Re: A Statement on the situation in Ukraine

As fighting escalates in Ukraine, Women in Global Health expresses concern for the safety and welfare of all people in Ukraine, especially women health workers caring for the health of all people.

Conflict in Ukraine comes after two years of a global pandemic when health workers, the majority of whom are women, have made an exceptional contribution to health systems. Many women health workers are now burnout and exhausted from managing exceptional workloads and personal stress. The current conflict in Ukraine, with rising numbers of casualties and internally displaced people, places significant additional demands on health workers. We urge the armed forces in Ukraine to respect the humanitarian mission of health workers and protect their safety.

For nearly a decade the people in eastern Ukraine, have lived with conflict which has taken a devastating toll on their lives and mental and physical wellbeing. WGH supports the UN Secretary-General in calling for an immediate cease-fire and we call on all parties to respect their international obligations to uphold the human rights and dignity of all people, including women and girls. We call for women to be equally represented in peace negotiations to represent the perspectives, experience and needs of women who are half the population of Ukraine.

Women in Global Health stands in solidarity with the women and girls and all the people of Ukraine.

*WGH chapters have been established in Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Finland, Germany, India, Ireland, Malawi, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Somalia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA, and Zambia. WGH also has regional affiliates in Europe and West Africa.

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