

Bern, January 2022

PeaceWomen Across the Globe appeals for peace in Europe

We urgently appeal to all states, military alliances and intergovernmental organisations to begin 2022 by reducing troops and military armament.

In view of the ongoing talks between the Russian Federation, the United States, Ukraine as well as NATO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union, we call on all parties to move forward with effective demilitarisation.

As a feminist peace organisation, we are convinced that demilitarisation is central to achieving genuine security for all, in particular for women.

Invest in care infrastructure, not arms: The world's 100 largest arms sellers sold USD 531 billion worth of defence equipment and military services in 2020, increasing their sales for the sixth consecutive year, according to recently released figures of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Arms manufacturers in Switzerland, where PeaceWomen Across the Globe is headquartered, sold over CHF 900 million worth of war material in 2020 – a new record.

As the corona pandemic has made abundantly clear: there instead needs to be a substantial investment in health care and social infrastructure.

How women are affected by militarisation: Our work with women in Ukraine's conflict-affected region demonstrates how they are affected by the indirect consequences of the war that began in 2014. Thousands of deaths and civilian wounded have been recorded since then. But violence and the militarisation of public spaces are increasing far beyond the actual war zone. This has direct consequences for the women in the region.

While the talks and the war continue, gender-based violence, poverty, unemployment and inadequate social security impacts the women every day. These are the effects of the ongoing war and militarisation.

Peace can only be achieved through a rigorous commitment to disarmament.

Read about our work in Ukraine: <u>https://cutt.ly/kIrVG6s</u> and <u>https://cutt.ly/bIrOoPr</u>

