

Poland.

**Gender equality and gender – sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for  
a more resilient and peaceful world**

Dear Mr President (Madam President), Dear fellow Parliamentarians, Ladies  
and Gentlemen,

Talking about gender equality today and not mentioning about the Ukraine  
fighting seems totally senseless.

The war in Ukraine has showed us,

that the most affected are civilians, especially women and girls, even small girls,  
who are victims of abuse, rapes and murders.

Who suffer, because they lose their lives, their dignity, their families.

Each day women and men in this country fight to protect their homeland, their  
cities, their homes.

They are forced to defend their rights, language, culture.

Equally – men and women.

After the XX century wars we believed, it will never happen again.

And yet Russian Federation, a permanent member of the Security Council of  
United Nations, elected to ensure the world peace, decided to attack and destroy  
its neighbor – a sovereign and independent country.

Imagine that Russia sends troops to, for example South Africa or any other  
country. They bomb your cities, destroy your infrastructure and they want to  
remove you from the map. Would you be so eager to accept?

Russia is treating Ukraine the way former empires treated their colonies.

It wants to subjugate the now independent country that was once within its borders.

We strongly condemn and oppose this kind of post-colonial thinking.

Russian troops are committing war crimes against the civilian population.

As an eyewitness I feel obliged to give a testimony.

The testimony of what I saw around Kiev.

Destroyed, robbed homes, destroyed infrastructure... Dead bodies of brutally murdered men, women, children.

Gender equality.

With my own eyes I saw corpses of civilian victims in Bucha.

This is something I will never forget.

I see it in my nightmares all the time.

Thousands of people have been killed.

This is genocide.

It is even harder to talk about it here, in Rwanda, a country that experienced such a tragedy. We commemorate the victims every year.

But the lesson has not been learned, some countries still violate the basic human right – a **right to live**.

This is why I strongly urge you to support all resolutions that say about this war, that condemn the unprovoked aggression.

Even if we have to adopt such resolutions over and over again.

This is a real emergency.

I call every member of our Assembly to condemn Russia, to vote in your parliament in favor of as strong sanctions as possible.

Every day I see Ukrainian women and children on the streets of our cities.

They are war victims as well. There were lucky to leave, before the attacker found them in their homes.

They are devastated, because they do not know if they will ever see their fathers, brother, sons again.

Imagine how hard it is to talk to them and explain why so many countries does not condemn the Russian aggression.

The position of Poland in this regard is simple – the Russian troops should be immediately withdrawn from Ukraine, war should be over and those guilty of war crimes must be brought to justice.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the illegal acts of 'recognising independence' and 'annexation' by the Russian Federation of the occupied Ukrainian regions of Kherson, Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhia, which remain part of Ukraine under international law.

Dear Colleagues,

the topic of the general debate is very important.

Gender – sensitivity in parliaments is crucial in nowadays world.

But either or not gender balanced, first of all we must be **human-sensitive**.