/project-coordinator-in-ukraine/458242>

57 [Website of the National Platform "Dialogue on Peace and Secure Reintegration"](#)

[Website of the National Platform "Dialogue on Peace and Secure Reintegration" on Facebook](#)



European Union instrument contributing to stability and peace within the framework of the "Building Resilience to Conflict through Dialogue" project since 2019.

The activities of the National Platform are aimed at strengthening consensus and resilience in Ukraine in the area of prevention and resolution of conflicts through expanding public participation in the peace process, providing advice to the authorities in the drafting of appropriate policies regarding secure integration and national unity, as well as increasing public awareness about these issues.

There are three permanent working groups within the project aimed at consensus and formation of coalitions among Ukrainian experts on three thematic issues — conflict resolution, reintegration and national unity.

Regular public events held by the National Platform in Kyiv contribute to the development of professional discussion on conflict resolution in the eastern Ukraine in unbiased, inclusive manner involving main actors of the entire political spectrum and key industries — influential public experts, representatives of central, regional, and local authorities of Ukraine, MPs, representatives of local communities, non-governmental organizations, public networks and international experts.

Additionally, the Platform convenes regional platforms to develop communication channels between representatives of civil society, journalists, experts, and authorities.

Since April 2017, the Platform has been holding public meetings known as the Public Marathon "Why Should We Be Together?" which serves as a platform for discussions about the peace process in eastern Ukraine at the local level. They enable active citizens from various cities and towns to express their opinion on issues related to the peace process and provides an opportunity for dialogue among stakeholders at the local community level across the country.

## Odesa Regional Mediation Group

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

Odesa Regional Mediation Group (ORMG)<sup>58</sup> was established in 1994 to test and implement mediation and facilitation in various spheres of public life. ORMG has been working in the field of mediation since 1995<sup>59</sup>.

### **Mission**

Development of mediation and non-violent methods of conflict resolution, mediation market and mediation profession<sup>60</sup>.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

ORMG is a member of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) international network in Eastern Europe responsible for mediation, dialogue, early conflict prevention, and gender issues. ORMG's primary focus is development of the mediation practice (since 2016 by launching a commercial project "Center

58 <https://www.facebook.com/OdessaGroupMediation>

59 <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/3/6/448168.pdf>

60 [https://www.facebook.com/pg/OdessaGroupMediation/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/OdessaGroupMediation/about/?ref=page_internal)



for Mediation and Negotiation CMN"), organization and facilitation of dialogues and training for mediators and facilitators.

Since 1995, ORMG created the first precedent for mediation in civil court (1997). In 1999, they developed and implemented a model of a peer mediation center in schools, in 2003 — a model of a Municipal Juvenile Center based on the principles of restorative justice and mediation in criminal cases, and in 2004–2007 – a model for the introduction of mediation into the local government system in the agricultural area of Crimea. ORMG initiated and organized the first specialized international conference "Modern Practice of Mediation" with the Coalition for the Promotion of Mediation in 2012 and international conferences on dialogue together with and under support of the OSCE Project Coordinator Office in 2014 and 2019 in Odesa<sup>61</sup>. In 2014, ORMG established in Odesa the first dialogue platform in Ukraine in the aftermath of the Maidan Revolution and the outbreak of the war, and developed the Odesa Model of Dialogue (a system of measures and approaches in community aiming at conflict transformation).

ORMG trainers were involved in the peacebuilding activities and development of mediation programs in Moldova, North Caucasus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Montenegro, and Belarus<sup>62</sup>. ORMG is actively participating in the process of lawmaking, its members co-authored several draft laws on mediation.

## Platform "Donbas Dialogue"

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

Donbas Dialogue Platform was founded in 2014<sup>63</sup>.

### **Mission**

Setting up and maintenance of a productive process of interaction and recovery in local communities of the [Donbas] region by offering a platform for a dialogue between the residents of the liberated areas and cities, people who reside in the territories in war conditions, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and all other residents of Ukraine<sup>64</sup>.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

The Platform's primary activity is convening of the dialogue marathons two times per year. Donbas Dialogue uses crowdsourcing technologies to identify problems and issues from as many positions as possible. The ability to connect anonymously to the online dialogue provides inclusiveness to persons who would be have been otherwise excluded from the process. Experts, dialogue facilitators, and civil society representatives from the controlled and non-controlled territories of Ukraine, and foreign experts take part in the marathons.

Since 2014, the Donbas Dialogue Platform has held eight dialogue marathons on the following topics: 'Emergence from the military conflict and work with its

61 <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/3/6/448168.pdf>

62 [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3012496](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3012496)

63 <https://www.donbassdialog.org.ua/p/about.html>

64 <https://www.donbassdialog.org.ua/p/peace-building-in-ukraine.html>

consequences', 'Ways and means of emergence from an armed conflict', 'Narrative and conflict', 'How the Donbas Dialogue Platform is seen from outside', 'In the aftermath of war', 'The role of civil society in overcoming the consequences of the armed conflict in Ukraine', 'The future Donbas image.' Reports on the results of the marathons are published on the organization's website. In 2018–2020, dialogue and related activities were supported by the United Nations Development Program.

Connected to the dialogue is the activity on the professional training of facilitators for a specific task – facilitation of the online dialogues. In 2018–2019, a trainer from Balkans Goran Lojancic joined the project by conducting a series of training, with the support from the British organization "Initiatives for Change" and the British government.

## Platform "Past/Future/Art"

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

The project "Past/Future/Art"<sup>65</sup> started its work in November 2019 in Odesa.

### **Mission**

To create a space for social dialogue aimed at transforming knowledge about the past from a conflict factor into a tool for building a common future.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

Based on the fact that knowledge about the past is actively used in Ukraine for social conflicts, the project team see the need for an asymmetric response to the use of history as a weapon. Odesa and Odesa region's regional features contribute to the conflict of collective memories, making it one of the most conflict-ridden region in Ukraine. Given the region's strategic position, it is difficult to overestimate the danger of such situation. The "Past/Future/Art" project was created to work with the conflict past in the Odessa region. Given that a breakthrough in these issues was made in recent years in the field of art, the project team has chosen a strategy of public discussions on artistic memory practices.

The project works in three dimensions — public discussions, research, and education. The first dimension involves organization of art projects and discussions of art practices working with the past — art exhibitions, art practices in public spaces, workshops for museum workers on representing a complicated past in the museums, and public discussions on the project's topics. It aims to involve people with different educational backgrounds and fields of interest including representatives of the professional community as well as people who have not previously thought about the problems of the past. Therefore, the project focuses on public discussions, allowing expanding public dialogue experience, which is a crucial tool for building social peace. When convening dialogues the project cooperates with the Odesa Regional Mediation Group. Furthermore, the project's curator Oksana Dovgoplova has got experience of taking part in the dialogue practices in Odessa since 2014.

Development of the tools for social reconciliation with the past requires effective tools for monitoring the collective memory 'painful points'. The project develops

65 <https://www.pastfutureart.org/>

and manages a research component — a map of conflicts of memory in Odesa and Odesa region. Based on the study of conflict points, experts develop ways to overcome the war of memories and introduce conflict-related topics in dialogue and discussion. The Past / Future / Art team also works with CityFace project (Kharkiv) to conduct a study of multicultural cities in Ukraine.

The perspective for dealing with memory conflicts chosen by the project has become the basis for developing partnerships with other organizations working with a difficult past. In October 2020, "Past/Future/Art" became a partner of the #bruederschaft for unity project initiated by the German Embassy in Ukraine. Cooperation with the Austrian Peace Service is planned for 2021. The development of tools for online events (including dialogue practices) allows the project to go beyond the boundaries of the Odesa region and recruit participants from other regions and countries.

## Dignity Space and Peace Engineers

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

"Dignity Space" Ukrainian Centre for Nonviolent Communication and Reconciliation (short name — "Dignity Space") emerged from a volunteer initiative in 2015 following the Maidan events in Ukraine with the participation of Ukrainian crisis and peacebuilding experts to help de-escalate social tensions, restore damaged and broken social connections, and prevent outbreaks of violence between antagonistic groups in society<sup>66</sup>. The main office of the organization is located in Kyiv.

### Mission

The mission of the Center is to raise awareness and abilities of the citizens at various social levels of the country to resolve conflicts and disputes peacefully through a dialogue based on respect for human dignity and mutual understanding.

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

In 2020, the Center implements two projects. The first project — "Culture of dialogue and constructive engagement in Ukraine"<sup>67</sup>, operates as a training platform for peacebuilders — the "School of Peace Engineers". The second project — "Peace Engineers Direct Action"<sup>68</sup>, allows trained experts to work as facilitators of dialogue processes, mediators and negotiators between various antagonistic groups in different regions of Ukraine at the community level in order to resolve conflicts peacefully, promote mutual understanding and development of further cooperation.

As of September 2020, 45 people took a year-long course (training and internship program) at the School of Peace Engineers, 27 of whom received the status of Peace Engineers and a certificate from the project recommending to take part in the work with destructive conflicts. Another 30 participants are currently in the process of training. As a part of the projects implemented by the Center, over the past two

66 [www.DignitySpace.org](http://www.DignitySpace.org), [www.facebook.com/prostir.hidnosti](https://www.facebook.com/prostir.hidnosti)

67 <https://dignityspace.org/projects/pryama-diya-inzheneriv-porozuminnya-11/>

68 <https://peaceengineers.com/31/>

years, the project organized more than 120 training sessions — workshops — on the Peace Engineers methods based on the principles of Nonviolent Communication on the request of various non-profit organizations and communities from different regions of Ukraine. Within the "Peace Engineers Direct Action" project, more than 80 dialogue processes were facilitated to support local communities and non-profit organizations from different regions of Ukraine in the transformation of destructive conflicts using the Peace Engineering toolkit.

## Sviatohirsk Group

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

Sviatohirsk Group is a dialogue initiative of people, who live on both sides of the contact line and have been affected by the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. The group members started their work in 2018. The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (Switzerland) assisted the group's efforts and activities aimed at preparing the ground for transitional justice and reconciliation in Ukraine<sup>69</sup>.

### **Mission**

Through joint activities, the Group aims to make the voice of those affected by conflict heard in order to draw attention to essential peacebuilding questions.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

From December 2018 to February 2019, within the project "Five years of war: 1,825 days and how many more?" members of the Sviatohirsk Group conducted 84 in-depth interviews: 59 with residents from government-controlled areas and 25 with those residing in the non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. In interviews, respondents were asked about their fears, vision of the future, views on ways to end the conflict, and justice in the aftermath of conflict<sup>70</sup>.

Also, between December 2018 and February 2019 in the framework of the "We are alive, but they..." project, the team collected 39 life stories of people from government controlled (8) and non-government-controlled territories (31) of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. These stories testify to the general tragedy of losses for the residents of Ukraine<sup>71</sup>.

Both projects resulted in publications.

## Foreign Policy Council "Ukrainian Prism"

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

The Foreign Policy Council "Ukrainian Prism"<sup>72</sup> was founded in 2015.

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.sviatogorskgroup.com/>

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.sviatogorskgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/%D0%9F%D1%8F%D1%82%D1%8C-%D0%BB%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B8%CC%86%D0%BD%D1%8B.pdf>

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.sviatogorskgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/%D0%9C%D1%8B-%D0%B6%D0%B8%D0%B2%D1%8B.pdf>

<sup>72</sup> <http://prismua.org/pro-radu/>

## Miciя

Contribute to the formation and implementation of an effective foreign policy of Ukraine through an expert analysis of international relations, foreign policy, and security; the development of recommendations and consultations; the creation and application of tools of expert diplomacy based on professionalism, transparency, and non-partisanship.

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

The Foreign Policy Council "Ukrainian Prism" implements several projects to increase the level of foreign policy expertise in Ukraine, consolidate international support for Ukraine and raise awareness of foreign experts, politicians, and journalists about the events in Ukraine. In particular:

- Foreign policy portal. 'Ukrainian Prism' has created a database of the Ukrainian think tanks and experts in foreign policy. This portal and the related projects are the entry points for stakeholders and experts that provide expert support to almost all government agencies in foreign policy and security (Verkhovna Rada, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, etc.).
- Annual assessments of the foreign policy of Ukraine (since 2015). The 'Ukrainian Prism' experts analyze 50 directions of Ukraine's foreign policy (geographical and thematic, particularly related to the conflict) to develop recommendations for the Ukrainian authorities.
- Rethinking the de-occupation policy of Ukraine. 'Ukrainian Prism' developed a Report, which sets out the stakeholders' vision regarding the de-occupation process taking into account motives and interests of Ukraine, Russia, and international actors. The report analyzes relevant case-studies and examples of de-occupation and reintegration processes in other countries and makes recommendations as for the new de-occupation strategy.
- EaP Think Bridge Platform. The project brings together expert communities of the Eastern Partnership countries to fill the gaps in the preparation of analytical products on the situation in the region each month.
- Disinformation Resistance Index. In 2018, in partnership with the leading regional think tanks, Ukrainian Prism assessed situation in fourteen countries and proposed the common solutions to the propaganda issues. In 2020, the index was tested in seven countries on pandemic-related disinformation.

Finally, "Ukrainian Prism" is one of the leaders in the implementation of innovative practices of expert diplomacy. In particular, jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Public Council under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it implements the concept of bilateral expert forums with neighboring states to discuss potential problematic issues. To fill in the information gaps, "Ukrainian Prism" organizes the visits of journalists from neighboring countries to Kyiv and Donbas.

## Theatre for Dialogue

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

"Theatre for Dialogue" initiative was established in 2014. In 2015, it was registered as an NGO<sup>73</sup>.

### Mission

The Theater's mission is to contribute to social and economic equity and combatting discrimination in our society, building a culture of dialogue, and contributing to reconciliation and overcoming the negative effects of the military conflict in Ukraine. All of this contributes to the achievement of the Theater's primary goal — humanizing Humanity<sup>74</sup>.

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

One of the primary forms of activity is participatory theater, based on the "Theater of the Oppressed" — a system of exercises, games, and techniques that work with the body, feelings and personal experiences of participants to create opportunities for dialogue, critical reflection on social reality and active search for solutions to social problems. While working with communities, different formats of the theater are used — forum-theater (work on inequality and dialogue in the community), legislative theater (work on analysis and amendments to legislation), theater of images (creative understanding of community problems), a rainbow of desires (work on internal oppression and internalized conflicts). In addition, other creative methods such as collages, storytelling, and the method of nonviolent communication and elements of feminist pedagogy were utilized during the group work.

From 2015 to 2020, the Theater for Dialogue was actively working on peacebuilding and public involvement in social processes to overcome the consequences of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. A separate organization's vector is dedicated to building an inclusive society by strengthening the voices of less represented groups (people with disabilities, the LGBT community, internally displaced persons, youth) and ensuring gender equality. Among the projects which were implemented during this period are the following: "We Live Together. Community Dialogue on the Issues of Internally Displaced Persons in Kyiv" (2015); "Trust and Dialogue as a Pledge of Community Development" (Kyiv Region, 2015)<sup>75</sup>; "Through Dialogue to Equality in Suffrage"; "Promoting Peace through Dialogue in the Language of Theater (Eastern and Central Regions of Ukraine, 2016)<sup>76</sup>; the advocacy initiative "One of Us" designed to strengthen the voice of women in promoting the agenda "Women, Peace, Security" (2018–2019); "Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society for Nonviolent Transformation of Conflicts in Local Communities"<sup>77</sup> aimed at working with young people in eastern Ukraine (2018–2019)<sup>78</sup>.

73 <http://www.tdd.org.ua/>

74 <http://tdd.org.ua/en/theatre-dialogue-ngo>

75 <http://www.tdd.org.ua/uk/proekt-dovira-ta-dialog-yak-zaporuka-rozvitku-gromadi>

76 <http://www.tdd.org.ua/uk/proekt-cherez-dialog-do-rivnosti-u-vyborchih-pravah>

77 <http://www.tdd.org.ua/uk/zmicnennya-potencialu-gromadyanskogo-suspilstva-zadlya-nenasylnoykyoi-transformaciyi-konfliktiv-u>

78 <http://tdd.org.ua/en>



## Ukrainian Peacebuilding School

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

Ukrainian Peacebuilding School (UPS) was founded in September 2014<sup>79</sup>.

### **Mission**

Organization's mission is prevention and transformation of violent conflicts in Ukraine.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

Since 2014, UPS has been establishing and institutionalizing the profession of a social mediator — an expert in the preparation and organization of inclusive multi-stakeholder social dialogues in communities where there are actual or potential violent conflicts.

From 2015 to 2020, UPS has held five Schools for Social Mediators for representatives of non-governmental organizations, volunteer initiatives, education institutions, and local governments from eight regions of Ukraine (a total of 220 people, including residents of the controlled territories of Donetsk and Lugansk regions, as well as residents of the temporarily occupied territories).

In September — October 2020, the first online school of tutors was held for IDP students and students from the occupied territories. Twenty-four alumni represent the professional community of teachers and IDP representatives working for resolution of conflicts between IDPs and the host communities.

In 2016, UPS developed six framework strategies for transformation and prevention of conflicts in Ukraine by the joint efforts of local activists and local authorities: Strategy for building common visions of local self-government models for specific communities; Framework strategy for information and communication security of Ukraine; Framework strategy for peacebuilding education in Ukraine; Strategy for overcoming a divided and traumatic past; Strategy for the integration of national minorities into a multicultural society; Strategic proposals for integrating war victims into local communities.

Since 2017, UPS has developed and implemented a new method for organizing dialogues and express-diagnostics of conflicts — social modeling games.

Since 2018, UPS has been monitoring security in certain locations according to its methodology based on their own innovations as well as adaptation of European and world methodologies of conflict analysis, project evaluation (Do no harm), project management, public dialogue, and joint decision-making. Jointly with the Supreme Audit Office of Poland, UPS developed and convened integration dialogues for civil servants, law enforcement officials, and public figures.



## Ukrainian Women's Fund

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

Ukrainian Women's Fund (UWF)<sup>80</sup> founded in 2000<sup>81</sup>.

### Mission

The Fund's mission is to provide support including expert advice, capacity building, finance, advocacy, communications, etc. and encourage women's NGOs and other CSOs to develop a vibrant and populated women's movement that aims at ensuring gender equality and empowering women in all sectors of life<sup>82</sup>.

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

Research project "Invisible Battalion" (2015 – 2016) aimed to amend laws and regulations that discriminate against women and hinder gender equality in the armed forces, study the best practices of women integration in the armed forces, raise public awareness and improve the treatment of women in the armed forces. Conducted with the support of OAK Foundation and UN Women<sup>83</sup>.

In 2016–2017 within the framework of the program by the UNDP and UN Women on "Restoration of Governance and Reconciliation in Crisis-affected Communities of Ukraine", UWF were responsible for the project "Community Mobilization to Empower IDPs and Conflict-affected Women in Donetsk and Luhansk Regions" to build the capacity of those who suffer from the conflict on the east of Ukraine<sup>84</sup>.

In 2016–2018 UWF implemented the project "Economic Opportunities for People Affected by Conflict (EOPAC)" under the USAID support. The Project aims to provide assistance to people affected by the conflict in Eastern Ukraine to get jobs or gain new skills that will be useful to provide for themselves and their families, to establish or to move their business<sup>85</sup>. With the help of this project, the Center for Microbusiness and Self-Employment Support was established in the Kharkiv region<sup>86</sup>.

There are also other UMF projects that are currently being implemented – "Equality for Security" (aimed to promote women's contribution to peace-related and conflict prevention processes by supporting local stakeholders in developing, implementing, and monitoring local action plans on UNSCR 1325)<sup>87</sup> and "Economic Opportunities for Women from Eastern Ukraine" (the goal is to support women from eastern Ukraine through business development, establishment of jobs, etc.)<sup>88</sup>.

80 <https://www.uwf.org.ua/>

81 <https://www.uwf.org.ua/about/us>

82 <https://www.uwf.org.ua/about/us>

83 [https://www.uwf.org.ua/project\\_activities/invisible\\_battalion](https://www.uwf.org.ua/project_activities/invisible_battalion)

84 [https://www.uwf.org.ua/project\\_activities/mobilization](https://www.uwf.org.ua/project_activities/mobilization)

85 [uwf.org.ua/project\\_activities/eopac](https://www.uwf.org.ua/project_activities/eopac)

86 <https://www.genderculturecentre.org/proekt-usaid-ekonomichni-mozhlivosti-post/>

87 [https://www.uwf.org.ua/project\\_activities/EU1325](https://www.uwf.org.ua/project_activities/EU1325)

88 [https://www.uwf.org.ua/project\\_activities/economic%20opportunity](https://www.uwf.org.ua/project_activities/economic%20opportunity)

## Ukrainian Center of Concordance

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

Ukrainian Center of Concordance (UCC) was founded in 2014<sup>89</sup>.

### Mission

Organization's mission is protection of the social interests of citizens, assistance in building mutual understanding between communities and people in all regions of Ukraine and increasing their competence in the peaceful settlement of conflicts, as well as the introduction of a culture of alternative dispute resolution in Ukraine at the level of the best international practices.

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

Since its foundation, the UCC, among others, has implemented the following projects:

- Discussions and student forums implemented with the support of American Councils — "United Ukraine: In Search of Concordance" in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa (2014); annual adaptation seminars for FLEX alumni (US Department of State-funded program for schoolchildren); screening and discussion of "The Reunion: 10 Years After The War" documentary about the Balkans conflict; training of instructors at CACTUS (international forum and English-language program for youth).
- With the support from the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UCC has developed and implemented a free mass online course on conflict resolution, held annually since 2015.
- In cooperation with CRISP, in 2016–2017, the UCC worked on the preparation and implementation of simulation games on international negotiations of conflicts.
- With the support of the Swiss Confederation, UCC implemented "Dialogue on Dialogue", the project for Kyiv youth on planning dialogue initiatives (2015–2016).
- The UCC actively contributes to the youth training on conflict transformation skills and understanding the role of art in peacebuilding. From July 2019 to February 2020, the Center implemented the project "So, what do you see?" on visual comprehension of oneself and the "other" in the conflict in Ukraine. During the 11 project sessions in different Ukrainian cities, including the temporary occupied territories, UCC collected about 400 drawings that artistically represented regional trends in the perception of war and the image of future.

## Democracy Development Centre

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

All-Ukrainian NGO Democracy Development Centre (DDC)<sup>90</sup> was founded in 2003<sup>91</sup>.

89 <http://concordance.org.ua>

90 <http://ddcentr.org.ua/ua/projects/mistsevi-natsionalni-ta-regionalni-strategiji-polipshennya-vprovadzhennya-rezolyutsiji-rb-oon-1325.html>

91 <http://ddcentr.org.ua/ua/about/history.html>

### **Mission**

The organization works in many different areas including human rights, leadership, flexible democracy, practical law, etc., but focuses on gender equality<sup>92</sup>.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

Main activities include development of methodological guidelines and publications on social education and women's rights; preparation of alternative reports on women's rights; research studies on the topic "Women. Peace. Security"; education of local government and NGOs on implementing gender equality and the goals "Women/Youth. Peace. Security"; organization of seminars and conferences. A separate dimension of the work includes engagement of children, youth, and teachers on public speaking skills, and "Youth. Peace. Security" issues.

Implemented projects include the following:

- The Workshop "The Role of Women and Gender Policy in the Resolution of Armed Conflict in Ukraine"(2015) in collaboration with the Institute of International Relations in Rome, funded by the NATO "Science for Peace and Security" Program.<sup>1</sup> The International conference "Gender in revolution, war, peacebuilding" (2017) in collaboration with Women in War (Paris) and the Odesa Ushinsky Institute with the focus at the role of "women and sexual minorities in hyper-masculine military structures such as regular army, and armed or terrorist organizations"<sup>93</sup>.
- Mapping of Peacebuilding Initiatives in Ukraine" (2017). The mapping provides an insight into the challenges that Ukraine must overcome in the area of peacebuilding. It provides an analysis and assessment of the current initiatives under the 1325 National Action Plan and the broader social issues that slow down the peacebuilding processes.
- "Local Communities Build and Sustain Peace: Strengthening the Participation of Women and Youth in Building Sustainable Peace in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kenya, Moldova, South Sudan, Uganda, and Ukraine" – educational and informational activities aimed at engagement of girls and young women in the decision-making process and leadership.

<sup>92</sup> <http://ddcentr.org.ua/ua/about/history.html>

<sup>93</sup> [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news\\_123557.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_123557.htm)

# International non-governmental organizations and initiatives

## Caritas Ukraine

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

The first organization of Caritas were founded in Ukraine in 1991 by the Greek-Catholic communities and were mostly aimed at humanitarian aid. Since 2016 Caritas has engaged more than 30 000 of people into the peacebuilding projects.

### **Mission**

Development of traditions of charitable activity and social work based on Christian moral and ethical values.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

Since April 2014, Caritas Ukraine began to provide humanitarian assistance to victims of hostilities in Ukraine (displaced persons from Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, as well as residents of the "gray" buffer zone along the contact line)<sup>94</sup>.

Since 2016, Caritas implemented peacebuilding projects in nine regions of Ukraine: Kyiv, Kharkiv, Kramatorsk, Mariupol, Kamianske, Zaporizhia, Ivano-Frankivsk and Drohobych. The aim of the peacebuilding activity was to contribute to the rehabilitation of victims and to establish the friendly ties between different target groups: IDPs, local population and war veterans. In addition, Caritas played a significant role in promoting cooperation between different civil society groups involved into peacebuilding in Ukraine. Thus, in order to overcome tensions and mistrust and to find a more inclusive way of living together in society, Caritas works at local, regional, and national levels with different groups such as religious leaders, universities, schools, social service providers etc.

The most important lesson, confirmed by the conflict analysis in 2018, is that collective victimization discourse and emotions, loss and despair, as well as mental models of isolation based on stereotypes and accusations are some of the key conflict drivers in Ukrainian society<sup>95</sup>. Since 2019, as a part of the Bridging Community Divide Project, Caritas strengthened cooperation with the media and relevant opinion leaders to help spread the discourse of inclusiveness and peaceful coexistence in Ukrainian society. By working with different levels of traumas (individual and collective), Caritas contributes to the prevention of deepening tensions in the society, social polarization, and escalation of violence.

Caritas promotes stabilization and social cohesion in Ukrainian society, which is suffering from conflicts through strengthening reconciliation and peacebuilding processes:

<sup>94</sup> <http://caritas.ua/hum/>

<sup>95</sup> <http://caritas.ua/tag/dolayuchy-rozlomy-v-gromadah/>

- Support of conflict-affected individuals and groups in the formation and use of constructive mechanisms to overcome psychological conflicts in the aftermath of long-term violent group conflicts such as personal loss and stigma. These are individual and group psychological counseling and self-help groups.
- The establishment of new communication networks and social ties in groups with high social tension at the local level. This is a series of cultural events, trainings and meetings that will help the communities resolve conflicts in a non-violent manner.

By combining conflict research, experience exchange, and networking with key stakeholders at local, national, and church-to-church levels, Caritas Ukraine contributes to concrete decisions for conflict resolution and reconciliation and promotes the discourse of reconciliation and peacebuilding. Within the framework of All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations, Caritas contributed to the development of the "Ukrainian World Strategy" of interaction between religious and other civil society organizations in peacebuilding.

Caritas strengthens the capacities, initiatives, and public presence of people, groups, and organizations willing to contribute to peacebuilding at the local and national levels (with the focus on resilience and reconciliation). These are conferences, living libraries, round tables, and other types of discussions.

## Platform CivilMPlus

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

CivilMPlus was founded in 2017 by civil society from Ukraine, Russian, Germany, and France<sup>96</sup>.

### **Mission**

To bring together civil initiatives to peacefully resolve the conflict in Donbas, and to restore Donbas as peaceful, integrated and developed region as a part of democratic Ukraine and single European space.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

The open international platform CivilMPlus includes 20 independent NGOs from Ukraine, Russia and the EU countries. The platform combines the efforts and joint work of civil society organizations from different countries. The function of the secretariat of the Platform is performed by the German organization DRA.

The Platform implements projects in five areas: integration and dialogue; information work and advocacy; mapping the actors of the conflict in the Donbas; transitional justice; support of international negotiations.

In 2020, the dialogue project "Donbas Diaries" was finished. The aim of the project was to facilitate dialogue on the topic of war between young people from Ukraine and Russia. In the process of communication and during the workshops, participants reflected on dialogue and the experience of war in a form of artwork. As a result,

exhibition "(NOT) War: Awareness of Oneself and Boundaries in the 'Donbas Diaries' Dialogues" opened in Kyiv<sup>97</sup>.

Within the framework of the Transitional Justice projects, organization is working to develop a foundation for the concept of transitional justice in Ukraine. In particular, the Platform published a joint report of the Ukrainian and Russian human rights defenders "War Crimes in Donbas. Challenges of Holding of Perpetrators to Account"; two reports regarding the victims of armed conflict; the Typology of Crimes Committed in Donbas from the Point of View of International Humanitarian Law and National Laws of Ukraine and Russia; overview of international experience of reparation to victims of the conflict<sup>98</sup>. The final publication "Transitional Justice and the Armed Conflict in Ukraine: Problems of Holding Perpetrators to Account and Helping Victims"<sup>99</sup> reflects the topics and results of the two-year work in 2018–2020.

One example of information work is the study of the Platform's experts focusing on the elections in the conflict region conducted on the eve of local elections in Ukraine (October 2020). The conclusions and recommendations of the analytical paper were presented at briefings for international and Ukrainian partners, representatives of local authorities. Also, in 2018–2020 CivilMPlus published a monthly bulletin "The Pulse of Peace in Donbas", made statements and recommendations on hot issues, promoted the topic of conflict resolution in Donbas in the Ukrainian and foreign media.

"Map of the conflict actors in Donbas" is a comprehensive review of the positions, interests and actions of officials, political parties, non-governmental organizations, and other actors involved in the conflict in Donbas or involved in the process of its settlement. Preparation of the first part of the material is completed in 2020<sup>100</sup>. Ukrainian, Russian and European experts — authors and reviewers of articles on individual actors — take part in expert discussions on religious actors, Russian non-state actors, local actors in the conflict zone, and other actors.

Support of international negotiations is a new and developing area of the platform's work. The working group is working on a concept<sup>101</sup> of civil consultation for the parties and mediators of the peace negotiations in Donbas.

The fundamental principle of the CivilMPlus Platform is forming of a diversified, expert-tested, and publicly accessible database about the war in eastern Ukraine, as well as the exchange of experience and information on conflict resolution and its consequences between the experts.

97 <https://civilmplus.org/news/ne-vojna-osoznanie-sebya-i-granits-v-dialogah-dnevniki-donbassa/>

98 <https://civilmplus.org/publications/voennye-prestupleniya-na-donbasse-vyzovy-v-aspekte-privlecheniya-vinovnyh-k-otvetstvennosti/>

99 <https://civilmplus.org/publications/perehodnoe-pravosudie-i-vooruzhennyj-konflikt-v-ukraine-problemy-privlecheniya-vinovnyh-k-otvetstvennosti-i-pomoshhi-zhertvam/>

100 <https://civilmplus.org/news/grazhdanskoe-obshchestvo-ukrainy-rossii-i-es-vmeste-sostavlyayet-kartu-aktorov-konflikta-na-donbasse/>

101 <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-minsky-format/30583596.html>



## Center for Humanitarian Dialogue, Ukraine

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

The Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) was founded in 1999<sup>102</sup> and began to work in Ukraine in December 2013<sup>103</sup>.

### **Mission**

The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue's (HD) mission is to prevent, mitigate and resolve armed conflicts, through dialogue and mediation.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

The Center for Humanitarian Dialogue seeks to organize mediation and dialogue, to disseminate expertise in mediation, humanitarian mediation, and to build communication to prevent the escalation of conflicts.

The HD has been operating in Ukraine since December 2013 and has implemented a number of dialogue initiatives aimed at bringing comparative expertise and creative ideas into the official negotiation process and preventing further polarization between conflicting parties.

In the summer of 2014, when the fighting escalated, the HD met with local stakeholders in Donetsk and Luhansk to discuss the humanitarian situation. In August, these discussions resulted in the development of a Declaration on the Protection of Civilians, which was signed by the de facto authorities (the self-proclaimed "DPR" and "LPR") and some battalions associated with Kyiv. Through this process, the HD was able to open up a channel of communication between the de facto authorities and humanitarian organizations.

HD has also studied the lost business opportunities and ecological challenges caused by the conflict, with a view to develop confidence-building measures on issues of mutual concern to the parties.

HD has also worked with civil society actors in the eastern and southern regions of the country to defuse tensions and prevent further polarisation within society. In Kharkiv, for example, HD has supported a dialogue project that brought together local authorities, security forces, and members of the local community with a view to preventing societal tensions from escalating into violent conflict.

## Crisis Management Initiative, Ukraine

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

The Crisis Management Initiative (CMI Martti Ahtisaari Center) is a Finnish non-profit organization founded in 2000 by the former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari. The organization started working in Ukraine in 2009<sup>104</sup>.

102 <https://www.hdcentre.org/>

103 <https://www.hdcentre.org/activities/ukraine/>

104 <http://cmi.fi/about-us/>



### **Mission**

The mission of the organization is to prevent and resolve violent conflicts by engaging all relevant actors in the effort to create sustainable peace. Organization's vision — "all conflicts can be resolved".

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

CMI has been working in Ukraine since 2009 in cooperation with Ukrainian partners.

Promoting internal and external dialogue. CMI has supported the Ukrainian expert community since 2009, focusing on building a network of experts on conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the Black Sea region. In early 2014, CMI began a process of supporting high-level dialogue between representatives of the Ukrainian political and intellectual elite. In 2015, CMI began convening a regular Ukraine-Russia dialogue platform for influential experts and MPs that now also includes representatives from EU member states, the OSCE and the USA. Since October 2016, CMI increased its focus on capacity building for Ukrainian MPs, executives and experts, as well as deepening its cross-sectoral and inter-regional dialogue efforts inside Ukraine.

Development of the peacebuilding capacity in Ukraine. CMI supports Ukrainian actors in strengthening their capacities for effective engagement in the peace process<sup>105</sup>. It supports the activities of the National Platform "Dialogue on Peace and Secure Reintegration"<sup>106</sup>. The initiative was founded in February 2018 to develop and support a public inclusive multi-level and continuous dialogue to discuss issues of secure reintegration, social cohesion and national unity in Ukraine, as well as studying international experience in building a sustainable peace.

Support for the official peace process. From 2015, CMI has worked with Ukrainian negotiators and experts engaged in the official Trilateral Contact Group in Minsk, providing expert support, international expertise and peer exchange opportunities from other peace negotiation processes and on focused topics related to the Donbas peace process.

## **Folke Bernadotte Academy, Ukraine**

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA)<sup>107</sup> була створена у 2002 році і є урядовою установою, орієнтованою на досягнення миру і безпеки під керівництвом Міністерства закордонних справ Швеції. З 2014 року FBA працює над проєктом щодо зміцнення верховенства права в Україні<sup>108</sup>.

### **Mission**

Підтримувати міжнародний мир та здійснювати операції з кризового менеджменту<sup>109</sup>.

105 [Public report CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Center for 2019 year](#)

106 [Website of the National Platform "Dialogue on Peace and Secure Reintegration"](#)

[Website of the National Platform "Dialogue on Peace and Secure Reintegration" on Facebook](#)

107 <https://fba.se/en/how-we-work/our-partner-countries/fba-in-ukraine/>

108 <https://fba.se/en/building-peace/>

109 <https://www.government.se/government-agencies/folke-bernadotte-academy/>

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

Since 2014, FBA has been working on the project "Local Self-Government and the Rule of Law in Ukraine" in collaboration with the Ukrainian partner organizations — National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and Sociological Agency FAMA. The main objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of local authorities and municipalities in Ukraine to deliver administrative services in accordance with rule of law principles. It also aims at increasing knowledge and awareness among citizens about their rights vis-à-vis the local administration<sup>110</sup>.

During 2015–2018, rule of law assessments were carried out in 15 Ukrainian municipalities in epy government-controlled parts of the country. The surveys<sup>111</sup> have given ground for introducing measures to improve the delivery of public services in accordance with rule of law principles. The study also provided the basis for local governments' training programs, such as the rule of law in the provision of administrative services, training on local rule-making, and a module on the rule of law in public administration taught at the Faculty of Law. Other studies focused on the rule of law principles and human rights in the occupied territories of Donbas and Crimea<sup>112</sup>, as well as European standards of the rule of law in public administration<sup>113</sup>.

In 2019, FBA implemented a pilot dialogue program in partnership with the Ukrainian NGO "Institute for Peace and Common Ground" to improve the reintegration of veterans at the community level<sup>114</sup>. In cooperation with the Center for Rule of Law Studies at NAUKMA, in 2019, FBA conducted a study in three cities on the rule of law in dealing with the problems of people affected by the conflict (veterans and IDPs).

In 2020 FBA invests in strengthening the access to justice and human rights for groups affected by the conflict, especially internally displaced persons and veterans. These activities include, for example, the conflict analysis in collaboration with the NGO "Center for Security Studies "CENSS", drafting a map of challenges and needs assessments, sociological and expert research on the reintegration of veterans at the community level in collaboration with the Sociological Agency FAMA and Transition International (Netherlands). The project will also train Ukrainian authorities in dialogue, peace mediation and issues of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of ex-combatants.

## **forumZFD CPS, Ukraine**

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

Forum Civil Peace Service (forumZFD) was established in 1996 with the Head Office in Germany<sup>115</sup>. Programme offices in Ukraine were opened in 2017 in Kyiv and later in 2018 in Odesa<sup>116</sup>.

110 <https://fba.se/en/how-we-work/our-partner-countries/fba-in-ukraine/>

111 <http://ruleoflaw.in.ua/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/FBA-FAMA-Synthesis-Report-UKR.pdf>

112 <http://ruleoflaw.in.ua/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/KMA-Research-Crimea-and-Donbas-UKR.pdf>

113 <http://ruleoflaw.in.ua/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/FBA-KMA-EU-Standards-UKR.pdf>

114 [http://ruleoflaw.in.ua/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/FBA\\_IPCG\\_DDR-Report\\_UKR.pdf](http://ruleoflaw.in.ua/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/FBA_IPCG_DDR-Report_UKR.pdf)

115 <https://www.forumzfd.de/en/committed-peace>

116 <https://www.forumzfd.de/en/ukraine>

### **Mission**

To transform various societal conflicts into creative and constructive forces, the Forum promotes a culture of non-violence when the conflicts are dealt with constructively according to the principles of civil conflict transformation in order to contribute to just and sustainable peace in our programme countries and beyond.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

The forum seeks to help local civil society, grassroots initiatives, academics, media, experts, artists, opinion leaders and others to promote peace and transform conflicts.

The forum's work in Ukraine is based on a thorough systemic analysis of the local context and needs and focuses on four interconnected outcomes: (1) systemic conflict transformation through tailored organizational capacity development; (2) work towards more inclusive historical remembrance with a goal to overcome conflictual understandings of the past; (3) strengthening of social cohesion through promotion of tolerance, inclusivity and work to overcome stereotyping and prejudices; (4) support of sustainable conflict transformation approaches based on trust and cooperation between different civil society actors.

Forum representatives are convinced that sustainable structures must be developed and supported by social actors in the conflict areas themselves. The forum works to empower local actors and initiatives and therefore runs projects jointly with local partners. The Forum views these partnerships as an equal and reciprocal basis for learning that also promotes the development of local expertise. The ultimate aim of the organization is to help create sustainable local structures (platforms) that could ensure that existing as well as emerging conflicts will be transformed peacefully and without violence.

Some of the Ukrainian partners include: Institute for Peace and Common Ground (Kyiv); Inclusive Theatre Association "ART-Playback" (Kyiv); NGO "Zatsikavleni" (Odesa); NGO "Caritas Odesa UGCC" (Odesa); NGO PIC (Odesa); NGO "Regional Analytical Centre" (Izmail).

## **GIZ CPS, Ukraine**

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

Under a commission from the German Government, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has been assisting Ukraine since 1993 in its transition to a democratic state based on the rule of law. Located in Kyiv, the country office opened in 2009<sup>117</sup>.

The GIZ Civil Peace Service (GIZ CPS) is operating in Ukraine since 2018 with an office in Dnipro<sup>118</sup>.

<sup>117</sup> <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/302.html>

<sup>118</sup> <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/61270.html>

## Mission

GIZ Civil Peace Service (CPS) country program in Ukraine focuses on a positive approach to diversity and on reducing prejudices and stereotypes. It aims to counteract social polarization in Eastern Ukraine by supporting education on non-violent conflict transformation and encourage resolution of conflicts between people without violence through a dialogue process<sup>119</sup>. The regional focus of the project is on the three eastern administrative districts (oblasts) Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhia that directly border the disputed Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in the Donbas region.

## Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

GIZ CPS Україна співпрацює із громадянським суспільством, а також із державними установами у рамках загального рамкового проєкту «Спеціальна ініціатива щодо переміщення населення: заходи з мирної освіти для подолання соціальної поляризації на сході України». Проєкт працює зі школами, дитячими і молодіжними установами, ініціативами та державними органами освіти (такими як Дніпровська академія неперервної освіти) для розробки підходів до мирної освіти, які наголошують на спільному, яке мають різні групи, і підкреслюють цінність різноманіття<sup>120</sup>.

GIZ CPS cooperates with another German organization — forumZfD and Ukrainian NGO «Institute for Peace and Common Ground» to develop the «School of Peace» as an official experiment at the national level — a holistic and comprehensive approach to the education modernization process which implies an effort of the school administration, personnel, students and their parents, local NGOs, Ukrainian government and local authorities. Currently, 10 schools in Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, Chernihiv and Kharkiv regions are taking part in the official experiment with the support of the Ministry of Education. The project trained 12 trainers and 200 school leaders (teachers and students) in restorative justice and peer mediation, and reached out to over 1,800 students<sup>121</sup>.

In collaboration with the Emory University, EdCamp NGO is promoting SEE (Social, Emotional and Ethical Education) in Ukrainian schools. This project provides a comprehensive framework and practical curriculum that enables teachers in their classrooms to practice the views, values and competencies of 21st century skills, as well as the peace education skills and skills developed by the New Ukrainian School reform. The second official school experiment, supported by the Ministry of Education, is currently being conducted in 26 schools in all regions of Ukraine, with 195 teachers and 4125 students taking part<sup>122</sup>.

Another important project is "The Power of the Future, Creators of Concord". Forty-five Concord Makers alumni worked with youth to conduct classes and sessions including creative drum facilitation sessions<sup>123</sup>. Currently, they have started a regional school experiment in collaboration with the Dnipro Academy of Lifelong Learning.

GIZ CPS also facilitates exchange between different social groups such as internally

119 <https://gurt.org.ua/vacancies/58422/>

120 <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/61270.html>

121 <http://safeschools.com.ua/about/>

122 <http://safeschools.com.ua/about/>

123 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/809974349095749/>

displaced persons and host communities, or ex-combatants and local authorities. Community participatory approaches to conflict transformation, in which all groups of the population are equally represented, are designed to empower people to resolve existing and future conflicts in their communities without resorting to violence. The GIZ CPS staff provides methodological, technical and logistical support for these dialogue processes and help to establish contacts with relevant stakeholders.

## GPPAC, East European Network

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) was established in 2003 in response to a call from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan for a global conference of civil society organizations working to consolidate peace in the area of conflict prevention and resolution.

### **Mission**

GPPAC is a global network of civil society organizations (CSOs) that work together to prevent violent conflicts and build more peaceful societies<sup>124</sup>.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

The Eastern European Network of Peacebuilding NGOs, one of the 15 regional networks of Global Partnership, unites non-governmental organizations of Belarus, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Romania, and Ukraine.<sup>125</sup>

The Eastern European Network's activities are focused on several thematic priorities: response to current human security challenges, development of dialogue in communities, peace education, development of mediation, gender conflict assessment, etc.

Over the years, the network has implemented projects and initiatives in various areas, including:

- The development and implementation of peace education curricula in preschool institutions and schools in Moldova.
- Media competition for journalists to learn methods of balanced coverage of conflict issues.
- Analysis and overview of the experience of non-governmental organizations working in peacebuilding, proposals for the development of this activity.
- Educational work with young people on conflict resolution issues and activities aimed at developing mutual understanding among young people with different social and political orientations.
- Joint peacekeeping missions of non-governmental organizations from the countries of the region to locations of potential conflicts, etc.

<sup>124</sup> <https://gppac.net/who-we-are>

<sup>125</sup> <https://gppac.net/regions/eastern-europe>

## International Alert, Ukraine

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

International Alert was founded in 1986 to help people find peaceful solutions to conflicts<sup>126</sup>. International Alert stated working in Ukraine in 2015<sup>127</sup>.

### **Mission**

The mission of the organization is to build a safer world by working with people directly affected by violent conflict to find lasting solutions, to shape policies and practices to reduce and prevent violence, to support sustainable peace, and to collaborate with all those striving for peace to strengthen our collective voice and impact<sup>128</sup>.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

Since 2015, the organization has implemented several projects, including "Psychological Seeds of Peace". This project is aimed to assist in the reintegration and recovery of groups seriously affected by the conflict in Ukraine, particularly by developing a system of psychosocial services and opportunities for joint implementation by civil society organizations (CSOs) and initiatives at the community level, thereby restoring social cohesion which is an essential component of long-term peace.

The project "Supporting Social Cohesion in Ukraine: Peacebuilding and Advocacy Initiatives" aims to increase Ukrainian society's resilience to the consequences of conflict and social tensions, and strengthen its ability to identify and minimize the risks of potential social tensions and conflict.

Within the framework of the project, the participants and the communities in which they live received relevant skills and knowledge of peacebuilding; set up a network of contacts throughout Ukraine; strengthened channels of communication with officials in government institutions; mastered the skills of working with the media in social networks; and learnt the ways to be more effective in constructive advocacy for change.

As a result of the implementation of these two projects, which were supported by the European Union, an informal network of about 50 different CSOs from all regions of Ukraine has been established to build social cohesion, laying the foundation for a sustainable peace.

In 2019, a study was carried out to assess the situation in three regions of Ukraine — in some settlements of the Zakarpattia, Kherson and Odesa oblasts, to identify potential sources of conflict. Based on the study, International Alert developed recommendations for state agencies, international and Ukrainian organizations that work in the field of peacebuilding.

In 2017, the Peace Research Partnership (a consortium of three British non-governmental organizations) conducted a study to analyze the situation in six countries, including Ukraine, and develop recommendations for policymakers and

126 <https://www.international-alert.org/who-we-are/history>

127 <https://www.international-alert.org/ru/where-we-work/ukraine>

128 <https://www.international-alert.org/who-we-are>



practitioners on supporting peaceful, inclusive changes in conflict-affected regions. For three years, the project has researched inclusive peace processes, inclusive economic development, inclusive security, equality, and decentralization, with a focus on gender issues<sup>129</sup>.

## KURVE Wustrow CPS, Ukraine

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

The German non-governmental organization "Kurve Wustrow – Training and Networking Center for Nonviolent Action" is a part of the "Civil Peace Service" and has been operating in Ukraine since the beginning of 2017. KURVE Wustrow supports Ukrainian partner organizations<sup>130</sup>. Center for Training and Networking of Nonviolent Action – KURVE Wustrow was founded in 1980.

### Mission

KURVE Wustrow's vision is to contribute to the advancement of nonviolent action in the context of armed conflict, environmental destruction, and social injustice. This concern finds expression in their main slogan: "spreading non-violence."

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

The project in Ukraine focuses on the areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and related areas of southeastern Ukraine under Ukrainian control, which are of particular importance to the peace process. Within the Civil Peace Service, KURVE Wustrow supports local partners to achieve the following goals:

- Human rights violations committed during the armed conflict in Donbas should be documented and available to the public so that human rights violations can be discovered and an open debate about the present and the past can take place.
- In addition, learning spaces should be created where information about crimes would be free from ideological influences and where social discussion can take place.
- Disadvantaged and discriminated groups of people should be given a voice. With our partner "Theater for Dialogue", for example, participants learn to independently change seemingly hopeless situations.
- Trainers and consultants of social movements in several regions of Ukraine should be trained. They would be accompanied for a long time to enable their own groups, other members and networks to constructively resolve conflicts.

Local partners of the project include three project lines: (1) Coalition "Justice for Peace in Donbas"<sup>131</sup>, (2) "Platform for Nonviolent Activism", consisting of "Association for Middle East Studies"<sup>132</sup>, "Theater for Dialogue"<sup>133</sup>, "Networks of Responsible People", (3) and charitable foundation "VOSTOK-SOS".

129 <https://www.international-alert.org/projects/peace-research-partnership>

130 <https://www.kurvewustrow.org/ukraine>

131 <https://jfp.org.ua/?locale=ru>

132 <https://uames.org.ua/>

133 <http://tdd.org.ua/ru>

The result of the work of KURVE Wustrow partners in Ukraine was a joint exhibition on human rights violations in eastern Ukraine "On the Rift: Witnesses of Change in Donbas" (2019)<sup>134</sup>, which highlights the impact of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine on the life of civilians. The cooperation between KURVE Wustrow and members of the Coalition "Justice for Peace in Donbas" resulted in publications on human rights violations<sup>135</sup>, including two books. Report "Making Life Go On. How the War in Donbas Affects Civilians"(2018)<sup>136</sup> aims to shed light on the problems that civilians in eastern Ukraine are forced to fight as a result of the armed conflict in the region. Another book, "Slavyansk — the City Where the War Began" (2020)<sup>137</sup> reveals a number of human rights violations committed in the city of Slavyansk in eastern Ukraine and the issue of reconciliation in the city's community from 2014 to the end of 2018. It is based on testimonies from civilians who witnessed human rights violations or suffered as a result of hostilities in the city in April-July 2014.

## Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Ukraine

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom was founded in 1915 in The Hague, Netherlands by a group of 1,136 women who were eager to discuss how to end World War I and ensure sustainable peace. The organizers of the congress were prominent suffragists<sup>138</sup>. WILPF has been operating in Ukraine since 2014<sup>139</sup>.

### Mission

The WILPF defines and develops a feminist perspective to address the interrelated issues of patriarchy, militarism, neoliberalism, and their consequences, which are seen as key causes of conflict<sup>140</sup>.

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

WILPF works with the following methods: (1) uses different analysis methodologies as a tool for better understanding of the causes of war, and their interconnections; (2) reaches out to wider groups of people to share its analysis and information to spread the knowledge on the causes of war and to challenge the status quo; (3) uses advocacy as a tool to initiate concrete changes in practices, policies, laws, norms, programs and systems for durable peace; (4) undertakes nonviolent activism around the world from campaigns to protests, from peace art to political rallies; (5) creates bridges and forms alliances with communities, organizations and movements; (6)

134 <https://jfp.org.ua/coalition/novyny-koalicii/articles/13-zlamiv-liudskykh-dol-u-kyievi-prezentuvaly-vystavku-pro-porushennia-prav-liudyny-na-donbasi>

135 <https://www.kurveustrow.org/publikation/dokumentieren-was-passiert-ist>

136 <https://www.kurveustrow.org/publication/making-life-go>

137 <https://jfp.org.ua/coalition/novyny-koalicii/articles/13-zlamiv-liudskykh-dol-u-kyievi-prezentuvaly-vystavku-pro-porushennia-prav-liudyny-na-donbasi>

138 <https://www.wilpf.org/history/>

139 [https://www.wilpf.org/st\\_country/ukraine/](https://www.wilpf.org/st_country/ukraine/)

140 <https://www.wilpf.org/vision/>

bridges and links women's experiences between local realities and international forums facilitating space for women to speak for themselves and have access to influencing decision-makers; (7) creates spaces to bring women together to mobilize and strengthen their collective power.

Since 2014, the Ukrainian branch of WILPF has been organizing international advocacy activities in support of women peacebuilders, in particular at the UN Human Rights Committee (Geneva). WILPF develops and publishes Reports (Report "Voices of Ukraine: Civil Society as a Driver for Peace, Strengthening the Role and Contribution of Ukrainian Women in Preventing conflicts, Solving Problems, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation" (2014)<sup>141</sup>, joint shadow report "The Impact of Interventions of International Financial Institutions on the Women Rights in Ukraine" (2017)<sup>142</sup>; which was based on concerns about the impact of macroeconomic reforms on Ukrainian women associated with the aftermath of the military conflict; Joint Submission to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Review of Ukraine (67th session, 17 February – March 6, 2020)<sup>143</sup>.

Also, the Ukrainian branch of WILPF conducts research, for example, the Pilot Ethnographic Study of Time Use in Ukraine (2018). Organizes and conducts seminars and conferences (conference "Bosnian and Georgian Experience for Peacebuilding in Ukraine", Odessa (2014); a series of seminars with women's civil society organizations "Women Leaders in Peacebuilding in Conflict Affected Communities" (2015–2016); an international conference "From War to Sustainable Peace – a Solidarity Dialogue between Bosnian and Ukrainian Women Activists", Sarajevo (June 2016) to develop a dialogue between Ukrainian and Bosnian peace activists about conflicts in two countries<sup>144</sup>; conference "Women who are Organizing themselves for Sustainable Peace in Ukraine" Odesa (June 2018).

## Charity Foundation "Stabilization Support Services", Ukraine

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

Charity Foundation Stabilization Support Services (CFSSS) was founded in Ukraine in 2016 by the Canadian non-profit SSS. In 2016, CFSSS has been working as an independent Ukrainian national charity organization.

### Mission

The goal of the CF Stabilization Support Services is to establish the rule of law, strengthen the legal capacity of persons, ensure the exercise and protection of the rights and freedoms of vulnerable populations, meet the public interests of territorial community members, and promote the development of institutional capacity of the authorities.

141 <https://www.wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Report.pdf>

142 [https://genderindetail.org.ua/netcat\\_files/71/79/WILPF\\_Shadow\\_Report\\_CEDAW\\_UKR.pdf](https://genderindetail.org.ua/netcat_files/71/79/WILPF_Shadow_Report_CEDAW_UKR.pdf)

143 [https://www.wilpf.org/wilpf\\_statements/joint-submission-on-ukraine-to-the-un-committee-on-economic-social-and-cultural-rights/](https://www.wilpf.org/wilpf_statements/joint-submission-on-ukraine-to-the-un-committee-on-economic-social-and-cultural-rights/)

144 <https://www.genderculturecentre.org/vid-viyni-do-stalogo-miru-zhinochiy-dial/>

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

CF SSS is a nationwide network of contractors and advisors working or embedded with national and local governments. CF SSS implements projects aimed at (1) systemic reforms and developing civil society; (2) protecting the rights and freedoms of vulnerable groups; (3) providing assistance to conflict-affected peoples (including internally displaced persons) and other vulnerable population groups; (4) institutional support of public authorities, improvement of their capacity to respond to challenges.

Apart from humanitarian aid projects and projects aimed at protection and integration of vulnerable populations, CF SSS is active in dialogue, peacebuilding and social cohesion activities. For example, in 2016, CF SSS implemented "The Peacebuilding Process in Ukraine: The Role of Women" in partnership with the Union of Women of Ukraine. This project launched a discussion about the peacebuilding process at the region level and established cooperation among women from different parts of the country for the purposes of promoting peace and finding solutions to humanitarian problems<sup>145</sup>.

In 2018, CF SSS partnered with International Organization for Migration to offer long-term support and assistance to IDPs developing grassroots initiatives addressing social cohesion within the Project "Promoting Cohesion and Sustainable Community Development in Conflict-Affected Communities in the Donbas". The main goal of the initiative was to assist people who were forced to move due to events in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, as well as members of local communities, in social adaptation and integration, community cohesion, capacity building in order to solve existing problems in effective cooperation as well as peaceful dialogue within the community between internally displaced persons and local inhabitants by means of implementing cultural and social events<sup>146</sup>.

In November 2018 CF SSS created an opportunity for stakeholders' dialogue on resolving the problem of IDP social rights restoration during the international conference Paying Pensions to Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine: How to Exercise the Constitutional Right to Pension. The conference was organized in cooperation with the Parliament Committee on Social Policy, Employment and Pension Provision and funded by USAID.

In September 2019 – September 2020: CF SSS implemented a Project "Strengthening the participation of IDPs in democratic processes of local government" (IDP Councils), supported by the Democracy Grants Program of the U.S. Embassy to Ukraine<sup>147</sup>. The project facilitates and supports IDP participation in key processes for development and peacebuilding, namely by providing a platform for IDPs' experience and advice on achieving durable solutions in peace building discussions. Within the Project, four Pilot IDP Councils have been created as advisory and mediating bodies at the level of local administration and self-government bodies: on the basis of Kramatorsk city council (Donetsk oblast), Luhansk oblast civil-military administration, Kharkiv city council, Zaporizhzhya city council.

As a long-term project in 2016–2020: CF SSS implemented the Liaison Officer (RADNYK) Programme with the financial support of the British Embassy Kyiv (U.K.

145 <https://en.sss-ua.org/past-programming/>

146 <https://en.sss-ua.org/past-programming/>

147 <https://en.sss-ua.org/idp-council/>

Government, CSSF) under the Project "Development of social cohesion in Ukraine through strengthened regional and local social protection of IDPs, veterans, and other conflict affected persons"<sup>148</sup>.

# International Intergovernmental Organizations and Initiatives

## UN Recovery and Peacebuilding

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

The United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP) has addressed priority needs in eastern Ukraine arising since the outbreak of the armed conflict in the spring of 2014.

UN RPP is implemented by four United Nations agencies: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

### **Mission**

The programme is intended to strengthen community security and social cohesion, support the economic recovery of conflict-affected communities, and further the implementation of decentralization and healthcare reforms in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts<sup>149</sup>.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

The UN RPP operates in six oblasts: Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv; while the Rule of Law project operates in Zhytomyr Oblast. UN RPP has three components:

- Component I: Economic Recovery and Restoration of Critical Infrastructure<sup>150</sup>.
- Component II: Local Governance and Decentralization Reform<sup>151</sup>.
- Component III: Community Security and Social Cohesion<sup>152</sup>.

The component on Community Security and Social Cohesion enables local communities and citizens' interest groups to identify their own needs related to community security, and to design – jointly with the local authorities – appropriate measures or policies, as well as advocating for the allocation of resources.

Over 300,000 residents of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have benefited from more than 160 local initiatives on community security, social cohesion, rule of law, and gender equality. Over 1,600 survivors of gender-based violence have received legal and psychological assistance. General perceptions among the local population of the effectiveness of justice institutions in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts that were supported by the UN RPP, have improved from 40 percent to 51 percent.

149 <https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/recovery-and-peacebuilding.html>

150 <http://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/recovery-and-peacebuilding/component-one.html>

151 <http://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/recovery-and-peacebuilding/component-two.html>

152 <http://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/recovery-and-peacebuilding/component-three.html>



More conflict-affected women and men in Ukraine are now aware of free legal aid services thanks to UN RPP's advocacy efforts – 39.9 percent in Donetsk Oblast (13.9 percent increase since 2017) and 38.5 percent in Luhansk Oblast (19.5 percent increase since 2017). Since 2016, some 114,249 conflict-affected people (60 percent women) have received free legal aid through programme-supported services. Legal Aid Offices have been opened at entry-exit checkpoints in Novotroitske and Mariinka to serve people coming from NGCAs.

Thirty Community Security Working Groups (CSWGs) are now functioning and continuing to raise awareness about community-related social issues, as well as drawing up proposals and plans for local authorities and other stakeholders to address these issues. Significantly, more than 70 percent of CSWG members feel that their views are being taken into account in efforts to improve community security.

Videoconferencing facilities have been established in 32 towns in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to ensure there is more effective coordination between the local authorities, rescue services and law enforcement agencies.

## Geo-Information System of Conflict Monitoring, Analysis, Assessment and Resolution

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

The Geographic Information System for Conflict Monitoring, Analysis, Assessment and Resolution was established in 2019 as part of the UN RPP program in Ukraine<sup>153</sup>.

### **Mission**

Project goals: (1) establishing a regional network of experts in conflict analysis and resolution; (2) providing rapid response to regional conflicts; (3) testing a system for early-warning data collection and analysis; (4) developing an online database of conflicts in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

The platform provides an opportunity for anyone to report a case or a conflict happening in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast (GCA) through an on-line form. Then, analysts and consultants validate the data, categorize the conflict, check its mediability and transfer it to the group of mediators. Mediators analyze the conflict and design the specific intervention that may range from mediation, negotiations, dialogue facilitation to non-violent communication and structured debates. The program has trained the group of mediators, keeps mentoring them and enhancing their skills.

During the first year of operation, the Platform received 178 applications from citizens about various types of conflicts and problems, 54 of which were identified as mediable<sup>154</sup>. Examples of public conflicts resolved by the Platform mediators through various methodologies include a long-term dialogue process for the preservation of

153 <https://dialog-ua.org/>

154 <https://dialog-ua.org/articles/16-rezultaty-eksperymentu-z-yoho-startu-14-08-2019-ta-stanom-na-14-09-2020.html>

the Belgian heritage in Severodonetsk<sup>155</sup>, resolution of the problems with the stray animals in Druzhkivka<sup>156</sup>, facilitation of dialogue between IDPs and local community<sup>157</sup>, dealing with the religious confrontation in Vuhledar<sup>158</sup>.

## Envoys of Tolerance Network, UNDP

### Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation

The Envoys of Tolerance Network was established by the UN Development Programme in 2017 and implemented in partnership with the International Center for Policy Studies<sup>159</sup>.

### Mission

Promote important issues of equality through music, ecology, media, theater, sports, singing, art, literature.

### Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

Since 2017, twelve well-known Ukrainians have become UNDP Tolerance Envoys, raising awareness of the issue of equality in Ukraine, not only within conventions, not only in human rights protection, but also in other areas of life, such as music, the environment, the media, theatre, sports, art, and literature. Because the language of culture is the language of equality, these languages are in turn the languages of peacebuilding. UNDP Tolerance Envoys worked as mediators and peacebuilders influencing the development of a culture and tradition of mutual understanding and respect, reducing the polarization of public sentiments, and advocating for the strengthening of dialogue in Ukrainian society.

The team focuses on the development of a regional network of leaders who become the disseminators of ideas and values of respect, mutual understanding, as well as human rights at the regional level in Ukraine. In addition to creating a regional network, the campaign is planning several artistic, literary and sporting events to attract as many people from different social groups as possible to the discussion.

The project has published "Culture of Peace: Handbook on Tolerance Promotion in Ukraine"<sup>160</sup>, "Tolerance and How to Talk about It: Handbook on Peacebuilding"<sup>161</sup>. In October 2020, the project has launched the mass on-line course on the Culture of Tolerance at the Prometheus platform open for public<sup>162</sup>.

155 <https://dialog-ua.org/news/40-rezultaty-dialohu-belhiyska-spadshchyna-konstruktyvnyy-forsayt-shcho-ta-yak-part-2.html>

156 <http://dialog-ua.org/problems/15-brodyachi-tvaryny.html>

157 <http://dialog-ua.org/problems/19-napruzheni-stosunky-mizh-mistsevymy-zhytelyamy-ta-vnutrishno-peremishchenymy-osobamy.html>

158 <http://dialog-ua.org/problems/16-relihiyne-protystoyannya.html>

159 <https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/operations/get-involved/reinvent-respect-campaign.html#:~:text=Since%202017%2C%2012%20well%2Dknown,%2C%20sports%2C%20art%20and%20literature>

160 <http://icps.com.ua/en/culture-of-peace-handbook-on-tolerance-promotion-in-ukraine/>

161 [https://www.ua.undp.org/content/dam/ukraine/docs/DG/tolerance-campaign/W\\_tolerantnist\\_2017.pdf](https://www.ua.undp.org/content/dam/ukraine/docs/DG/tolerance-campaign/W_tolerantnist_2017.pdf)

162 <https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/uk/home/get-involved/culture-of-tolerance-online-course.html>

## OSCE Project

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

The Office of the Project Coordinator in Ukraine was founded in 1999. The first dialogue projects were launched in 2014.

### **Mission**

The mission of the Project Coordinator is to support reforms for Ukraine's fulfillment of OSCE commitments, build dialogue and assist in overcoming the consequences of the crisis in and around Ukraine<sup>163</sup>. The mission of the dialogue component is to promote and support the development of a culture of dialogue in Ukraine<sup>164</sup>.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

The OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine (OSCE PCU) works to implement the following priority tasks:

- Strengthening the community of experts capable of organizing and maintaining dialogue. OSCE PCU develops training tools (including online courses); conducts trainings and provides mentoring support to new dialogue facilitators<sup>165</sup>. holds annual conferences where experts and officials can discuss efforts to strengthen social cohesion in Ukraine. Since 2014, with the support of the OSCE PCU, the National Association of Mediators of Ukraine (NAMU) has been holding events aimed at the professional development of the community — annual forums of mediators and dialogue facilitators, training courses to improve skills. OSCE PCU supported the initiative of the Institute for Peace and Common Ground to develop Guidelines "Standards of Dialogue: Definitions and Principles". In partnership with the National Association of Mediators of Ukraine, OSCE PCU supported the development of an online register of mediators and the concept of the NAMU Mediator Code of Ethics.<sup>166</sup>
- Expanding the practical use of dialogue as a conflict prevention / management tool. In particular, the Coordinator acted as a convener or supported dialogues on assessing the risks of conflicts in communities that suffered from the armed conflict<sup>167</sup>, dialogues on language in education with the participation of national minorities, authorities, civil society in Uzhgorod, Lviv, Chernivtsi, Odesa<sup>168</sup>. Through these dialogues, OSCE PCU managed not only to reduce the level of conflict in specific communities but also to develop effective channels of interaction between the authorities, communities, and representatives of civil society.
- Mainstreaming of dialogue as a policy instrument of state agencies including in the area of reforms. For example, OSCE PCU supported dialogues on voluntary

163 [https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/3/d/390137\\_2.pdf](https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/3/d/390137_2.pdf)

164 <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/0/8/400832.pdf>

165 <https://www.osce.org/project-coordinator-in-ukraine/457396>

166 <http://namu.com.ua/ua/info/mediators/ethical-code/>

167 <https://www.osce.org/uk/project-coordinator-in-ukraine/450472>

168 <https://issuu.com/ipcg/docs/imip-dialogue-print>

merger of amalgamated communities into the cities of regional significance<sup>169</sup>. The OSCE PCU is working to promote a culture of dialogue in the civil service. Regular trainings on conflict management, mediation and dialogue are conducted at the request of the central and local authorities and self-government bodies. An online education course for civil servants of category B "Mediation and Dialogue Skills for the Needs of Civil Service" was developed and launched, with more than 4,000 civil servants having completed it in the first six months<sup>170</sup>.

The OSCE PCU, together with NAMU, developed and implemented a number of educational activities to promote a culture of dialogue for the general public – created the first open mass online course "How to Effectively Plan and Conduct a Dialogue" on the Prometheus platform; published and disseminated educational materials on dialogue and mediation<sup>171</sup>; convened and implemented the first student competition in effective dispute resolution in Ukraine<sup>172</sup>.

Also, at the request of Ukrainian partners, the OSCE PCU provides systematic assistance in many other areas related to the armed conflict. Examples of such cooperation include:

- development of a humanitarian demining system<sup>173</sup>;
- analysis of environmental risks associated with the conflict, and assistance in organizing a response to these risks<sup>174</sup>;
- development of a system for providing psychological support and rehabilitation to people affected by the conflict<sup>175</sup>;
- supporting research and dialogue platforms in the field of conflict-sensitive journalism, promoting self-regulation as a tool to overcome violations of journalistic ethics;
- strengthening of the system of control over the spread of illegal weapons, ammunition, and explosives on the territory of Ukraine and attempts to transport them across the borders.

## OSCE Special Monitoring Mission, Ukraine

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

On March 21, 2014, at the Ukrainian government's request, the OSCE Permanent Council decided to send a Special Monitoring Mission (OSCE SMM) consisting of unarmed civilian observers to Ukraine.

### **Mission**

The Mission's objectives are to gather information, report on the security situation, and establish facts, in particular, specific events on the ground. The main task of

169 [http://www.auc.org.ua/library?field\\_subject\\_tid=All&type=385](http://www.auc.org.ua/library?field_subject_tid=All&type=385)  
[https://decentralization.gov.ua/uploads/library/file/551/%D0%97%D0%B2%D1%96%D1%82\\_2019.pdf](https://decentralization.gov.ua/uploads/library/file/551/%D0%97%D0%B2%D1%96%D1%82_2019.pdf)

170 [https://courses.ed-era.com/courses/course-v1:OSCE\\_EDERA+Med\\_101+2020/about](https://courses.ed-era.com/courses/course-v1:OSCE_EDERA+Med_101+2020/about)

171 <https://www.osce.org/uk/project-coordinator-in-ukraine/458242>

172 [https://youtu.be/GTWtBAS\\_asM](https://youtu.be/GTWtBAS_asM)

173 <https://www.osce.org/uk/project-coordinator-in-ukraine/449608>

174 <https://www.osce.org/uk/project-coordinator-in-ukraine/107315>

175 <https://www.osce.org/uk/project-coordinator-in-ukraine/430811>

the Mission is to help Ukraine reduce tensions and facilitate dialogue between all parties<sup>176</sup>.

### **Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict**

The Mission consists of unarmed civilian observers and international staff of OSCE member states; they are assisted by employees from Ukraine. The Mission's headquarter is located in Kyiv; observers work in Dnipro, Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv, Luhansk, Lviv, Odesa, Kharkiv, Kherson, and Chernivtsy.

The Mission collects information, reports on the security situation, establish and informs about the facts of specific incidents, including those relating to alleged violations of the OSCE's basic principles<sup>177</sup>. The collected information is published in daily and other regular reports<sup>178</sup>, thematic reports<sup>179</sup> and other publications.

SMM facilitates implementation of the Minsk agreements. The Chief Monitor, who heads SMM, also co-ordinates the Working Group (WG) on Security Issues established under the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG), the platform where the sides to the conflict meet every two weeks. The WG on Security Issues inter alia deals with ceasefires, disengagement, and withdrawal of heavy weapons, mine action, and protection of civilian infrastructure. SMM acts as observers to discussions at the WGs on Humanitarian Issues and the WG on Economic Issues.

The SMM has facilitated dialogues at track III level since the beginning of the Mission in a way that is transparent, confidential, voluntary and are in line with the do no harm principle. For example, SMM conducted round-tables between students-IDPs and students from the host communities at the Karazin University in Kharkiv in 2014. Between 2015 and 2017, the Kramatorsk team facilitated workshops between students, business women, teachers and IDPs in Slovyansk, Kramatorsk and villages near the line of contact within the initiative "Dialogue for Peace and Development".

In late 2017, the SMM started implementing the Dialogue Facilitation initiative "Narratives in Conflict". The main purpose of this initiative was to create possibilities for civilians to share their conflict-related experiences and find opportunities for people to hear and understand each other's narratives. In a first step of the initiative, participants narrate their experiences of the conflict and, in a second step, these narratives are conveyed to other interlocutors in order to increase mutual understanding and trust. Participants have told the SMM, that the initiative has had a beneficial impact on their lives and that sharing stories is a necessary step for reducing tension.

## **UN Women, Ukraine**

### **Name of the organization/initiative and year of foundation**

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) has worked in Ukraine since 1999<sup>180</sup>.

176 <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/f/6/116924.pdf>

177 <https://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/mandate>

178 <https://www.osce.org/ru/ukraine-smm/reports>

179 <https://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/156571>

180 Between 1999 and 2011 as UNIFEM. .

## Mission

The mission of the organization is to help Ukraine meet its gender equality commitments and unlock progress for both women and men in all areas of life<sup>181</sup>.

## Actions and projects in the context of armed conflict

Most of the UN Women peacebuilding activity takes place within United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP).

As part of its mandate, UN Women is contributing to conflict prevention, resolution, recovery, and peacebuilding and supporting the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPS) in Ukraine. UN Women also facilitates gender mainstreaming in humanitarian needs assessments and planning to better meet acute and lifesaving humanitarian needs (including during COVID-19 pandemic)<sup>182</sup>.

UN Women supports the development and implementation of the National Action Plan on implementation of UNSCR 1325<sup>183</sup>. As part of this support, UN Women supports the establishment of local self-help groups and works with groups of women committed to dialogue in and with the eastern region to help identifying the main dividing lines and a common ground for action<sup>184</sup>. UN Women further supports women NGOs and women's right defenders to address needs and priorities of the conflict affected women and communities<sup>185</sup>.

Invisible Battalion<sup>186</sup> and Invisible Battalion 2.0<sup>187</sup> were the first two initiatives to raise awareness about women volunteers and combatants. The initiatives aimed at increasing visibility of women's direct contribution to national security. The nationwide campaign led to amendments to legislation that grants women ex-combatants the same rights as to the male veterans. Invisible Battalion 2.0 involved the first study of women veteran's needs, addressing the reintegration of female veterans into civilian life. Both initiatives have helped create and grow the Ukrainian Women Veteran Movement (UWVM), the only grassroots organization created by women veterans and servicewomen in Ukraine. UN Women continues to support UWVM to advocate for the improved and systemic policy measures to address psychological, social, and economic needs of women veterans and their re-integration in civil life.

In 2020 UN agencies in Ukraine conducted a survey of public perception and attitudes towards gender-based violence against women in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. The survey was conducted within the framework of the United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP) implemented by four United Nations agencies: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the

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181 <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/ukraine>

182 <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/rapid-gender-assessment-of-the-situation-and-needs-of-women>

183 [http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Ukraine\\_NAP.pdf](http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Ukraine_NAP.pdf). The second NAP (2021-2025) was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 28th October 2020. The final version of NAP will be available on-line in coming weeks.

184 <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/12/theater-performance-opens-dialogue-on-various-forms-of-violence-against-women-in-ukraine>

185 <https://www.facebook.com/unwomenukraine/posts/699522493797839>

186 <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/08/invisible-battalion-womens-participation-in-ato-military-operations-in-ukraine>

187 <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/11/invisible-battalion>



UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)<sup>188</sup>.

In 2020 UN Women supported the national partners' consultations and provided technical assistance for the finalization of the second NAP on UNSCR 1325. In November 2020 UN Women supported several on-line events devoted to the 20th anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325 organized by national partners and launched the "Women Are Key to Peace" campaign to underline Ukrainian women's leadership role in building sustainable peace<sup>189</sup>. UN Women continues focusing on the acceleration of the WPS agenda commitments in Ukraine in line with the national priorities (NAP on UNCSR 1325) and global priorities<sup>190</sup>.

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188 <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/03/analytical-report-of-the-findings-of-the-baseline-survey>

189 <https://ukraine.un.org/en/98738-women-are-key-peace-campaign-starts-ukraine>

190 <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-10-29/secretary-generals-briefing-the-security-council-women-peace-and-security-scroll-down-for-french-version>









