

**European Forum
on Human Rights and
Psychosocial Support
for Refugee Survivors** | **16-17 October 2023
Warsaw, Poland**

*Ukraine in Times of War: Refugees, Special Protection Needs
and Cooperation Across Borders*

Dates: Monday, 16th (10:00 CEST) – Tuesday, 17th of October 2023 (13:00 CEST)

Location: [Centrum Konferencyjne Zielna](#), Zielna 37, 00-108 Warsaw, Poland

75 years after the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, millions of refugees encounter enormous challenges in Europe: the Russian war against Ukraine, shrinking spaces for civil society actors and discriminatory policies against refugees. The forum aims at standing behind refugee survivors of torture, war, and persecution, and at strengthening human rights defenders and civil society actors supporting refugees in need of special protection. It creates spaces for transnational networking, mutual support and knowledge exchange.

This solution-oriented and empowering format is directed at practitioners across Europe working in the field of psychosocial support, human rights, health care, and related fields and in particular with refugees in and from Ukraine. The forum will consist of a combination of keynotes, discussions, and interactive workshops addressing the following questions: How can we continue our work? Where do we have to respond? How can we provide adequate support for refugees in and from Ukraine?

Simultaneous translation in English and Ukrainian will be provided throughout the conference.

Register here: <https://eveeno.com/335116544>

Further remarks:

We have limited additional funds to create the possibility for practitioners and psychosocial centres with a very small budget to **apply for a travel allowance until the 24th of September 2023**. As the budget is limited, please consider carefully if this applies to you. Kindly indicate your precise needs in the registration process via Eveeno. We will get back to you regarding available options via email. We will check each request individually. For questions please contact us at event@baff-zentren.org.

For participants we have organised a **limited call-in contingent of hotel rooms** for the nights from 15th to 17th of October at the hotel [Metropol](#), located in ul. Marszałkowska 99a. The price range is between 420 PLN (single room) and 470 PLN (twin room) including breakfast. The booking and preferential rates/discount are **valid until the 25th of September 2023**. By this date guests can make their booking using the password „BAfF conference”. After the above mentioned date the availability of the hotel rooms and offered rates are not guaranteed. The booking request should be made directly at the Reservation Department of the hotel:
E-mail: hotel.metropol@syrena.com.pl or phone: +48 22 31 82 888 4.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Ukraine in Times of War: Refugees, Special Protection Needs and Cooperation Across Borders

Monday, 16th of October

Time	Programme
10:00 - 11:00	Registration with coffee and snacks
11:00 - 11:30	Introduction and Welcome Larissa Kunze (BAfF) Elise Bittenbinder (Chairwomen of BAfF)
11:30 - 11:50	Keynote: Social and psychological effects of the current Russian war of aggression against Ukraine in the context of historical continuities of violence <i>Speaker:</i> Marina Chernivsky (Psychologist and behavioural scientist, board member of AMCHA Germany, founding executive director of the counselling centre OFEK e.V., Head of the Competence Center for Prevention and Empowerment of the ZWST, Berlin)
11:50 - 13:15	Opening Panel: Vulnerabilities, special protection needs and psychosocial response in contexts of war and crises <i>Panellists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natalia Gourjii (ROKADA Charitable Foundation, Ukraine) - Maria Książak (International Humanitarian Initiative Poland and psychologist at XENION Berlin) - Alina Aliashevich (Child and adolescent psychologist working with PARTISANS, an initiative from Belarus in Poland) <p>What are the specific protection needs of refugee survivors in Ukraine and surrounding countries and how do we, as health professionals, respond to those needs? How do crisis and war contexts in which we work affect early assessment of vulnerabilities and proper care? What are the risks and (long-term) consequences, if those protection needs</p>

	are not met due to lack of resources, solidarity and a general human rights crisis?
13:15 - 14:45	Lunch break
14:45 - 16:15	Parallel workshops
	<p>Focus Workshop 1: Facing psychosocial challenges and special vulnerabilities in the context of the Russian war of aggression within Ukraine</p> <p>This workshop focuses on the psychological and emotional impacts experienced by individuals directly affected by the ongoing and prolonged conflict. Objectives: sharing insights from psychosocial support within Ukraine; Identifying key challenges and needs in support work; Building empathy, solidarity and elaborating perspectives.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lesya Kovpaka (ROKADA Charitable Foundation, focus on Gender Based Violence, Ukraine) - Dr Nadiia Perius (ROKADA Charitable Foundation, Associate Professor at the Department of Psychology at KROK University, Ukraine) - Serhii Tkachuk (ROKADA Charitable Foundation, Team Lead Lviv Center, Ukraine) (tbc) - Dr Barbara Preitler (Hemayat, Austria) <p>Moderation: Dr Yuriy Nesterko (Center UEBERLEBEN, Germany)</p>
	<p>Focus Workshop 2: Psychosocial support and needs of Ukrainian refugees in host countries</p> <p>The workshop will bring together perspectives on psychosocial challenges in dealing with refugees from Ukraine in European host countries. Scientific and practical insights will be shared and different approaches to low-threshold and professional support will be highlighted.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Florian Harder, (Psychosocial Center Greifswald, Germany) - Elena Rusu (ICAR Foundation, Romania) - Kseniya Panyukova (Refugio Munich, Germany) <p>Moderation: Lukas Welz (BAfF, Germany)</p>

	<p>Focus Workshop 3: Dealing with burdens and stress as professionals in the field (focus self-care)</p> <p>Working in a high-stress field requires strategies and tools to deal with these challenges. We offer a space for exchange and reflection on the work, professionally accompanied by Marina Chernivsky, who has diverse experience of supervision in the subject area.</p>
16:15-16:45	Coffee break
16:45-17:30	<p>Summary panel: Facing vulnerabilities and addressing psychosocial needs in war, in exile and in oneself</p> <p>Moderated summary discussion with practitioners from the three Focus Workshops: Identifying common themes and addressing cross-cutting issues, elaborating synergies between the key findings from the workshops.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dina Gud (Danish Refugee Council, Ukraine) - Kseniya Panyukova (Refugio Munich, Germany) (tbc) - N.N. Focus Workshop 3 <p><i>Moderation:</i> Larissa Kunze, BAfF</p>
17:30-18:00	<p>Gallery Walk: Interactive space for networking</p> <p>Interested participants present their initiatives, products, projects.</p>
19:00	Optional joint dinner

Tuesday, 17th of October

Time	Programme
9:30-9:40	<p>Introduction Larissa Kunze (BAfF) Lukas Welz (Director of BAfF)</p>
9:40 - 11:00	<p>Practitioner Panel: Human Rights work and psychosocial support in times of Russian wars of aggression</p> <p>Activists and practitioners of psychosocial support talk about the increasing repression exercised by the Russian regime and its allies and strategies of engagement for human rights.</p> <p>How can we create and maintain civil society engagement in the face of shrinking spaces and build bridges across borders to keep them alive and connected? What are the long-term consequences of repressive regimes and wars at the individual and societal level?</p> <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Mariam Jishkariani (Director of RCT Empathy, Georgia) - Inna Riaboshapko (ROKADA Charitable Foundation, focus on supporting refugees in Ukraine) - Mikita Matsiushchankau (Lawyer and Human Rights Defender for people on the move in Latvia) <p><i>Moderation:</i> Maria Książak (International Humanitarian Initiative Warsaw, Poland and XENION Berlin)</p>
11:00 - 11:30	<p>coffee break</p>
11:30 - 12:45	<p>Political Panel: From the abyss to disaster? Facing human rights in times of trauma, rejection and populism</p> <p>The political developments in Europe are worrying: an increasingly manifested closure of the EU to protection seekers, human rights violations in the EU and by EU member states. It is evident that political regimes and their wars pose essential challenges to human rights work and psychosocial support for protection seekers.</p> <p>On the panel, human rights defenders, political activists and practitioners will discuss these developments and dare an outlook that strengthens us through networking, transnational cooperation and trust.</p>

	<p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Hanna Machińska (former Deputy Ombudsperson for Human Rights Poland) (tbc) - Alberto Barbieri (Doctors for Human Rights, Italy) - Svitlana Osipchuk (Director War Childhood Museum Ukraine) <p><i>Moderation:</i> Lukas Welz (Director of BAfF, Germany)</p>
<p>12:45 – 13:00</p>	<p>Closure and next steps Organisers of BAfF</p>

Organiser: The German Association of Psychosocial Centers for Refugees and Victims of Torture (BAfF) is the umbrella organization of currently 47 psychosocial centers, facilities and initiatives that advocate for psychosocial and therapeutic care for refugees, victims of human rights violations and political persecution. We promote networking and cooperation, in Germany and internationally, between actors and organisations that provide psychosocial support to survivors of human rights violations. In addition, we develop ethical and professional standards for the appropriate treatment of traumatised refugees. For more information: www.baff-zentren.org