

Amid Conflict: The Forgotten Women of Ukraine Crisis

by Grace Ellen Owens

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia happened a year and a half ago, and its consequences are still being felt worldwide. With over 14 million individuals (about twice the population of Arizona) displaced and countless lives lost, the impact of this event on affected communities and the broader regional landscape is immeasurable.

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The crisis that has left 8 million Ukrainian citizens displaced and seeking refuge is a tragedy that cannot be ignored. Among the most vulnerable are women and young girls, who desperately need global assistance.

Immediate action must be taken to address this humanitarian crisis.

Women and young girls who have been displaced are at a higher risk of experiencing gender-based violence. This can manifest in diverse ways, including but not limited to human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and abuse. In some cases, these individuals may be coerced or forced to engage in transactional sex in exchange for necessities such as food, further exacerbating their vulnerability and leaving them without proper protection or support.

Many women and young girls who have experienced displacement, abuse, or trafficking often struggle to receive vital healthcare services. Of utmost priority are the services pertaining to sexual and reproductive health and mental well-being.



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The ongoing Ukrainian conflict has resulted in suffering for countless displaced women and young girls. Female Ukrainian soldiers are also enduring the most of this crisis. Recent reports have uncovered that these soldiers have been provided with inadequate uniforms that not only impede their ability to carry out daily tasks but also put their health at risk. Many have suffered from infections due to ill-fitting attire.



The devastating effects of the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia extend far beyond the battlefield, with women and young girls at the forefront. It is essential to take urgent and meaningful action to help those in need and provide them with the necessary support and assistance.