

145th IPU Assembly - General Debate
Statement by Ms. Ewa Ernst-Dziedzic, MP
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Dear Colleagues,

to keep it short: Women Rights are Human Rights. So during this conference we are discussing not only about women issues, we are talking about rights for all of us - for the young generation of female parliamentarians, but also for a better future for the whole next generation.

Women's rights are in distress. We have heard the horrible accounts of sexual violence against women in Ukraine. The food insecurity caused by Russia's war against the country affects mostly women and their children. Women fleeing face violence in overcrowded refugee camps as well as the drastic lack of medical care, especially for pregnant women. In every conflict, it is always women in particular who are most affected of it!

But: The ongoing conflicts are not the cause of inequality. Inequality has always existed, but conflicts lead to inequality having worse consequences. So peace and democracy building can never just be between leaders of the military or leaders of the state, but it has to include the whole society. To build a truly peaceful society does not only mean the absence of weapons, but it means to build a society in which everyone has a voice.

Therefore, we must not only look at security in military terms, but we have to look at human security as well. We have to look at food security, health security but also the security from being persecuted by the own state. No country is truly peaceful, as long as women are persecuted for perceiving education, deciding over their bodies or for dressing as they want.

That means: The rights of women and girls must be upheld always and everywhere. When women are absent from politics, the dimension of human security is often forgotten. For politics to capture the reality the citizens live in, all parts of society must be represented. For this Rwanda is a great example fighting for - it was a pleasure to join the conference right here.

Thank you very much for having welcomed us here in Kigali.