

How the war in Ukraine affected the lives of local (and non-local) residents in The Hague, the Netherlands

Street interviews conducted by our participants

MAIN POINTS

- All interviewees shared the opinion that wars are generally horrible. Some have mentioned that we (people) don't care about other wars that are happening in other parts of the world. One Muslim interlocutor mentioned that Muslims do not believe in wars in the first place
- In general, the respondents have not really felt any changes because of the war and thought that the direct impact is not that big.
- Although everyone mentioned about the economic crisis, inflation and almost unbearable price increase (gasoline, oil, food, etc.)
- They expressed their concern and compassion for the people in Ukraine, but they are not afraid of the war that has come right to their doors. They feel safe living in The Hague and in the Netherlands in general. Few people expressed fear of a war coming to Europe, and because of the city's multicultural environment, when something happens in the world, it reflects on the life of The Hague.
- They have also mentioned about the increasing number of the Ukrainian refugees in the country. Immigration takes place also within the EU because of the price increase (a Spanish couple moved to the Netherlands during the war). *"I often meet refugees from Ukraine here in The Hague. Their stories are shocking. A happy peaceful life in a couple of seconds turned into a constant flight from air sirens, mass shelling, bombing, rocket attacks. Almost every day you can meet a person whose life was destroyed after the start of the war. The deaths of children, parents, friends, wives or husbands were the result of a targeted war against the civilian population. "*
- Many expressed their readiness to help the Ukrainians financially. *"We must ethically and morally take care of the future of Ukraine, because the future of the democratic world, the future of liberalism, the values of freedom of speech, the press and thought depends on the outcome of the war in Ukraine."*
- Some were happy that their government support Ukraine in this war.

- Some thought that we can't blame people for this war, we have to blame the politicians.
- Some mentioned about the emotional effect of the war and that each new day becomes a succession of many terrifying news. One tragedy is replaced by another.