**Women's Appeal for Peace**

March 8th, 2022

*The Women's Appeal for Peace was initiated by feminists and peace activists from Croatia on February 24, 2022, the first day of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. So far our Appeal has been supported by nearly 500 feminists and peace activists from post-Yugoslav countries and the world. The Appeal was immediately sent to the highest state institutions in Croatia and the world (from the President of the Republic of Croatia, the Prime Minister to the UN, the Council of Europe and the European Union), the Embassies of Ukraine and the Russian Federation in the Republic of Croatia and Belarus, and as well to international feminist and peace networks and organizations (War Resisters' International, Bund für Soziale Verteidigung, European Women's Lobby, V-Day, Josei no kōdō nettowāku, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Quaker Peace and Service and etc.). Thousands of activists from around the world - from Japan to South America and women of different vocations - have published this Appeal on their portals and continue to share it. In the meantime, unfortunately, we are witnessing a further escalation of the war and a senseless destruction in Ukraine, and above all a human catastrophe of inconceivable proportions. But we are also encouraged by more and more anti-war voices from all over the world, as well as more vigorous forms of resistance to war. We wholeheartedly support the peace actions worldwide, especially in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, beyond the growing Russophobia in the West. This is our joint**cry,**because the war must be stopped unconditionally and immediately.*

With consternation and disbelief, we are witnessing the escalation of the war and violence in Ukraine caused by the Russian invasion and the suspension of negotiations between the leaders of Russia and Ukraine.

As female citizens of Europe and the world, we demand from the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately cease hostilities, knowing that war is a crime against peace and humanity. At the same time, we urge all sides in conflict to continue the negotiations through diplomatic channels and to rely on all available non-violent means, in order to find appropriate solutions and ensure long-term peace and security in Ukraine, including the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

As peace activists and feminists, we strongly oppose any act of war by any state or international actor. We oppose the culture of violence based on permanent military armament, constructing and producing of enemies, macho-militaristic competition and creation of new military shields in the heart of Europe.

We also oppose the public incitement to war by powerful states based on their geopolitical and financial interests, and warmongering atmosphere that promotes fear and anxiety among the people of Ukraine, but also among the citizens of neighbouring countries as well as citizens of Russia.

As witnesses of the havoc of war and war iconography during the 1990s in our own country, we are well aware of the harmful repercussions of the war and its long-lasting devastating effects on society, civilians and the human community. We know all to well how divided communities in the post-war period suffer from trauma, and feelings of injustice, which makes the healing hard to achieve. For us, human security and the life of every human being is an ethical imperative for every political action, surpassing issues such as state-territorial interests, political independence and military-defence security.

Therefore, we demand for from the Government of the Republic of Croatia to actively support peace efforts in order to prevent further escalation of the conflict.

We express our solidarity with all citizens of Ukraine and express our support for peace initiatives and anti-war movements in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus.

**Signatories:**

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| Vanja Nikolić, Vesna Janković, Rada Borić, Biljana Kašić, Mirjana Radaković, Nela Pamuković, Vesna Teršelič, Katarina Kruhonja, Nataša Medved, Iva Grgić Maroević, Ivana Bago, Leonida Kovač, Brigita Miloš, Neva Tölle, Maja Profaca, Jasmina Lukić,Tihana Rubić, Julijana Tešija, Nataša Lalić, Ana Dana Beroš, Marijana Senjak, Adriana Bego, Biserka Momčinović, Sanja Sorić, Adriana Branka Pojatina,Vitarnja Gamulin, Ana Raffai, Jelena Kupsjak, Ana Maskalan, Jagoda Novak, Karolina Leaković, Tina Pavlović, Martina Petrinjak, Sanja Bachrach Krištofić, Renata Jambrešić Kirin, Lada Čale Feldman, Senka Božić-Vrbančić, KsenijaTurčić, Željka Jelavić, Nadežda Čačinovič, Nada Peratović, Snježana Pavić, Sandra Prlenda Perkovac, Sanja Sarnavka, Nada Beroš, Martina Findrik, Ana Zbiljski, Daniela Širinić, Dorotea Šušak, Suzana Komušar, Suzana Marjanić, Sonja Leboš, Marija Geiger Zeman, Monika Marić, Željka Sartori, Kosjenka Laszlo, Barbara Blasin, Mirta Jurilj, Leila Topić, Sanja Bilas, Gordana Orsag Pasanec, Nataša Govedić, Dubravka Đurić, Jadranka Pintarić, Mirjana Kučer, Danijela Stanojević, Georgette Yvette Ponte, Bojana Guberac, Davorka Komsi, Miljenka Ćurković, Ines Udodovsky, Morena Ruppe, Ivana Armanini, Snežana Andrejev Majcan, Jadranka Vuksa Kovačević, Marinka Bakula Anđelić, Ljiljana Raičević, Ivana Kabaj, Jelena Božić, Azra Svedružić, Sanja Končevski, Zdenka Cic, Slavica Renko, Sanda Malbaša, Ana Legčević, Nina Romić, Iva Rada Janković, Vesna Mažuran Subotić,Ratka Višnjić, Ivanka Mijić, Uranela Đekanović, Ljubica Andrišek, Ives Cikatić,Tatjana Latinović, Stanislava Brlobaš, Sniježana Kotarski, Aliče Prhat, Nada Drobnjak,Tihana Tomas Skala, Ljiljana Djurica, Jadranka Plantak, Sanja Macoko, Jasmina Lončarević Serdar, Manuela Zlatar, Tanja Todorović, Diana Haniš, Ana Horvat Vuković,Vlatka Bećović, Gabrijela Kramarić Eid, Lana Bobić, Sunčica Damjanović, Silvia Zufić Dujmović, Anita Kargotić, Jasmina Cvenk, Ljiljana Karlić, Meliha Ćilimković, Silvija Tomčik, Milanka Marić, Dijana Medić, Vesna Jozić, Vesna Ramljak, Nikolina Komljenović, Tihana Kružić, Marina Bura, Maja Capan Antić, Iva Davorija, Petra Počanić, Dubravka Canjko, Nataša Vajagić, Dunja Gusić, Marina Šimanović, NevenkaTrgovčić, Martina Validžić, Besima Borić, Rada Bulich, Marina Štembergar, Renata Ivanović, Branka Stipić, Magdalena Kozarić, Armina Pilav, Snježana Abramović Milković, Aleksandra Ninić Vranješ, Maja Šintić, Biljana Stamenkovska Šipuš, Nives Miošić, Martina Uzelac, Igra Šain Kovačević, Željka Turčinović, Vesna Podlipec, Emina Bužinkić, Tea Škokić, Ljerka Horvat Odadžić, Klelija Balta, AnicaTomić, Nevenka Orbanić, Fani Bugarin, Dina Čarija, Lina Kežić, Kristina Čačić, Daniela Bilopavlović Bedenik, Blaženka Civadelić, Zdenka Stilinović, Kristina Mihaljević, Nives Jozić Kvastek, Ana Sršen,Fani Bugarin, Lara Javorčić, Jelena Pranjić, Danijela Dugandžić, Milena Visser, Anica Čizmazija, Emili Sedlar, Sanja Juras, Zrinka Pukljak, Biserka Brbot Lasić, Vesna Turuški-Grubić, Zdenka Krstinić, Dunja Bonacci Skenderović, Ivana Pavić, Pinija Poljaković, Vera Vujačić, Valeria Madarasz Kovačević, Iva Sirotić, Nermina Zaimović-Uzunović,Marica Mirić, Kristina Peruničić, Martina Mokus, Bosiljka Vrban Arh, Nuna Zvizdić, Tea Kantoci, Aleksandra Čižmešija, Rosana Ratkovčić,Francesca Maria Gabrielli, Ana Rajković, Laura Brcković, Neda Novosel, Mirjana Mizdrak Mišanović, Lidija Japec, Darja Đorđević, Željka Leljak Gracin, Ljiljana Ban, Hana Dagostin, Klaudija Barbarić Mešin, Josipa Krizanović Cimeša, Tatjana Bandara-Mrakovčić, Zlata Smajić, Mirjana Kazija, Žak Valenta, Ivana Percl, Ivana Zanze, Iva Zenzerović, Sara Lalić, Diana Topčić-Resenberg, Sanja Rakić, Melita Jureša, Mirela Despotović, Ani Tkalčec, Jasna Šumanovac, Ida Kovač, Iva Prpić, Sanja Janković, Ana Prolić, Mimi Burić, Branimira Mrak, Nada Golubović, Višnja Klaić, Alena Rosandić-Vujnović, Karmela Romić, Savka Todorovska, Magdalena Obradović, Karmela Fakleš Martinjak, Maja Lang Balija, Melanija Strika, Mirna Hromadko Reiser, Mirjana Obradović, Maja Rilović, Ivana Čurčić, Josipa Bubaš, Lejla Šehić Relić, Nena Pavelić, Snježana Pavelić, Željka Mandić, Svetlana Slapšak, Igballe Rogova, Marta Drury, Vjosa Dobruna, Feride Rushiti, Nermin Mahmuti, Marija Lozo, Ariana Qosaj Mustafa, Daša Duhaček, Zana Hoxha, Alba Loxha, Rada Iveković, Vetone Veliu, Shqipe Malushi, Elizabeta Šeleva, Silvana Carotenuto, Dubravka Stojanović, Viktorija Kudra Beroš, Danijela Paska, Nadejda Charrere, Sylvia Marcos, Zilka Spahić-Šiljak,Vesna Malešević, Chizuko Ueno,Iva Krtalić Muiesan, Iva Peter Dragan, Nives Rebernak, Melanija Belaj, Danijela Birt, Sanja Đurin, Branka Drabek Milekić, Biljana Dojčinović, Nataša Kandić, Ivana Balen, Anne J. Gilliland, Lesley Ferris, Claudia Ulbrich, Lee Quinby, Sara Speidel, Nancy Witting, Pat Sollner, Sabra Webber, Yi Lee Wong, Azade Seyhan, Julia Watson, Χριστιάνα Γεννατά (she/η), Adriana Zaharijević, Jelena Visković, Ellen Elias Bursac, Rachel Alsop, Benedetta Agostoni, Branka Peurača, Gudrun Schyman, Valentina Pellizzer, Brina Tus, Maria do Mar Pereira, Irena Božin, Melanie Ivančević, Belma Bećirbašić, Lada Stevanović, Madina Tlostanova, Sanja M. Bojanić, Madhu Bhushan, Branka Galić, Magda Zenon, Neda Novosel, Anja Grubiša,Tatjana Ljuština Milaković, Rafaela Božić, Marija Mandekić, Teresa Joaquim, Vjekoslava Jurdana, Marina Gržinić, Maya Alrahabi, Iva Bulić, Marta Gabela, Marta Klepo, Dubravka Šimonović, Sabina Glasovac, Malin Björk, Mirjana Adamović, Sabine Grenz, Koraljka Soušek, Jasna Mršo Mušan, Milena Varda Broz, Snježana Kovačević, Fadila Dautović, Petra Težak, Mariela Marković, Ines Milčić, Joanna Piotrowska, Marya Meyer, Duška Borovac, Isabel Allegro de Magalhães, Eve Ensler, Monique Wilson, Roshika Deo, Marsha Lopez, Rita Vinocur, Randall Morales, Judy Stern, Sofia Cohen, Patricia Flowers, Abha Bhaiya, Tatjana Nikolić, Omodele Ibitoye, Janka Striffler, Andrea Veber, Višnja Gotal, Una Mikac, Blanka Katunarić, Sandra Kasunić, Susan Jakopec, Sara Kekuš, Irén Annus, Andrea Tóth, Eva Federmayer, Mária Joó, Louise Vasvári, Nóra Koller, Natalija  Konir Ladović, Lucija Škifić, Kristina Kulić, Mojca Dobnikar, Ramiza Memedi, Karin Doolan, Marina Kovačević, Erzsébet Barát, Tea Giorgi, Lepa Mlađenović, Jana Kocevska, Irena Cvetkovikj, Uranija Pirovska, Marija Savovska, Suzana Grozdanovska Filevska, Julijana Kargovska,Sonja Hadji Nikolov, Lidija Ilijevska, Magdalena Spasovska, Neda Petkovska, Tania Ivanova, Iskra Geshoska, Jasmina Trajcheva, Mirta Bašelović, Tea Vidović**,** Lovorka Šošić, Divna Mrdeža Antonina, Yvonne Deutsch, Nikolina Zec, Olga Uremović, Stela Simić,Valentina Andrašek, Tea Rojc, Vesna Gaspari, Ina Šaponjić, Jagoda Milidrag Šmid, Aida Bagić, Anja Šmid, Iva Šmid, Danijela Lukenić Punčikar, Dragana Popović, Marta Džaja, Michelle Morkert, Ivana Kekin, Sandra Benčić, Katica Glamuzina, Nera Komarić, Mateja Medlobi, Ljiljana Marks Šikić, Lucija Šikić, Ivana Troha, Biba Metikoš, Katica Glamuzina, Nataša Milojević, Jana Radić, Daniela Dimitrievska, Acija Alfirević, Jelena Veljača, Daša Šilović, Danijela Špirić, Tanja Josipa Češković, Marica Mirić, Kristina Jezerčić, Jadranka Klekar, Nataša Hlaban, Biba Kopčak,Vladimira Mascarell, Katarina Sokić, Andreja Grubiša,Vesna Milovac,Mura Palašek, Nada Margetić, Tarna Komarić Brooks, Ivana Bakal, Natalija Konir Ladović,Nina B. Buden, Anamarija Amlica Levak, Silvana Tokić, Anna Gumienna, Jovana Nastasijević, Mirna Žagar, Kristina Šubašić, Amira Dubravac Smailović, Višnja Ljubičić, Maja Sever, Dona Danon, Milena Jeričević, Jadranka Miličević, Mila Vlajo, Helena Valentić, Luciana Percovich, Ivana Ruk Ražov, Frana Laće, Sanja Ljubić, Danka Derifaj.\_ |