

Women In International Security (WIIS)
1250 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 700
Washington DC, 20036
info@wiisglobal.org



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Concerns Over Nuclear Safety in Ukraine

On April 29, 2022, WIIS held a policy roundtable on “Safety and Security of Nuclear Facilities in Conflict Zones: The War in Ukraine” with members from the Black Sea Women in Nuclear Network, who spoke of the danger the fighting posed around Chernobyl and the Zaporizhzhia power station and the difficult conditions under which the Ukrainian staff were working to safeguard the power plants.

The situation has only worsened in Zaporizhzhia. Intense shelling on a near daily basis has been reported. The deteriorating physical conditions and psychological strains on the Ukrainian staff are mounting. The IAEA warned the situation in the plant is out of control and is in urgent need of an inspection and repairs. The United Nations, G7, and the EU and 42 countries, including the United States, issued statements demanding the immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from Zaporizhzhia.

As of Friday, August 19, it appears the Russian government will allow IAEA inspectors access to Zaporizhzhia. WIIS supports international efforts to end Russia’s military occupation of Ukrainian civilian nuclear power plants and the consequent risks of direct military damage to reactors and reactor safety systems. We are reminded of the personal stories and eyewitness accounts given by Ukrainian members of the Black Sea Women in Nuclear Network in April and wish to draw attention yet again to the human costs of this war and urge the international community to continue to press for a cessation of hostilities and an end to the violence.

The April 29, 2022, WIIS roundtable, sponsored with the Embassy of Liechtenstein and the Black Sea Women in Nuclear Network, is available [here](#) for your viewing.