

# Review of: "Post-Conflict Reconstruction: How Social Identity Change Informs our Understanding of the Ukrainian Experience of Forced Migration"

Ankica Koscic<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sapienza University of Rome

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I read with great interest this manuscript, which addresses an important and timely issue by describing the experiences of Ukrainian refugee women during their first months in the UK and the impact of changes in social identity on psychosocial well-being.

The theoretical introduction is clear and easy to read, but rather too long. I think there are some points that need to be improved before the manuscript could be accepted for publication.

The Social Identity Model of identity change, which is very relevant to this manuscript, is described in a superficial way.

The manuscript aims to explore post-migration experiences through a social identity change approach. As explained in SIMIC, sometimes a person's social identity can change in relation to life changes. These changes can affect a person's well-being. The social identity model of identity change shows that this effect can be reduced or moderated by certain social factors, such as the number of social relationships and membership of many different social groups. However, the findings in this manuscript do not fit well with the original conceptual hypothesis and SIMIC.

The themes identified as a result of the analysis can help us to understand the emotions associated with their status in the UK and their integration process (the themes of helplessness, insecurity, solidarity, and empowerment) and less about their social identity changes (e.g., changes in their professional identity, their role identity...). What kind of identities have they lost, and what kind have they gained? This could be analysed in relation to their age, marital status, level of education, professional background, having children or not, etc. More significant changes in social identity may occur over a longer period of time, and I believe it was premature to analyse such changes in this sample.

In addition, there is a limited analysis of the social connections that have supported these participants. The analyses are also limited by a relatively small sample - it consists of only 13 women.

Although quotes from several participants are provided, the study could be strengthened by adding more diverse examples to highlight commonalities or differences in experiences.