

ROTARY GLOBAL GRANT

UKRAINE – DIALOGUE AND COMMUNITY



CONFLICT AND MEDIATION TRAINING FOR WOMEN IN EASTERN UKRAINE

The beginning of the “*Revolution of Dignity*” in November 2013 is considered to be the start of the Ukrainian crisis. The Europeanization of Ukraine was considered as a fundamental violation of Russia's national and geo-strategic interests. The war in Eastern Ukraine began in spring 2014 with the violent occupation of government buildings in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions by armed pro-Russian groups.

The conflict in the Donez Basin (Donbas) has not changed fundamentally. By autumn 2017, the war had claimed over 10,000 civilian and military lives and left thousands injured, mutilated and traumatized. Peace negotiations have not, to date, led to an effective ceasefire or to the restoration of Kiev's control over the territories of the two “*People's Republics*” in Eastern Ukraine.

As a result, the people in the conflict area have experienced much suffering and insecurity. Since then the community has been divided into two parts. Communication in everyday life is difficult, conflict-laden and stressful for all sides.

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Rotary Opens Opportunities



WOMEN ARE PEACEMAKER – PEACEBUILDING BY CONFLICT AND MEDIATION TRAINING

“Women are born peacemakers. It is important to make greater use of this potential in the future. The participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution must become the “credo for a new millennium” in peace and security.”
 (Kofi Annan, Speech on International Women's Day in New York in March 2001).

Communicative skills and civil courage of women ensure peace in everyday life. Family parenting skills and social learning serve to prevent conflict.

Communication and mediation techniques, geared towards cooperation, interests and needs, recognition and acknowledgement as well as respect for people who think differently, contribute to overcoming conflicts that have already escalated.

Mastering these techniques creates peace in the community.

Host Club Rotary Club Kiev Advance



Jean Bagh, President of the Rotary Club of Kiev Advance and Viktoriya Kasyanenko, President of the BPW Regional League Donetsk, at a meeting on peacebuilding in Kiev.

The Rotary Club of Kiev Advance was founded by Rotarians who were forced to flee Donetsk because of the conflict in Ukraine.

Global Grant – Content and Scope



The global grant will enable 26 women - equally divided on both sides of the conflict border - to practice and train in communication and mediation techniques. This promotes the exchange between both sides of the conflict border, between women from a still divided country. Only those women are selected and supported, who otherwise could not afford such training.

Project description

The basic training will last five days and is scheduled for spring 2021 south of Dnepro, Ukraine.

The basic training is followed by an implementation phase of about eight months, during which the women receive further support and coaching online or in person. The aim of this phase is to transfer the skills acquired in the basic training into the personal everyday life of the participants.

The program will be concluded by a second training week of five days, which will be used to deepen the methods and to exchange experiences.

MBBI - Mediators Beyond Borders International will be responsible for planning and managing the content of the dialogue project.



MBBI has extensive experience in peace mediation and mediation training.

MBBI will provide professional and personal support for the project by contributing trainers.

On the Ukrainian side, BPW Donetsk Regional League supports the project, for which BPW Bern has been a partner for decades.



International Partner and Global Grant Applicant

Rotary Distrikt 1841

Supported by Rotary Clubs from District 1841
Prof. Dr. Renate Dendorfer-Ditges
District Governor 2020/2021



Further project partners



BPW SWITZERLAND
Business & Professional Women
CLUB BERN

Initiator of the dialogue project: Suzanne Brunner, Bern/Schweiz

Support in the USA:
Nancy Pasternak, RC Bellevue, Seattle (Washington (state)/USA)

Support promised so far by:

Rotary Club Bellevue, Seattle, Washington (state)/USA

Rotary Club of Sarasota, Florida/USA

Rotary Club Berlin Platz der Republik/ Germany

BPW Club Bern, Switzerland

Club Kinderhilfe Armenien e.V., Bonn/Germany

This peace initiative and the Global Grant stand under the Patronage of the



**RI President 2020/2021
Holger Knaack.**

Requirements and Aims

The project focuses on the development of women as leaders and peace builders for Ukraine and the territories occupied there, in order to create stability in the region.

To this end, existing traumas, cultural tensions, domestic violence and socio-economic pressure due to the ongoing conflict situation are dealt with in order to increase personal and economic well-being in the individual area, in the organizations and in the community.

The BPW Regional League Donetsk will identify the concrete needs by contacting relevant local organizations in order to incorporate them into the final training design.

In the course of the training, participants should 1) acquire knowledge and skills in various methods of dispute resolution, 2) be prepared for peacebuilding activities and 3) define their role in local, regional, national and international peace processes.

The project will be tailored to the personal, professional and community environment of the participants.

In addition, the project is intended to develop a global network of women as peace builders, offering sustainable support, creating connections, promoting inclusion and the peace process at regional, national and international level. This process is supported by MBBI, webinars, subsequent online consultation and further resources.

Financing / Fundraising

Total funding required: US \$ 100.000,00

The budget comprises the following items:

- Hotel/accommodation costs for 26 participants and 2 trainers and translators for a total of 2 weeks plus days of arrival and departure
- Travel expenses for 26 participants and 2 trainees / translators for the attendance weeks
- Material and support during the practical phase
- Evaluation

Peace entails understanding.

**Please support the dialogue.
Please support the peace work.
Please support this Global Grant.**

Donation Account:

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Purpose:

1841 – Global Grant „Peace Mediation Ukraine“

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Contact for questions

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