

Around the world, more than 60 percent of maternal deaths take place in countries experiencing humanitarian crises.

Over the last several weeks, the New York State Perinatal (NYSPA) community has been horrified by reports of pregnant and newly postpartum people struggling to access the maternity care they need in makeshift and shell-damaged wards. Most recently, images of the destruction of an operational maternity hospital in Mariupol has demonstrated—yet again and in the starkest way possible—how, in the face of violent conflict, it is so often pregnant women and children who bear the brunt of the aggression.

Today and every day, NYSPA stands with the mothers and families in Ukraine who have been forced to flee their homes, separate from their loved ones, and seek lifesaving maternity care in a dangerous and rapidly deteriorating situation. We are aware of the long-term effects of this type of terror and the potential impact on the lives of mothers, children and families forever. We are also concerned about the impact on future pregnancies of women who have endured during this time

In times like these, we remain committed to our mission: **To promote the well-being of prospective mothers, infants and communities; and, to promote perinatal education throughout the State of New York.**

The coming days and weeks will be filled with uncertainty as the conflict continues to unfold. One truth that remains: every mother deserves access to the maternity care she needs, and *every mother counts.*

Sincerely,
NYSPA Board