

# Peace, human rights and democracy in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus

## *Proposals for Strengthening the Role of Civil Society*

This document of proposals has been elaborated by the Center for Civil Liberties (Ukraine), Memorial (Russia), the Human Rights Center Viasna (Belarus), the International Catalan Institute for Peace (ICIP) and the NOVACT Institute for Nonviolence to vindicate the role of civil society as crucial actors in the process of resolving the armed conflict in Ukraine and promoting democracy and justice in the Eastern European region. To make this contribution, we are presenting a series of requests, which incorporate a human rights-based gender approach, to the public institutions with which we will meet in Madrid and Barcelona between 30 and 31 January 2023, as follows:

1. Political, technical and financial support to the international initiative Special Tribunal against Russian aggression and participation of the State Administration of Justice actors in the judicial system of accountability for War Crimes committed in Ukraine through the acceptance of these cases in the Spanish jurisdiction.
2. Contribute to the support programme for human rights defenders from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, including facilitation of visa procedures, evacuation and reception systems, and organization of visits to exchange experiences to reduce the traumatic impact of war and other types of violence.
3. Institutional support to initiatives for releasing political prisoners in the region, including support to their families, through political positioning in bilateral and multilateral spaces, godparenthood campaign and other political pressure strategies.
4. Provide technical and diplomatic accompaniment to the Ukrainian government to develop community resilience public policies targeting residents under occupation with information and practical advice to address daily challenges, including economic pressures to collaborate with Russian occupation forces.
5. Creation of a specialized, flexible and easily tramitation fund to support nonviolent resistance initiatives in occupied areas and the social cohesion and community resilience work of local organizations and communities in liberated areas of Ukraine, including fixed costs and salaries of these entities.
6. Strengthen decentralized cooperation and city diplomacy mechanisms with Ukrainian municipalities for the exchange of experience and capacity building in local governance, social reconstruction and transitional justice.
7. Increase support to refugee communities and political exiles to facilitate asylum and improve their reception and socio-occupational integration by ensuring that these measures are extended to all people affected by armed conflict and other violence.

We remain at your disposal for further information and to develop these proposals through the following contacts:

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- Kristian Herbolzheimer, Director of the International Catalan Institute for Peace (ICIP). Email: [kristian@icip.cat](mailto:kristian@icip.cat).