

Online event

Unlocking Ukraine's Future: Parliament's Role in Ukraine's Transformational Reconstruction and Recovery

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The gendered impact of the Russian full-scale invasion on the priorities of Ukrainian MPs

Full report



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Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Agenda

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Heidi Riley: Shifting priorities

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Kseniya Oksamytna: Reconstruction and recovery

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01

Shifting priorities

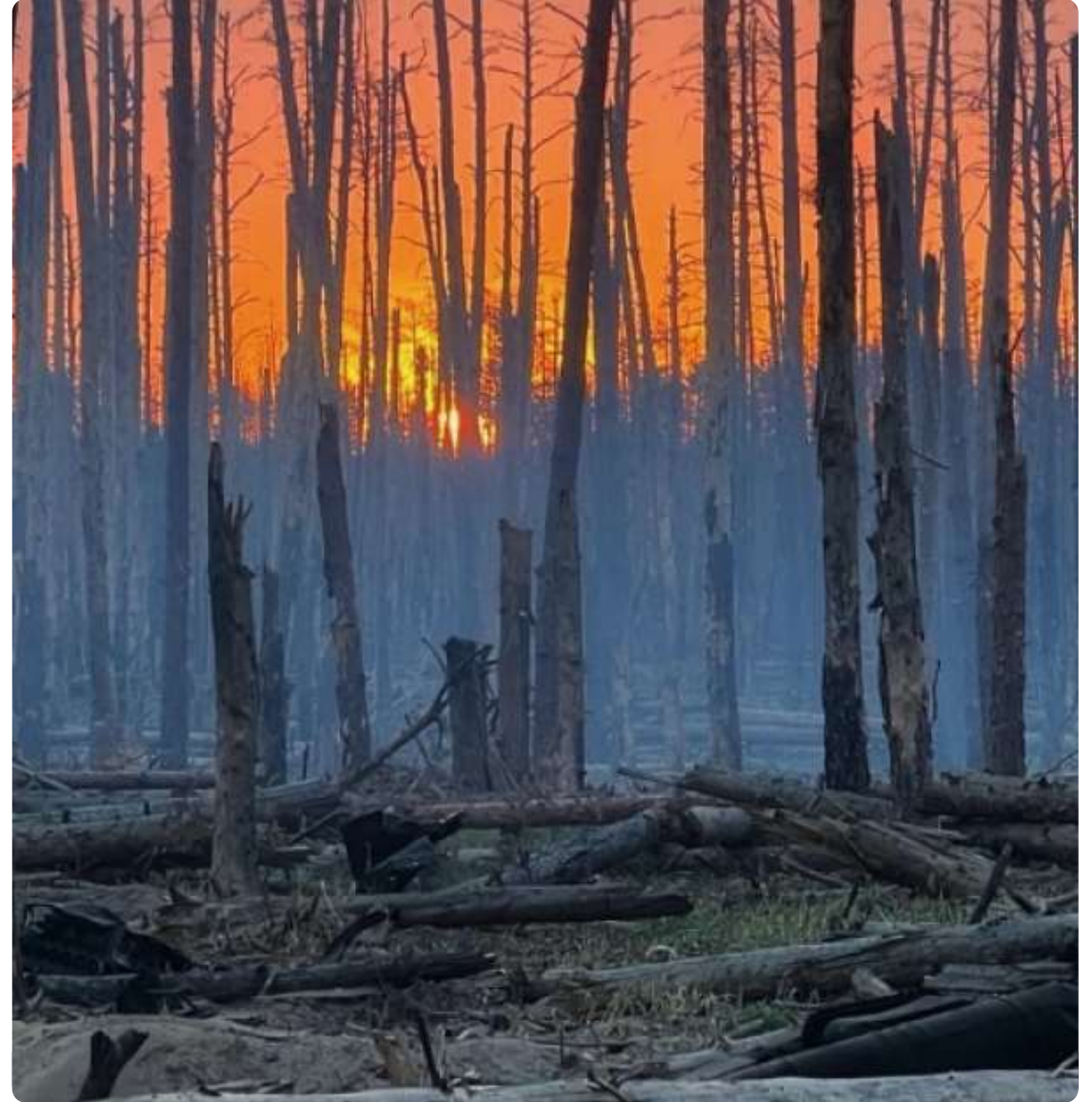
Priorities

- Security, defence, and economic resilience
- Linguistic and cultural sovereignty
- Democratic consolidation: freedom, justice, and citizens' engagement
- Euro-Atlantic integration
- Inclusion: infrastructural and societal



Deprioritised issues

- Health (except mental health)
- Culture and education (except infrastructural changes to ensure wartime delivery)
- The environment
- LGBTI rights



Women in politics and public life

- Support for formal equality but variation in positions on meaning of gender equality.
- Questions as to whether “full equality” means compulsory military service for women as well
- Women’s active use of government grants for new businesses
- Persistence of gender stereotypes that women need to be “strong” to participate in politics alongside men or that women’s role is primarily associated with home and family
- Increased child- and eldercare for women whose partners serve in the military or where childcare facilities are not functional
- Positive effect of gender quotas but attempts to circumvent them
- Negative effect of travel restrictions on officials during the state of emergency

02

Reconstruction and recovery



Recovery planning

- Reconstruction and recovery should start before the end of the active phase of hostilities
- A perception that the executive branch could seek more input from MPs in the planning for reconstruction and recovery
- MPs' ability to influence the planning depended on their proximity to the executive branch
- An impression that international donors, such as the IMF, preferred an executive-led planning process



MPs play an important role in “shaping and implementing the government's plans for reconstruction and recovery through legislative activity, control over the executive branch, and cooperation with local authorities”

Women, Peace, and Security

- Scepticism about the agenda: Delegitimation of the UN due to its ineffectiveness in the face of Russia aggression
- Women's inclusion in potential negotiations with Russia seen as ineffective due to Russia's conservatism
- Gender equality is not the first priority compared to the task of national survival
- NGOs at the local level active in implementing the agenda but lack resources



Veteran policy and political participation

- Labour market activation as opposed to reliance on state support
- Providing veterans who are willing to return to service with opportunities to use their expertise
- Psychosocial support
- Recognising diverse veterans
- Veteran's political participation as an element of national resistance
- Possibility of a veteran-based political party or party around one of AFU units



03

The role of an MP



MPs' role during the initial days of the full-scale invasion

- Priority of the parliament's continued functioning despite the threat to MPs' lives
- MPs' offices turned into volunteer hubs
- Decreased salience of existing divides among those who contributes to national defence

News

Russia-Ukraine War

Russia

Ukraine

Russia's Vast Ukrainian 'Kill List' Revealed: Kyiv

Published Nov 23, 2024 at 10:17 AM EST

Updated Nov 23, 2024 at 11:34 AM EST

"The execution lists were to include teachers of the Ukrainian language, literature, history, ATO veterans, journalists, scholars, writers, priests of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and other denominations who supported Ukraine, public and political figures, heads of state and self-government bodies," said Budanov.

MPs' role during continued national resistance

- The disappearance of “politics” but lack of activities for MPs not working on defence or international affairs
- Dilemmas reported by male MPs (military vs. parliamentary service) differed from those reported by female MPs (family safety as a motivation for parliamentary service)
- Antagonism towards officials: Fraying social cohesion due to conscription and slow reforms during the state of emergency

Recommendations

- Reinforce parliamentary oversight to support transformational impact of recovery programmes
- Institutionalise gender-responsive recovery
- Advance and adequately fund reforms for gender equality
- Further enhance formal mechanisms for civil society engagement
- Advance gender equality and transformative inclusion by:
 - Continuing to support women's political participation
 - Mainstreaming the WPS agenda across parliament
 - Ensure that veteran policies are holistic and transformative
- Invest in social resilience and mental health by:
 - Scaling up gender-sensitive psychosocial support
 - Preventing post-war violence and social fragmentation
- Recognise and institutionalise wartime gains by:
 - Honouring and make visible women's contributions to national defence and recovery
 - Advancing LGBTI rights through legislative reform

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