



STATEMENT by COMMISSIONER HELENA DALLI
for
the International conference in Lublin,
Post War Innovative Transformation of Ukraine

Brussels, 1st December 2022

*Dear Chair,
Dear speakers,
Dear ladies and gentlemen,*

I thank you all for the support you are providing to the people of Ukraine fleeing Russia's war and aggression. The solidarity Europeans, and Poles in particular, have expressed in the midst of this crisis is exemplary.

Russia's war against Ukraine has triggered the movement of a large group of refugees, mainly women, children and people in disadvantaged situations. To ensure a fair comeback for them and for all, we must include equality in our response to the crisis. We must work for the inclusion of women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, Roma, ethnic minorities and LGBTIQ people, and ensure that aid reaches all on an equal basis.

The "Incubating Freedom for Ukraine" project is an inspiring example of what can be done to provide support for the integration and empowerment of women in the labour market and society as a whole, targeting those women fleeing Ukraine as well as Polish women. This Polish-Ukrainian consortium will deliver training sessions to develop women's digital skills in IT and STEM.

Too often women and girls are underrepresented in these crucial areas for the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine. Nonetheless the level of digitalization of Ukraine is impressive. After Estonia, Ukraine is probably the most digitized country in Europe and that is something to tap into the full power of Ukraine's human capital. To strengthen the digital transformation, investments are key.

Since the Russian aggression started, the EU has mobilized 7.2 billion euros to support Ukraine's overall economic and social resilience. This will support a more sustainable and even more digital Ukrainian economy. For a fair reconstruction and digital transformation, technological solutions will need to include everyone's skills and respect people's rights, enable their exercise, promote accessibility and inclusion.

We need a digital transformation that leaves no one behind – as users or as employers. To achieve a Union of equality, all skills, knowledge and contribution will be crucial to reconstruct Ukraine and make it a vibrant part of Europe's sustainable and digital future. I thank you and wish you a fruitful debate on the future of Ukraine.

Thank you.

Helena Dalli
EU Commissioner for Equality