



## **Statement to the ASP Working Group on Amendments**

***Presented by: Oleksandra Matviichuk, Head of Centre for Civil Liberties (Ukraine)  
and Vice President of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).***

Date: 1 April 2025

Location: UNHQ & online

Excellencies, colleagues,

Thank you for this opportunity. I am speaking today on behalf of the Centre for Civil Liberties, and as Vice-President of the International Federation for Human Rights.

I speak not only as a human rights lawyer, but as someone who has spent years listening to people whose lives have been shattered by war. Mothers who buried their sons. Children who lost their homes. Survivors who wake up every night to the sound of explosions they still hear in their minds.

These are not stories from history books. This is happening now, in my country, in Ukraine, because of Russia's illegal war of aggression. And still, the Court that was created to bring justice for the most serious crimes cannot act on the very crime that allowed it all to happen.

The Centre for Civil Liberties has spent years documenting the consequences of this illegal war. We have gathered testimonies from across Ukraine: civilians killed in missile strikes, entire communities displaced, infrastructure destroyed. The war has upended every aspect of life, and it all began with a decision to use force in flagrant violation of international law, including the UN Charter.

Let us not lose sight of what this Court stands for. The Rome Statute was born out of a promise: that impunity for atrocities would no longer be tolerated. But when we create artificial barriers around one of the core crimes, when we suggest that some victims are less entitled to justice than others, we betray that promise.

I understand that the legal technicalities involved in the amendment process are complex, and that careful analysis is needed. But it's time to remember what is truly at stake. This is about people's lives. This is about protecting the international legal order from collapse. This is about restoring faith in a system that was meant to protect the vulnerable, not the powerful.

We urge you to harmonise the Court's jurisdiction over all four core crimes. Do not let the crime that opens the gates to so many others remain beyond the reach of justice.

I know this is not simple. But when States have the political will, they find a way. What's needed now is not more debate - it's courage, clarity, and compassion.

The world is watching. Victims are watching. They ask: *"Will anyone be held accountable for what was done to us?"* Right now, for the crime of aggression, the answer is still no.

Please remember why this Court was created. And remember who it was created for.

Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*