

Imagining life without the  
threat of war and scarcity of  
peace

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# War as fissure

- Prevalence of culture of militarism and violence
- The number of refugees has never been as high as is today: among 79.5 million uprooted people worldwide there are over 7.6 million who have fled Ukraine
- Poverty, hunger, destruction of living spaces, lack of energy supplies on the rise
- Traumatized people
- Patriarchy taking hold as women and men are divided along the traditional gender lines
- Genocide and ecocide go hand in hand

# Social work and war: a place in social work curriculum?

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War is one of the few events in which social workers and service users/clients experience a shared reality (Ramon 2008)

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Do people still see wars as inevitable?

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People at war deliberately aim to destroy, kill, exterminate people in a particular area who belong to a particular ethnic or religious group, or citizenship

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Deliberate acts of mass violence cause severe traumatic reactions and have incalculable impact on the lives of people and communities, and trigger intergenerational trauma

# “Production for destruction” from a social work perspective

It is important for social work practitioners to promote recognition that ecological disasters and war are "production for destruction" (Lazzarato 2022); and understanding the continuity between economy, war and environmental crisis

How can we challenge the "production for destruction" that is fundamentally opposed to global social work ethical standards which promote peace and environmental rights

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# Consequences of war from a social work perspective:

-individual

-group/collective

-structural levels

- Humanitarian crises and crises of humanitarianism
- Insecurity, fear, traumatic experiences, post-traumatic stress disorder, disabilities, lost lives, transgenerational suffering
- War never ends with the end of war
- Reinventing nationalisms and ideologies of dehumanization
- Pre-war inequalities are exacerbated during the war and in the postwar period
- People already multiply disadvantaged (people with disabilities, the elderly, members of ethnic minorities, the poor) have fewer chances to escape violence, receive protection and help than other people, and are forgotten when resources are scarce

# **SOLIDARITY WITH AND SUPPORT TO SOCIAL WORK EDUCATORS FROM UKRAINE LIVING IN WAR: since February 2022**

- Identifying immediate needs
- Providing and sharing information
- Collecting donations
- Run workshops on specific social work topics related to war
- Providing knowledge on experiences from other wars, past and present
- Mutual learning
- Raising awareness of the suffering of the people on the ground



## **Transnational Social Work Solidarity: 22 meetings between Ukraine social work educators and members of the IASSW and EEsrASSW**

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- **A place of compassion and caring**
- **A place of mutual learning**
- **Sharing and listening to personal stories**
- **Bearing witness**



## Vignettes from the solidarity meetings

- "Social workers left; many of them have to take care of their own families" (March 2022).
- "People with disabilities could not walk to the shelters because of their impairments and construction barriers, as the shelters were not designed for them." (March 2022)
- "My mother lives here, she is 90 years old, I cannot leave the country and leave her alone" (April 2022)
- "I am afraid that students will not return to their studies; many of them left the country and enrolled in studying in other countries." (June 2022)
- "Lifts in cities have not been working since the war began, and older people cannot leave their homes. We do not know how many older and disabled people living alone in large flat buildings have access to doctors and medicines." (Sept. 2022)

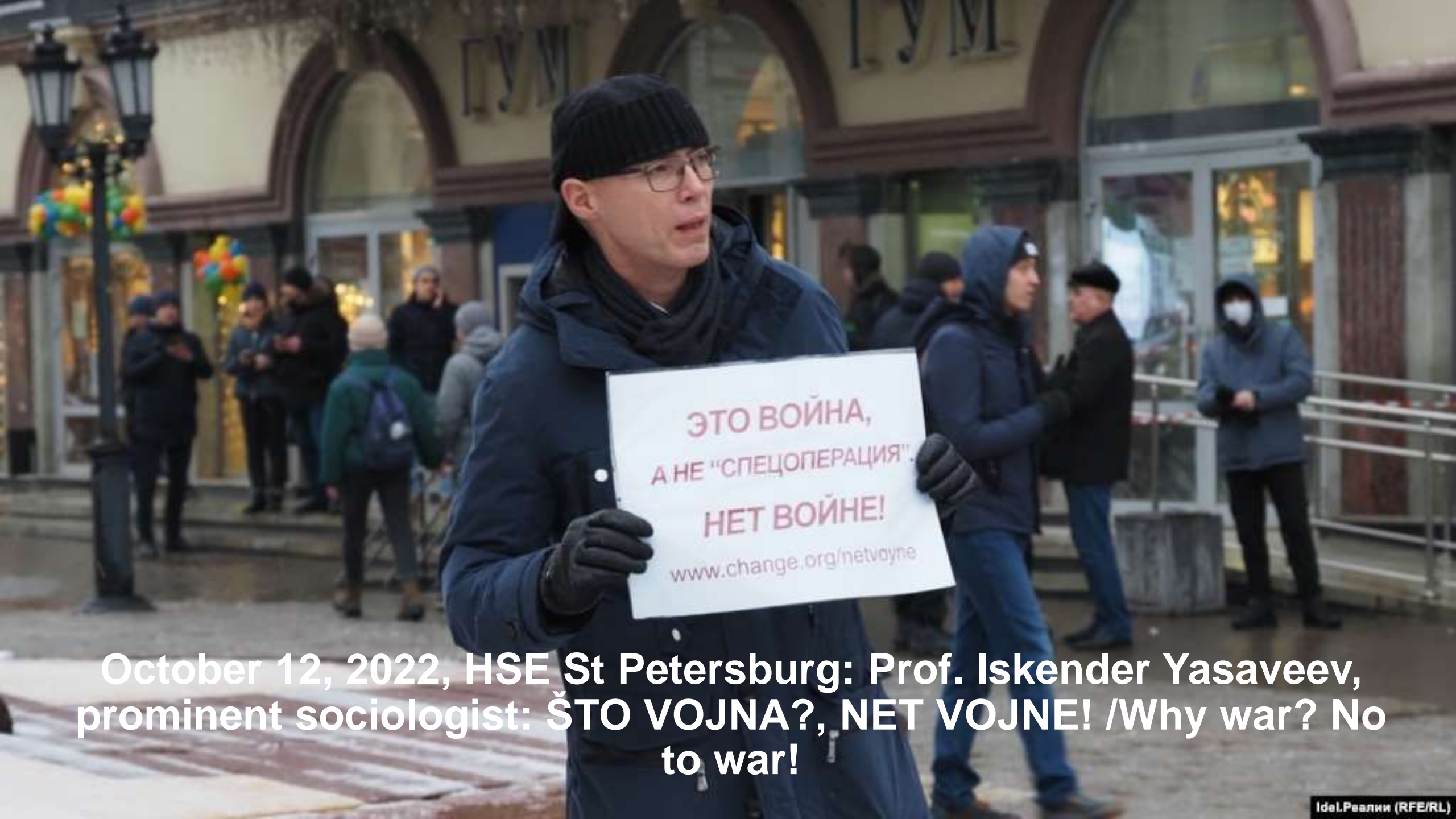


War and  
patriarchy are  
inextricably  
intertwined

Raping women in wars is a nationalist and patriarchal response aimed at conquering the woman's body, humiliating women and men, and destroying communities and human bonds



**October 11, 2022, Russia: dr. Dinara Gagarina, HSE in Perm: ....,,with her pacifist online messages destroys the reputation of the University“**



October 12, 2022, HSE St Petersburg: Prof. Iskender Yasaveev, prominent sociologist: ŠTO VOJNA?, NET VOJNE! /Why war? No to war!



Oleksandra Matviychuk,  
head of CCL, Kyiv, Ukraine

<https://time.com/6220634/oleksandra-matviichuk-nobel-peace-prize-interview/>

- „Now, for the question, how can you help Ukraine? The answer: please provide Ukraine with weapons. But this is [still] not a world which is safe to live in. When a human rights lawyer can't use any legal instrument to defend people from Russian atrocities, this is a very dangerous world to live in“. 30/9/2022

## Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles (IASSW, IFSW)

### **Principle 9.3**

Social workers support peace and non-violence. Social workers may work alongside military personnel for humanitarian purposes and work toward peacebuilding and reconstruction.