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Recognizing and supporting the role of women in maintaining a climate of peace and security

Open letter

The celebration of International Women's Day on March 8 is a tribute brought by the international community to the human potential of all women and girls.

Carrying the symbol of Hope and Solidarity, women support - through the ethics of care and empathy, through courage, determination and perseverance - the steps taken by the human community to create a culture of human rights focused on peace - as a universal and humanistic common value.

Through their actions in the public and private spheres in support of the promotion and observance of human rights, women have a special role to play in promoting a climate of peace and security for future generations. By cultivating understanding, tolerance, empathy, equality and non-discrimination, women are present, contributing to science and innovation, education, health, and public decision-making.

In achieving the goal of peace, the emerging challenges are multiple; amongst these, armed conflicts strongly call into question the need to highlight women's contribution to a global climate of security and peace.

Armed conflicts are the most direct threat to peace, a dismissal of the rules of public international law but also a dismissal of the standards adopted by the international community in the field of human rights protection. Armed conflicts have disproportionate effects on women who are vulnerable to acts of violence resulting from military confrontations that affect the full exercise of human rights. Through resilience and devotion to the noble cause of protecting human rights, women assert their active role in achieving and maintaining a climate of peace and security by: participating in strategic decision-making, engaging in peace negotiations, providing humanitarian support to vulnerable people in need, ensuring post-conflict reconstruction.

Aware of the aggressions that target them in situations of armed conflict, women can make a valuable contribution to stopping confrontations through the dual stance in which they are often positioned: potential victims and decision-makers. The international community support in strengthening women's participation is crucial, and therefore, it must maintain strong

commitments in the field of women's rights protection, understanding the need to continuously promote the goal of gender equality in all areas of activity.

In the current context, the International Women's Day 2022 is a day of advocacy for peace and security. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights, in partnership with the Association of Women in Romania - Together, the Association of Women in Legal Careers in the Republic of Moldova, the Association ANAIS, Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR), Center for Human Rights (CEDROM) initiates a hub of messages for peace, solidarity and recording experiences. The messages of peace and solidarity, as well as the recording of the experiences lived in these days will be sent to: office@afrr.ro/lilianapagu281@gmail.com and on the Facebook page of the president of the Women's Association of Romania-Together (<https://www.facebook.com/liliana.pagu.98>). In her capacity as Ambassador of Peace, Mrs. Liliana Pagu will centralize and communicate these messages to the Forum of Ambassadors of Peace composed of 196 countries.