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Hello again to everyone. I'm happy to participate in this conference and I am really grateful for all participants who focus on this issue about Ukraine and all these very negative impacts from the conflict.

My name is Nina Potarska, and I am national coordinator for Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. I'm a feminist activist-researcher and my topics are related to human security, women's peace and security agenda, women's rights and conflict and opportunity for peaceful conflict resolution. And I'm also a member of women network for inclusive dialogues. It's a Ukrainian network, where we are focus on gender reforms, women's political participation and negative effect of militarization, gender and domestic violence and women's employment and economic security and women participation in the negotiation process and resolution of conflict, in Donbass and in Ukraine now.

Today we can observe these global processes in the world that are ruled of by a logic of force instead of cooperation, toxic masculinity instead of gender equality and absence of logic, which are related to future and ability to survive in this world. And our society is moving back to the time when the **hopes for opportunity** overcome this logic of force and power and violence. So we are becoming hostage of the game of muscles and we have seen the relation to around Taiwan between China and America and in Ukraine between Russia and NATO.

Now Ukraine is like a territory where Russia is so-cold defending their territory from NATO. While not paying attention to the fact that Ukraine is not just a territory but is a place where people still living and they still not want to die and leaving poverty, fear, without future and even visualization of future, because every day people cannot plan just this day and maybe next and long-term future is impossible now. And despite the fact of our rulers are driven by primal instinct of power and authority, our society has managed technologically to research the point of creating a means of mass murder and other people and atomic energy which was promoted as "peaceful atom" during my childhood and has changed to become their main reason and main challenge for existence of humanity.

And many people in Ukraine remember what has happened in Chernobyl more than 30 years ago and has a memory. I have a mark on my neck because I had an operation 22 years ago also related to this. And Raphael Grossi (of the IAEA) last week told that the situation is becoming more dangerous because of Zaporizhia – Zaporizhia is also a Ukrainian city, which

Russian troops captured in the early March. But all staff who service the atomic energy station are Ukrainian, so it is a paradoxical situation how it's called by Grossi, because the station is controlled by Russian but Ukrainian staff operate this nuclear station. So according to him, it leads to unpredictable problems with this station.

And there are other problems now and it's everyday dangerous because Nikopol, a city which is close to Zaporizhia but across the river, now Ukrainian side, but the situation is very dangerous because it's a cross-shelling between Energadar and Nikopol, which is just one road from Zaporizhia which is not blocked now because from the southeast and west the city is surrounded by Russian troops and Nicopol bombing from Energadar but Energadar is also a place for atomic energy station located so Ukrainian troops can respond to this side. According to the information from our sources, Energadar is surrounded by **means** so we expect everyday something can go wrong in this situation.

And there is a problem because I promoted this approach. How we can use traditional roles of women in our society and how we can make this bridge to peace through women's role in society like a glue on a horizontal level and everyday communication because women's gender roles in traditional societies are very related to horizontal communication through social infrastructure, for example in kindergartens, in parents groups, in schools and everyday communication in shops in horizontal level or in community organization, so they integrated more than men in this everyday horizontal communication between different groups.

But we have a lot of challenges now for these groups. First of all, it's physical safety. I visit Ukraine every month for a couple of weeks and in different region and my body is used to freeze from loud sounds and I stop breathing during the shelling and this is just the background in which many people in Ukraine have to live and women can continue work, taking take care of children and doing everyday woman duties. And another challenge is economical security because the economy in Ukraine is barely alive and many people are without jobs or sustainable income and many children do not go to school this year and we are afraid of the coming winter because it's already known that there will be no gas for heating and many cities in Ukraine are now evacuated not just because of the shelling and the bombing but also because it is impossible to go through autumn, winter and spring period and all these challenges and lack of the clear and positive ideas about the future certainly affects on psychological health. And we talked about how it affects women because now they are heads of households and many women are now displaced or refugees in other countries and for them its new roles of leading their household because as Yurii already mentioned that it's banned for men to move from Ukraine. But in the same time, there are women who left Ukraine. They also face with these challenges because many men were mobilized for

army and also women faces new roles like leaders of communities, leaders of households, leaders of family but without any certain future and any guarantee with the lack of social infrastructure and any health infrastructure.

They do everyday care duties because women are traditionally performing functions of care in society. In addition, all these challenges affect the way how women can represent in political and economy because they do not have any support, as I mentioned already, and also that we pin our hopes for reconciliation and peacebuilding in every conflict affected society because we rely on women and their function in community like a glue and we believe that investing in women and their needs and the shift the focus from competition to solidarity and build this and create this spaces safe spaces for a woman. It's a way how we can build peace from very small society and to extend this experience and scale this experience on the whole society in this world.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the conference.