

**Question for oral answer O-000006/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 136

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Subject: Ukrainian women fleeing the war lack access to abortion

In Russia's war on Ukraine, rape is being used as a weapon. According to the UN, more than one and a half million Ukrainians have fled to Poland. Ukrainian women and girls who have been raped by Russian soldiers are among the millions of people who have fled to Poland. Now they find themselves in a country that harshly restricts access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion.

A UN report states that Russian forces have committed an array of war crimes, including summary executions, torture, rape and other acts of sexual violence against Ukrainian civilians.

Poland allows abortion if the woman's life is in danger or in the case of incest or rape. This should allow for access to abortion for Ukrainian women who are victims of rape. However, cases of rape in war zones are almost impossible to prove, resulting in many women still being denied access to abortion.

Ukrainian women have no other choice than to have the child or get an unsafe, dangerous abortion, which in the worst cases can result in death. It is both expensive and difficult for the Ukrainians to flee to a country that allows abortion. Meanwhile, people risk prison sentences for assisting women in Poland who want an abortion.

1. Does the Commission have data on how many women have been denied an abortion despite having become pregnant due to rape as a crime related to the invasion and the war?
2. How will the Commission protect Ukrainian women and their sexual and reproductive health and rights when fleeing from the war?
3. How will it ensure that Ukrainian women and girls who have become pregnant as a result of rape have access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion, in accordance with Polish law?

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