



INVITATION

TO THE REGIONAL CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF WOMEN IN THEOLOGICAL RESEARCH (ESWTR)

“EMPOWERING WOMEN IN CONFLICT: ECUMENICAL ENGAGEMENT FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE”

August 28th – 31st, 2018

Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv, Ukraine)

UNWLA's Lectureship in Women's Studies in cooperation with the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology of the Ukrainian Catholic University invites you to join the 19th International Conference of ESWTR entitled **“EMPOWERING WOMEN IN CONFLICT: ECUMENICAL ENGAGEMENT FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE”** that will take place on August 28th – 31st, 2018 at the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology of the Ukrainian Catholic University (Khutorivka St., 35-A, Lviv 79077, Ukraine).

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

In the last years (2014-2017) Ukraine has witnessed to a growth of civil society on various levels, including gender equality and participation. In fact, participation in the Maidan protests increased civic and political awareness and agency among women. Almost in equal numbers men and women participated in the Maidan movement. The roles of women were manifold: some of them were engaged in supportive tasks like kitchen work and cleaning; sorting donated clothes, food, and medication; coordinating logistics; and writing press reports. Significantly, women were also active in riskier situations such as on-site doctors and nurses, on-the-scene journalists and photographers, and lawyers for arrested protesters. When the protests turned more violent, women were excluded from the barricades. Nevertheless, some female protesters still joined the clashes and prepared Molotov cocktails and even threw them themselves. Furthermore, three Zhinocha Sotnias

(Women's Squads) were organized on Maidan. In April of 2014 when began a military Russian-Ukrainian conflict in the East of Ukraine this fact sharpened the controversial yet prominent role of women in military actions. Ukrainian Military Law limits women's access to a variety of military specialties. However, this recent military violent conflict led to an inclusion of women in the military services, previously restricted for various reasons. More than a thousand women joined the Ukrainian Armed Forces as well as volunteer battalions as of October 2015. Hundreds of women have left their daily duties and began to volunteer as well as to serve as paramedics and doctors in the zone of armed conflict, risking their lives to ensure efficiency and combat readiness of military units. Importantly to note, in military conflicts civilians, especially women, have become targets of violence and ethnic cleansings. At the same time, women have become active negotiators of bringing the conflict to an end, facilitators of overcoming societal prejudices and active players in establishing peace.

We invite women in theological and religious research to discuss the multiplicity of women's experience in situations of war and violence and to learn from these experiences; to analyze why women become victims of violence; to look for insights from personal stories; to challenge the notion that war and peacemaking is men's domain; to debate how to promote women's role in peacebuilding processes and how to empower women to become equal partners in peace processes; to reframe our understanding of modern warfare and women's roles in it.

Furthermore, we ask to what religious and spiritual resources do women refer regarding warfare and peacebuilding? Which hermeneutical questions in reading the Bible/Quran and/or Church tradition are being raised? How can a theology of peacebuilding draw constructively on women's experiences? What are essential elements for a theology of peacebuilding? Which religious and spiritual practices (rituals, devotions, prayers, pilgrimages etc) have emerged or have been rediscovered and transformed as women's responses to warfare and post conflict suffering? What facilitates and what hinders peacebuilding initiatives of women across confessional and religious borders? How do women's (often more grassroots) initiatives of peacebuilding relate to institutional policies of Church and State?

Submissions can focus on a variety of topics including, but not limited to:

- Bible, Quran and Jewish/Christian Apocrypha on Women, War, Justice and Peacebuilding
- Church Fathers on Women, War, Justice and Peacebuilding
- Theological and ethical responses to women's experiences of warfare and peacebuilding
- Women as partners in interreligious dialogue for peace and reconciliation
- Women's survival strategies in times of conflict
- Women's initiatives in peacebuilding and integration processes in postwar societies
- Case studies of women who survived a conflict and contributed to reconciliation (Christian, Jewish, Muslim)

Activities:

- Long/short talks
- Workshops
- Exhibitions
- Prayers/Rituals

Deadlines and logistics:

- The application forms with all the required information (including photo!) should be submitted by **February 15, 2018**
- The abstracts (500 words max.) should be submitted by **February 15, 2018**
- Notifications of acceptance will be sent by **March 15, 2018**
- To facilitate translators' work, texts of accepted talks should be submitted by **June 30, 2018**
- Please note **plenary** (long) talks should last **40 minutes** (+ 20 minutes for questions and discussion) while short talks – **20 minutes** (+ 10 minutes for questions and discussion)

Languages of the conference: Ukrainian, English, German

All proposals should be sent to Halyna Teslyuk at: eswtr2018@gmail.com

FINANCES:

- The **conference fee** is 25 Euros (due upon arrival)
- The **board & room fee** is 120 Euros (due upon arrival; includes, accommodation [3 nights], meals, coffee-breaks, conference materials, pick up from/to the airport or railway station, tour of Lviv, museum)
- Presenters and members of the ESWTR from Central and Eastern Europe are **welcome to apply for partial reimbursement** of the travel and board & room costs. Please complete the registration form accordingly. Preference will be given to women who will offer talks/workshops

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Halyna Teslyuk (PhD) – Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies (Faculty of Philosophy and Theology, UCU), Coordinator of Women's Studies Program at UCU

Orysia Bila (PhD) – Chair of Philosophy Department (Faculty of Philosophy and Theology, UCU)

Heleen Zorgdrager (PhD) – Visiting Professor at the Institute of Ecumenical Studies (UCU), Professor of Systematic Theology at the Protestant Theological University in Amsterdam

Natalia Demchuk (MA) – Phd student in Systematic Theology (Faculty of Philosophy and Theology, UCU)

REGISTRATION FOR THE CONFERENCE

Title:

First name:

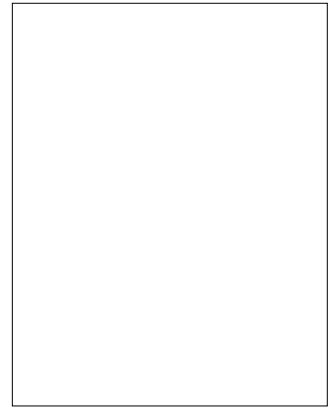
Surname:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Photo:



A short biography (800 characters):

Current research and activity:

Recent and/or most important publications:

APPLICATION FORM

First name:

Surname:

Institution:

Position/Dept:

E-mail:

Correspondence address:

This is my first ESWTR conference: yes / no

I need translation (mark in the box):

From English to: German

From German to English

I would like:

to give a long talk

to give a short talk

to organize a workshop

to organize an exhibition

to prepare a prayer

ACCOMMODATION

First name:

Surname:

Address:

Arrival at (date), at (time) (means of transport)

Departure..... (date), at..... (time) (means of transport)

Travel cost (**least expensive option**).....

Dietary requirements:

Vegetarian

Other

Accommodation (double rooms only)

Name of preferred roommate:

FEES

First name:

Surname:

Address:

1. Conference fee is required

2. Travel costs

() On my own

() Please refund of the cost.

3. Board & room

() On my own

() Please refund of the cost.

PLENARY TALK

Name, Surname:

Title:

Abstract (500 words):

Equipment:

SHORT TALK

Name, Surname:

Title:

Abstract (500 words):

Equipment:

WORKSHOP (120 MIN.)

Name, Surname:

Title:

Description (500 words):

Equipment:

EXHIBITION

Name, Surname:

Subject, title

Description (500 words):

Equipment:

PRAYER/ RITUAL (30 MIN.)

Name, Surname:

Religion/denomination:

Language:

In association with:

Morning

Evening

Description (500 words):

Equipment: