



**SURVEYS, CONDUCTED IN THE
FRAMEWORK OF PREPARATION OF
THE EIGHTH PERIODIC REPORT ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION IN UKRAINE
OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE
ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**

Kyiv – 2014

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PREFACE

Ukraine submitted the eighth periodic report to the UN Secretary-General under the article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women on 30 September 2014.

Three surveys were conducted during preparation of the report:

1. The expert poll “Functioning of the national machinery for gender policy implementation”, the purpose of which was to obtain the information on elaborating responses to the Concluding observations of the Committee when preparing the Eighth National Periodic Report of Ukraine to CEDAW and elaborating suggestions and recommendations on improving functioning of the national mechanism for gender equality implementation in Ukraine.

2. The social study “The availability of social services to women-survivors of violence”, the purpose of which was to assess organizational and resource potential of the institutions, rendering permanent services to women suffering from domestic violence; analyze social and demographic characteristics of the female clients of the center; study the obstacles and limitations in rendering services to this category of the clients; elaborate suggestions on improving the existing system of rendering social services for women, suffering from domestic violence.

3. The mass representative population survey targeted at obtaining data on population awareness of the international and national laws prohibiting any kind of discrimination towards women, and the incidence of discrimination practices among women population of Ukraine.

**ANALYTICAL REPORT
ON THE RESULTS OF INTERVIEWS
CONDUCTED WITH EXPERTS IN THE AREA OF GENDER POLICY
“FUNCTIONING OF THE NATIONAL GENDER MACHINERY”**

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Kyiv – 2014

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1. KEY CONCLUSIONS OF THE SURVEY

- During the last four years the national gender machinery has undergone through significant weakening as a result of administrative reform of 2010 that destroyed managerial hierarchy and coordination of activities among central and local bodies of authority. During this process there was no national institution responsible for gender issues.
- Different departments and divisions address issues of equal rights and opportunities of men and women at the central and local level. They do not make up a unified integral managerial hierarchy. Gender issues are not cross-cutting among central bodies of executive authority.
- National authorities ignore issues of gender equality. In conditions of complicated political situation in the country the issues of qualitative implementation of gender policy are not a priority and it is hard to predict when gender issues will be on the Government's agenda.
- Institutional capacity of bodies of local authorities to implement national gender policy is absolutely low. This results in formal implementation of the Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men".
- One of the main reasons that contribute to the spread of gender-based discrimination in Ukrainian society is that discrimination in its manifestations is practically not punishable in Ukraine. Provisions of Laws that guarantee equality and non-discrimination are declarative. The state is unable to ensure observance of the declared by the Article 24 of the Constitution of Ukraine principle of equality as the authorities do not have real influence on perpetrators. The basic Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" is not considered to be efficient and effective, as it mainly exists de-jure. There is a lack of mechanism for its implementation, responsibility for its violation or non-fulfillment is not clearly spelt out.
- In spite of the fact that the State Program on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men was not approved till 2013, oblast programs on ensuring gender equality were adopted and implementation took place. However there is no generalized analysis of regional programs and their efficiency. Every region acts at its own consideration, based on the interests of stakeholders and their capacity to obtain financing of local initiatives. There are no horizontal contacts among executors of programs in different regions of Ukraine.
- Declarative nature of gender equality in our society and formality of women's rights still remain the main problem. Gender stereotypes continue to prevail. A woman is still seen as weak and secondary in societies, political and economic domains in comparison to men.
- Concept of indirect discrimination needs to be explained and introduced into consciousness of entrepreneurs and employees, as well as it should become part of culture of trade/commerce and industrial relations.

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- The Law of Ukraine “On Prevention of Violence in a Family” if compared to the basic Gender Law is admitted to be more effective and efficient. In spite of a decline of the national gender machinery the work on prevention of domestic violence was being done at the national level: trainings with representatives of law enforcement bodies on domestic violence were conducted; correction programs for perpetrators were developed etc. However this work wasn’t and still isn’t systematic; there is no clear monitoring system in this area, crisis centers for women are almost disabled. A new Criminal Procedural Code of Ukraine considerably reduced competencies of district police officers with regard to their response to the incidents of domestic violence and also attributed minor offences and crimes of average gravity committed in a family to the cases of private prosecution.
 - The Draft Law “On Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence” needs to be approved as soon as possible as a step towards ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention CETS No.: 210).
 - At the regional level it is very important to create gender portraits of oblasts and cities. Results of researches on gender policy are also necessary. Managers who are acquainted with gender issues rather actively use and appeal to results of surveys and researches.
 - Civil component of implementation of gender policy is more active than the national one. Often civil society organizations implement (and sometimes even replace) functions of the national institutions.
 - Despite the fact that women have de jure equal status with men, de facto, they continue to be discriminated against in the political sphere. Representation of women in politics is low. As a result, women have limited opportunities to influence decisions that affect their lives, their communities and the country. Society lacks positive experience that could be used to promote the idea of gender equality and empowerment of women

2. INTRODUCTION

National machinery for ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men in Ukraine envisages legislative regulation of mainstreaming of gender equality into all areas of life of the society and is made up of a system of central bodies of executive authority, bodies of local self-government, the institute of gender advisors, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and civil society. Structure and main functions of the national gender machinery are determined by the Law of Ukraine "On ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men" and by the Presidential Decree "On improvement of work of the central and local bodies of executive authorities regarding ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men".

Development of the national gender machinery is among priorities of the state programs on ensuring gender equality. Before 2010 a number of activities were implemented aimed at building capacity of civil servants and deputies of all levels on development, implementation and monitoring of gender policy, gender statistics, gender budgeting, gender sensitivity etc. More than 30000 civil servants and deputies were covered by these activities. But at the end of 2010, due to administrative reform these activities were curtailed. Revival of the national gender machinery started in late 2011 and is still ongoing.

Progress achieved through enormous efforts of several governments and civil society starting from 1995, was rapidly destroyed and almost eliminated during the last three years. This is a very dangerous tendency, as it not only spoils international image of Ukraine but also slows down development of the society and human potential.

In order to reveal expert opinion of international, national and regional specialists in the area of ensuring gender equality, in-depths interviews with them were conducted. This report is prepared based on obtained data and generalized responses. The report is aimed to contribute to the process of preparation of the VIII National report of Ukraine to the UN Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which is due in September 2014.

3. PURPOSE AND TASKS OF THE SURVEY

Purpose of the survey: to obtain information for formulation of responses to the Concluding Observations of the Committee in the process of preparation of the VIII National periodic report of Ukraine to CEDAW as well as develop recommendations and suggestions on improvement of functioning of the national gender machinery in Ukraine.

Tasks of the survey:

- collection and analysis of information on functioning of separate elements of the national machinery for implementation of gender policy and its effectiveness at large;
- development of suggestions and recommendations on improvement of the national gender machinery.

4. METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY

Methodology of the survey: in-depth interviews with national, regional and local experts in the area of gender policy. Expert interviews envisage obtaining information about research object from specialists and professionals. Experts for the poll (interviewees) were chosen based on their competence level and experience of work in implementation of the national gender policy in Ukraine.

In total 13 experts were polled, including:

- representatives of Governmental agencies of the national, regional and local levels – 5 experts;
- representatives of international organizations – 2 experts;
- representatives of NGOs – 6 experts

In-depth interviews with gender experts were conducted face-to-face or through Skype (selection of the form of interview conduction was made case based on the wish and agreement with each concrete expert).

5. FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY

During in-depth expert interviews with professionals in the field of gender policy, they were asked a number of questions subject to the Guide. A summary of (generalized) expert responses and comments regarding the discussed issues is provided below.

EFFICIENCY OF THE NATIONAL GENDER MACHINERY IN UKRAINE

During the implementation of the administrative reform of 2010, Ukrainian authorities promised that its key result would be the optimization of governance procedures. However, coordination within certain public policy areas gained passive status, and national gender policy had to be one of them. As a result of the administrative reform in 2010, the key competent executive authority entrusted with ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men – the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of Ukraine – was liquidated. In fact, the vertical system of governance was destroyed. Coordination between central and local governments became unbalanced and unable to provide for the critical needs. The lack of vertical governance (hierarchy) at the local level has resulted in minimization and, in some cases, termination of any action on the implementation of national gender policy

“The national machinery is still not formed, as the issue of gender remains unclear to many people... a lot of work is still to be done, particularly in the legislative field.”

“There are no established connections at the national level. An interagency platform (council) should be created, but so far there is none. To date, there is a single Ministry, and the Parliament, but they operate separately.”

“Most of the Ukrainians are not ready to accept equality as such. We need to change the people’s mentality in order to retrieve their perception of gender issues.”

One step backwards in achieving gender equality and empowering women, is significant weakening of the national machinery for ensuring equal rights and opportunities after December 2010

Experts pointed out that the national machinery’s development peaked four years ago, but due to the Government’s administrative reform, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports was liquidated, and its functions transferred to other central executive bodies. Although formally, the unit responsible for gender policy was preserved, its status and functions were uncertain until November 2011. In subsequent years, the national machinery was gradually restored, but it still has not reached the level of end 2010 and does not have sufficient capacity to play its key role – be a catalyst for the inclusion of gender equality in the system of governance in the country. As a result, today different departments and divisions, that do not represent a unified system, are engaged into dealing with issues of equal rights and opportunities of men and women at the central and local levels.

“Today, the national machinery is completely atrophied. We do not have progress, we have regress. During the peak in 2010, some forms of the machinery and its parts were elaborated. The machinery is the availability of components and the relationships between them. To date, all these are not there, one vestige, however, remains: the Ministry of Social Policy with the relevant department.”

PRIORITY OF GENDER POLICY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

According to many experts surveyed, gender issues have never been a priority at the national level. It has always been seen as something secondary and unimportant, despite all the activities undertaken. However, one cannot univocally assert that gender issues have never attracted the attention in the Ukrainian society. And this is preceded by two groups of factors. Firstly, it is a well-shaped women's movement, which consolidated at the time. And, secondly, it is the external influence of international organizations that have contributed to the implementation of numerous projects on gender issues.

"There were attempts to destroy the national gender machinery. They were made by the previous government, and starting from 2010 ("This is not women's business" – Azarov stated). Only in April 2011, the responsibility for gender equality was assigned to a different ministry. Many things have not been done."

"Gender issues have not been obvious to many of those in power. After all, gender policy must be sustainable."

Regarding prioritization of gender issues by our society, the experts pointed to rejection of gender issues by the population, indifference or reluctance of superiors not only to "see" these problems, but also to solve them. Absolutely all the experts who participated in the survey named political will as the key factor shaping the formation of national gender machinery.

STAFFING

According to the experts interviewed, local state administrations and local governments lack a unified structure that would be responsible for the same line of work. Not all municipalities, and district and regional administrations have appointed their authorized person (coordinator) for equal rights and opportunities for women and men. Advisory bodies are also scarce. The Public Council under the Ministry of Social Policy was actually non-functioning during 2011-2012. Only in September 2012 the process of its rebooting started again.

"An 'inventory' of human resources, i.e., professionals involved in gender issues should be made. How many such experts are available, what is their potential – none of these questions has been asked."

"In practice, equal rights and opportunities are not ensured. (Theoretically), we enjoy a lot of them, but in reality it does not work". "Gender problem is not on the agenda in our society, there is no awareness of the problem. We should teach people to identify the problem."

While regional and district administrations at least put gender issues on their agenda, city councils mostly lack even a formal approach to this matter. These issues are also not considered by the local self-government and sessions of local administrations. The problem of eliminating gender discrimination in local self-government bodies is either ignored, or tackled superficially.

According to the interviewed experts, the authorities completely ignore the issue of gender equality. It must be noted, that to date, given the complex political situation in the country, profound implementation of national gender policy again is less of an issue. And few experts participating in the survey were able to predict, when gender issues really reappear on the government's agenda.

To date, there are not enough professionals speaking in terms of, for example, “gender-balanced representation in local government structures”, or able to take into account gender equality in the development, implementation and evaluation of socio-economic programs and projects in Ukraine – even at the regional level. And at the local level, they are practically scarce. Probably, it is because of this that regional programs on equal rights and opportunities for women and men are formal and often copy the respective State Program that ignores regional diversity.

Therefore, the experts emphasized the absolutely low institutional capacity of local governments for implementing national gender policy, which leads to formalistic implementation of the Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men”.

The lack of gender issues’ awareness at the level of the nation’s leadership has led to a prolonged absence of a central executive body responsible for gender policy, loss of connections between the elements of the national machinery and other problems. However, experts stressed that the best practices accumulated during the previous years (during the effective functioning of the UNDP project ‘Equal Opportunities and Women’s Rights in Ukraine’) is still being used today.

“Above all, it is important that the manager is aware of the importance of gender issues. We must teach leaders to see the problem.”

“We have absolutely no knowledge of the importance of gender issues, on all levels of authority and among the population.”

NGOs and international organizations undertake numerous capacity building activities, draft and distribute educational materials, connect Ukraine with the international gender equality networks and conduct advocacy work. But the regular rotation of decision-makers and inability to cover the highest officials of the state with educational measures reduces the effectiveness of these efforts.

At the regional level the national policy on ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men is conducted by departments on family, youth and sports (under oblast and city councils). Gender advisers to heads of oblast state administrations were abolished. Currently only on rare occasions such advisers are still in place. The experts believe that a positive solution to these issues is possible only provided that every department, sector or directorate has respective specialists proficient in gender issues.

As for the regional level, the experts claim that, although departments of family and youth were preserved, however, according to the staffing, they include one or two officials responsible for the issue of combating violence, gender equality, children and youth. This amount of workload is rather large. It turns out, that on the one hand – the quantity of government officials is reduced, on the other – their ability to efficiently perform respective laws is also reduced. As an option, delegating more powers to the institute of public gender advisers and counsellors can be considered

POTENTIAL CAPACITY OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL POLICY OF UKRAINE TO IMPLEMENT GENDER POLICY

To date, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine has a Department for Family and Gender Policy and Counter-Trafficking in Persons, which, in essence, is the coordinating body for the formation and implementation of gender policy in Ukraine. There is also an Expert Council functioning on issues of gender discrimination, which was created to prevent all forms of gender discrimination,

ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men, prevent gender-based violence and combat human trafficking.

Many experts share the view that gender issues should be dealt with not just by one ministry (the Ministry of Social Affairs), gender issues should be cross-cutting in any department or agency. And the main thing is to make the institution head aware of the importance of integrating gender equality in any sphere.

“Unfortunately, only one department at a single ministry is involved in gender issues. The other ministries tend to avoid these issues and edge away from them. It is necessary to adapt the best practices of other countries on implementing gender issues in the daily routine of nearly every ministry or agency.”

Expert opinions on assessing the capacity of the Ministry of Social Policy in the implementation of gender policies were divided nearly evenly. One part of the experts suggested that the Ministry has plenty of human resources, and progresses considerably in the development and implementation of gender policies. The remaining experts seem to be on the other side of the fence and persist in the opinion that the Ministry is typically passive, languid and amorphous in gender initiatives.

“We need to change the structure of public administration. Gender issues cannot be dealt with only by one ministry. The Minister must put across to his/her subordinates that he/she shall be dealing with these issues and demonstrate commitment to gender issues. Political will remains a key factor”.

At the same time, while assessing capacity of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine on implementation of gender policy, the experts expressed critical opinion that unfortunately the issue of gender policy is not integrated into overall activities of the Ministry and stays only a task of one unit – Department for family and gender policy and counter-trafficking in persons. Gender issues are not included into activities of other structural divisions of the Ministry (Department for protection of children’s rights and adoption, Department for preventing social orphanhood, Department on issues faced by older people and provision of social services). Accordingly, complex approach to the concept of integration of gender equality is absent.

ASSESSMENT OF LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS OF THE PROCESS OF SHAPING THE NATIONAL MACHINERY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER POLICY

During the discussion, the experts confirmed the well-known thesis that, in general, the Ukrainian legislation is gender-neutral, and does not contain discriminatory provisions against women or men, or establishing different legal status of women and men.

“By all means, the laws must be obeyed... we have good laws that are not enforced. Based on the law, we have no reason to speak about discrimination. But we need a law that would give more opportunities for women”.

Much of the legislation is not conducive to the elimination of gender disparities and equalization of women and men in areas, where either experience discrimination. The experts who support this thesis gave a low grade to the acting gender legislation.

“The Law “On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men” is imperfect. Thus, the international supervisory board of the ILO stated that it did not fully reflect the international

obligations of Ukraine in three ILO Conventions – Convention No. 100 (Equal Remuneration for Work of Equal Value), Convention No. 111 (Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation) and Convention No. 156 (Workers with Family Responsibilities)’.

“The law (labour law) provides no clear definition of discrimination...”.

At the same time, most expert opinions agreed that the gender component should be mainstreamed into all applicable laws. The existing basic law is not considered effective by experts, it exists mostly “on paper” because there is no machinery for its implementation, and the responsibility for the breach thereof or failure to perform it is not defined clearly.

“We need a law with “real gender weight”».

“Despite the existence of regional interagency councils on gender discrimination, there is no procedure for dealing with complaints; people do not know where to appeal in case of discrimination”.

So, in order for the basic law on gender equality to work effectively and to be implemented, it is necessary to clearly describe respective set of tools.

THE STATE PROGRAM ON ENSURING EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN FOR THE PERIOD TILL 2016

Due to reduced functionality of the unit responsible for gender policy, the State Program on ensuring gender equality in Ukraine could not be approved for three years (2011 – autumn 2013). It was also caused by the parliamentary elections held in the fall of 2012 and the change of top officials of the Ministry of Social Policy.

Responsibility for the implementation of the State program was transferred from the liquidated Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports to the Ministry of Social Policy. The transition was long and inefficient.

In September 2013, the State Program on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men for the period till 2016 was adopted, and budget funding for its activities was first allocated in 2014; besides. Adoption of the State Program happened largely due to active lobbying by NGOs and international organizations.

According to the experts, this State Program is substantially different from the previous one. Firstly, the executive authority responsible for gender policy has been changed. While in 2006 it was the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, in 2013 the responsibility was entrusted to the Ministry of Social Policy.

It is planned to finance the Programme from the state and local budgets and from other sources. Estimated Programme funding amounts for UAH 5,897.14 thousand, including from state budget – UAH 1,268.51 thousand and from local budgets – UAH 1,787.13 thousand. The amount of funding from other sources makes up UAH 2,841.5 thousand. The experts gave a higher estimation to the content of the State Program adopted.

“The previous State Program was more of a narrative nature, this program has been developed in accordance with the criteria set for the programs of this level”.

As for the regions, the experts noted that, despite the rejection of the State Program in 2011, the

regional gender equality programs were adopted and performed. However, no information on a generalized analysis of regional programs and their efficiency is available. Each region operates in its sole discretion, based on the wishes of the stakeholders and their ability to obtain funding for local initiatives. There are no horizontal contacts between program implementers in different regions of Ukraine.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

According to experts, the main problem is the declarative nature of gender equality in our society and the formality of women's rights. The real situation is reversed with legal requirements. Stereotypes of mass consciousness persist, according to which a woman is seen as weak in comparison with men, being secondary in the social, political and economic life.

"We must fight the stereotypes in society, in the family, starting with kindergarten. Stereotypes form the inferiority complex among women".

Discrimination against women in Ukraine, experts say, is a systematic and structural phenomenon, and appropriate machinery to protect their rights still has not been created.

"Discrimination exists, but it is hidden and concealed, it is not discussed openly by the public. Ukrainians are not used to admitting that during employment interviews women are asked about their children, their plans regarding maternity leave and so on".

The issue of vacancy announcements is demonstrative, according to experts. These ads specifying the desired gender of the employee continue to be published in newspapers, magazines, employment and recruitment sites online, as well as in private recruiting firms, and employment agencies. These ads are clearly discriminative against both women and men because they reduce the equality of opportunity in employment. One of the causes of discrimination against women, according to experts, is the economic dependence on men.

"We have created an army of unemployed women who are not registered at employment centres. These women are economically dependent on men. It is cheaper for women to stay at home with the child, rather than hire a nanny. Thus, women lose their competitiveness in the labour market and further reinforce their dependency".

"Sometimes men themselves do not allow women to work"

Experts particularly indicated the groups of women who are most vulnerable to discrimination. Firstly, they are rural women.

"If a woman resides in a remote rural area, it is difficult for her to get to the hospital, it is difficult to find a job, and this has manifested the restriction of her rights".

Women with disabilities represent another vulnerable group. In our country, there is no infrastructure for them at all. Women with disabilities do not have access to certain resources due to lack of opportunity to get to a particular place. Therefore, for the full realization of women's rights in Ukraine, in particular, infrastructure should be created; therefore, the development of a gender-balanced policy should be contributed, also by the Ministry of Infrastructure and other agencies.

"If any ministry develops public policy in "its" area, then it should weigh these policies: its implications for women and men, what benefits and costs will be borne by women and men due to the introduction of certain innovations".

Despite the fact that women *de jure* have equal status with men, in fact, they continue to be discriminated in the political sphere. Experts see several reasons for this. Among them, low social status of women, economic dependency on men, uneven distribution of family responsibilities, lack of political education centres, lack of support for women politicians by men and lack of understanding by the latter of the importance of women's representation in power, and the influence of the stereotype "politics is a male business".

"Women are in the minority. They cannot compete on an equal basis with men and defend their opinion".

Among other categories of women who are vulnerable to discrimination, according to the experts, the following were listed: young women in search for work, women approaching retirement age, single mothers, and HIV-positive women. Thus, a woman may simultaneously suffer from multiple forms of discrimination on the part of various actors.

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE WOMEN FROM ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

All the interviewed experts emphasized that one of the main factors contributing to the spread of gender-based discrimination in the Ukrainian society, is that discrimination in all its manifestations is practically not punished in Ukraine. Today, the legal norms, which guarantee equality and non-discrimination, are no more than declarations. The state is thus not able to enforce the principle of equality declared in Article 24 of the Constitution of Ukraine, since the authorities have no real leverage on violators.

The acting Code of Ukraine on Administrative Violations also cannot serve as a tool for combating discrimination. Except for responsibility for violence, it does not contain any provision that would ensure liability for discrimination or violation of the principle of equality. So, today, even in case discriminatory practices have been discovered, the guilty party will not bear responsibility.

Besides, both women and men are not protected from gender-based discrimination by legal entities. Thus, according to the Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men", a person found guilty in violation of the legislation on equal rights and opportunities for women and men shall bear civil, administrative and criminal liability. However, the degree and type of civil liability has been defined neither in this law, nor in the other legal acts.

Therefore, one of the main suggestions by the experts on protection of women against discrimination was to bring the current Ukrainian legislation in line with international norms and standards regarding the determination of liability for violation of the rights of one of the genders.

If we analyse the basic law, according to experts, it is evident that there is no reference to Labour Inspection, which is to investigate cases of discrimination in the workplace. This is a paradox. It means that in case of failure to comply with the laws on gender equality at work, no person shall approach the Inspection. Lack of awareness by workers and trade unions of the concept of indirect discrimination eliminates the opportunities for complaints that reflect collective viewpoint. This means, indirect discrimination is discovered when the damage inflicted to a group of workers at the plant is being analysed, going beyond individual specific situations.

In order to combat gender-based discrimination, many experts consider it necessary to implant the concept of indirect discrimination in the minds of entrepreneurs and workers, making it a part

of the industrial relations culture. It is necessary to include this definition in the list of definitions of the “Law on Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men”. It should also be included into the Labour Code.

“Globally, the burden of proof is placed on a perpetrator, and in our country – on a survivor”.

“It would be an efficient policy, if the same violation would meet the same punishment. National labour legislation does not define the concept of “discrimination”; therefore, labour inspectors find it difficult to identify such cases”.

Besides, according to experts, a huge reserve for combating discrimination is information and education work with population and mass media that shape and influence the minds of people.

“People here do not understand what discrimination is”. “It is necessary to develop women’s leadership programs, implement educational programs for boys and seminars on responsible fatherhood for men. It should start from childhood, from kindergarten, from the family”. “We must reform the Office of the Ombudsman, which is a political figure. There are no examples of public discussions of human rights violation based on gender”.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The interviewed experts almost equally evaluated the efficacy of the Law “On Prevention of Violence in a Family”. Indeed, as compared to the basic law the experts considered it to be more applicable and effective. Thus, despite the decline of the national gender machinery, the work on preventing domestic violence at the national level was being conducted: trainings on domestic violence for law enforcement officials were held; correction programs for perpetrators were implemented, etc. But, according to experts, this work was also non-systematic, there is no clear machinery for monitoring in this area, crisis centres for women are almost incapacitated.

“Of course, the Law plays a positive role. Law enforcement agencies have to be aware of the problem of violence. However, a female survivor fearing condemnation remains in a state of dual violence”.

“Many Ukrainian women suffer from domestic battery and psychological trauma, often not daring to seek for professional help in order not to “wash dirty linen in public”. Women often suffer abuse from men to the bitter end, in order not to destroy the family”.

“We need to include the basics of gender expertise in the education system, at schools and other educational institutions”.

Survivors of domestic violence today suffer from double discrimination, double violation of their rights, as having suffered from violence, they are then faced with the lack of response of the government and law enforcement agencies to complaints and appeals for protection of their rights.

It is not only about the inadequacy of the Law of Ukraine “On Prevention of Violence in a Family”, but also about the new Criminal Procedural Code of Ukraine, as it significantly reduced the competence of district police officers to respond to domestic violence and referred minor and severe crimes committed in the family to private prosecution cases. This means that the state will participate in the defence of a woman only when she has been mangled.

In February 2013, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine initiated a working group on improving the legislation on domestic violence prevention. During the meetings, the working group participants discussed the draft law “On Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence”; in summer 2013 a substantial revision thereof was made in accordance with the observations of the Scientific Expert Department of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the experts. During the discussion of the interdepartmental working group the issues of correction programs for perpetrators, adoption of a unified program of the Ministry of Social Policy, development of minimum standards for social services for people who survived domestic violence, amendments to the procedure of reporting and applying on child abuse or real threat thereof, etc., were on the agenda.

Experts believe that the problem of violence must be addressed at the state level, primarily by improving the laws already in force on the territory of Ukraine which should extend the legal protection of women’s rights from humiliation, beatings, rape, psychological pressure and so on.

In particular, the experts suggested bringing the Law of Ukraine “On Prevention of Domestic Violence” in compliance with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). It is, first and foremost, about changes in the conceptual definition of domestic violence and establishing clear responsibility for the committed acts of violence, as the current interpretation of the law only mentions potential liability.

Section IV. Responsibility for Committing Domestic Violence.

Article 15. Responsibility for Committing Domestic Violence

Family members having committed domestic violence are subject to criminal, administrative or civil liability according to the law.

The Law of Ukraine “On Prevention of Violence in a Family”

“The Law of Ukraine “On Prevention of Violence in a Family” is not bad... but we need to bring it in line with the Istanbul Convention since it was adopted before the Convention. We must introduce the terminology of domestic violence and consider the liability of violators (often the violator shall pay fines from the family budget)”.

The experts evaluated the Istanbul Convention as a progressive international instrument in the field of combating violence against women. Its aim is to create “zero tolerance” to different forms of violence suffered by women. It seeks to change the mindset and mentality of citizens, calling the whole society to change its attitude to the situation of violence against women. The Convention provides the basis for the introduction of new concepts in the criminal code to effectively prevent violence, protect survivors and prosecute perpetrators. Violence against women is seen as a violation of human rights and as a form of discrimination. It says that violence against women is a manifestation of historically prevailing inequalities between men and women, which is the cause of male domination and discrimination against women.

In addition, according to the experts, it is necessary to introduce a system of medical, psychological and legal counselling centres in rayon centres, so that the needed assistance would be available to abused women in rural areas. It is also necessary to create efficient crisis centres providing legal, psychological and medical assistance to women-survivors of violence.

Experts pointed out that, due to international initiatives (i.e., the UNDP project “Equal Opportunities and Women’s Rights in Ukraine”), an inventory of existing crisis centres, and medical and social rehabilitation centres for survivors of domestic violence has been created, to assess the capacity of services available to survivors of violence.

“As of 2010, an inventory of all service locations where survivors can receive a variety of services has been created in order to understand the infrastructure for the provision of these services... A draft project of standards for the services provided to survivors was prepared.

However, understanding of models and forms of crisis centres working in the Ukrainian realities was not achieved. Crisis centres cannot exist in every city. Challenges remain – how would the survivor get to these centres. There is an international best practice where communities have volunteers to help the victims, and they are trained for public funds for providing shelter to survivors. In Ukraine, some centres today are not using their full potential without replenishing. It is necessary to involve the community itself into the problem of violence. Who else but the community, would know better in which families violence occurs, as community members know each other well”.

Overall, according to the opinion of the experts, solving the problem of violence at the national level depends on solving the problem of decentralization. One must strictly follow his/her functional responsibilities and powers.

“For example, the Ministry of Social Policy, which develops standards, shapes and implements social policy in general, cannot solve the problem of each single individual. It is not their task, but the task of the regions and communities. If the ministry is trying to solve the problems of a specific person – it would be just a financial loss, curvature of the problem itself”.

GENDER RESEARCH

Expert opinions regarding the availability of research on gender issues have diverged. One half of the interviewed experts pointed to a sufficient amount of research on gender issues, both at the national and regional levels. The rest of the experts believe that there is a great lack of research. However, their views on the impact of the results of research on decision-making in the field of gender equality, was unanimous.

“The situation pertains, where research is being conducted for the research. Results do not matter. Read and forgotten. Unfortunately, the influence of sociology that we have is distorted”.

“Political parties do not always use the research results. They do not realize the importance of the issue”.

“Research is conducted, the results are available, but so what: sometimes they read them, and that’s it, even no response”.

The experts consider researches on identification of gender portrait of an oblast or a city to be very important. Here the results are essential. And the executives, who are acquainted with gender issues, are very active user of this information and appeal to these studies.

According to the experts, the civil society component of gender movement in Ukraine is more active than the state. Often NGOs perform the functions of (and sometimes replace) government agencies.

“Each study must be ordered by governmental agencies. Our community activists present the results of researches that, unfortunately, are not the basis for public policy. Our politics is made in “clean” offices using empirical data. It is necessary to establish this relationship, or motivate or coerce public authorities to listen to the research results. We must find partners on both sides, and then the studies will become necessary.”

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL LIFE

According to the experts, the level of representation of women in public and political life is low. As a result, women have limited opportunities to influence decisions that affect their lives, their communities and the whole country. In addition, the society has very little positive experience that could be used to promote gender equality and empowerment of women.

“The participation of women in politics is masculine. Even women themselves do not understand it or it was not explained to them. The information flow has not worked. There is a desire to ensure that women are in the Parliament representing the interests of all groups of women. But this topic is not visible to the public.”

However, experts said that civil and international organizations provide trainings for women-leaders, implement advocacy activities and contribute to the Government's drafting legislation on the introduction of temporary affirmative action (quota system) to increase the representation of women in the electoral process, in the Supreme Council and local councils.

Thus, the Committee of Verkhovna Rada on Human Rights, National Minorities and Interethnic Relations during its meeting of 5 February 2014 examined the Draft Law on Introducing Changes to some Laws of Ukraine (on ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the process of elections) submitted by people's deputies Ms. O. Kondratyuk, Mr. M. Tomenko, Mr. A. Yatsenyuk, Mr. V. Klitchnko, Ms. I. Geraschenko (registration No 3411) as well as alternative Draft Law on Introducing Changes to some Laws of Ukraine (on identifying number of candidates in election list), submitted by people's deputies Ms. I. Berezhna, Mr. I. Yermeyev, Mr. N. Shufrych, Mr. O. Liashko (registration No 3411-1), and Draft Law on Introducing Changes to some Laws of Ukraine on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men, submitted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (registration No 3411-2). The Committee resolved to recommend that Verkhovna Rada takes the Draft Law on Introducing Changes to some Laws of Ukraine (on ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the process of elections) submitted by people's deputies Ms. O. Kondratyuk, Mr. M. Tomenko, Mr. A. Yatsenyuk, Mr. V. Klitchnko, Ms. I. Geraschenko (registration No 3411) as a basis. The mentioned Draft Law is still not adopted by Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

The draft Law of Ukraine “Introducing Changes to some Laws of Ukraine on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men” envisages: 1) the introduction of 30% gender quotas in the lists of political parties and election lists, among the members of councils of all levels, in the bodies of national executive authority and the bodies of local self-government; 2) ensuring representation of women in the management of enterprises, in particular through introducing amendments to collective agreements.

Analysis of gender representation in the bodies of national authority and the bodies of local self-government demonstrates a lack of gender balance. This problem is particularly evident if we look at the representation of women and men in the top echelons of power, which reduces the quality and efficiency of decision-making.

The principle of equality of women and men is enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine. Namely, the Article 24 of the Constitution guarantees equality of rights and freedoms and absence of gender-based restrictions. The same Article also states: "Equality of rights of women and men is ensured by: provision of equal opportunities in civil, political and cultural activities for women and men, in obtaining education and professional trainings, in labour and remuneration...".

Equal electoral rights are ensured in particular according to part 5 of the Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "About elections of people's deputies of Ukraine" by "prohibition of privileges or restrictions for candidates to deputies on the grounds of race, skin color, political, religious and other views, gender, ethnic and social origin, property status, location, language or other characteristics". However, in real life women face many problems in the process of realization of their rights.

Notwithstanding 2% increase of women's representation in Verkhovna Rada, the indicator of 9.4% remains one of the lowest among respective indicators in Europe. Number of women-candidates who ran for parliamentary elections in 2012 was also low – 16%.

"We have slightly increased women's representation in the national legislature. Women used to make up 8% in the Parliament, and now – less than 10%. Political parties paid attention to the need to nominate more women candidates, even though there were few of them".

"Starting from 2010, a new system of elections was introduced (with single-mandate districts), which is unfavourable for women, proportional electoral system is more favourable for women".

"The political environment in Ukraine today is quite aggressive, and many women do not want to associate themselves with this environment".

Therefore, according to the interviewed experts, the very important point is to ensure transparent funding of political life. Political parties that are targeted at the majority of voters (and women are a majority) are more democratic.

"When a party has no internal democracy, women (suffer) the hardest. Many parties only now are starting to acknowledge the idea of importance of women's representation".

According to a survey of the Ukrainian population (the survey by the National Democratic Institute, 2012) on the perception of women in politics, it appears that women, as imagined by the population, are the political players who are more likely to change the political culture. Most people believe that there are not enough women leaders in Ukraine. Among the priorities that women leaders should tackle, according to the survey, there are 3 main areas: 1) reforming the political culture; 2) pensions (retirement provision); 3) freedom of peaceful assembly (and this is within the year after Maidan).

In this regard, one of the objectives of the state human resources policy in Ukraine is to promote career growth of women at the civil service and within bodies of local self-governance, and to implement measures to achieve gender parity in public administrations.

6. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL GENDER MACHINERY

The following conclusions and recommendations on strengthening the national machinery for implementation of gender policy can be made based on the results of generalized responses obtained from experts who took part in in-depth interviews:

1. IN LEGISLATIVE AREA:

1.1. to bring Ukrainian legislation in compliance with constitutional principles of equality as well as international norms and standards, namely:

1.1.1. to speed up the adoption of the Law of Ukraine “Introducing Changes to some Laws of Ukraine on ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men” with regard to the electoral process, according to which the overall gender ratio of at least 30% and not more than 70% of the same gender in the relevant electoral lists should be ensured. The first five members are proposed to include the share for representatives of the same gender of no more than 60%;

1.1.2. to establish concrete responsibility for violation of the Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men”;

1.1.3. to ensure that the Draft Labour Code of Ukraine envisages responsibility of employers for committing actions that are defined as indirect discrimination;

1.1.4. to accelerate adoption of the Draft Law “On Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence” in order to make possible ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention CETS No.: 210);

1.1.5. to develop a clear mechanism for claiming compensation for discrimination in courts and describe it in the Law of Ukraine “On the basics of Prevention and Combating Discrimination in Ukraine”;

1.1.6. to introduce effective system of responsibility for non-compliance of the Article 24-1 “Advertising of Employment Services” and Article 26 “Control for Adherence to the Laws on Advertising” of the Law of Ukraine “On Advertising”;

1.1.7. to complement the Law of Ukraine “On Printed Media (press) in Ukraine” (article 3) and the Law of Ukraine “On Television and Radio Broadcasting” (Article 6) with a direct statement about inadmissibility of spreading gender-discriminatory information.

2. IN INSTITUTIONAL AREA:

2.1. to introduce accountability for managers of central and local bodies of executive authorities on conducted work and personal responsibility for non-fulfilment of obligations on ensuring equality of women and men;

2.2. to ascertain that officials of central and local bodies of executive authorities responsible for ensuring equality of women and men organize within their mandate the work of correspondent bodies of executive authorities;

2.3. to establish a system of medical, psychological and legal consultative centers for women in rayon centers.

3. IN EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATION AREA:

3.1. to establish regular public hearings about violation of women's rights;

3.2. to introduce regular education activities on combating discrimination against women for police officers, prosecutors, border guards and judges;

3.3. to establish effective procedure for reporting about cases of violation of equality and discrimination against women committed by law enforcement employees;

3.4. to conduct special information campaigns among population on highlighting importance of gender issues;

3.5. to introduce special subject on basic gender knowledge into curriculums of educational institutions of all accreditation levels;

3.6. to broadly present and disseminate results and recommendations of gender researches for the attention of the members of Parliament and officials of all levels, bringing their attention to problematic issues and using civil control on their implementation.

4. IN THE AREA OF EVALUATION AND MONITORING:

4.1. to improve collection of gender statistics and resume preparation of "Gender analysis of Ukrainian society" on a regular basis;

4.2. to introduce monitoring of implementation of gender policy in Ukraine;

4.3. to strengthen civil control on implementation of international obligations and declared principles of equality of rights and opportunities for women and men.

**ANALYTICAL REPORT
ON THE RESULTS OF SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH
“AVAILABILITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO
WOMEN-SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE”**

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- Chernovtsy Regional Social and Psychological Assistance Center;
- Municipal Institution “Kozyatyn Social Child Guidance and Family Counselling Center”;
- Lugansk Regional Social and Psychological Assistance Center;
- Chernovtsy Regional Municipal Institution “Social Child Guidance and Family Counselling Center”;
- Chernihiv Regional Social and Psychological Assistance Center;
- Kharkiv Regional Office of the All-Ukrainian Charity “Aid Fund for Survivors of Violence”;
- Regional Municipal Institution “Dnipropetrovsk Social and Psychological Assistance Center”;
- Kyiv Regional Office “Charity Fund “SOS – Children’s Village”;
- Rehabilitation Center “Sofia” for girls and women who are survivors of different forms of violence (Public Movement “Faith, Hope, Love”);
- Shelter for temporary stay of women-survivors of domestic violence of the Kyiv City Women Center;
- Ivano-Frankivsk City Social and Rehabilitation Child Guidance and Family Counselling Center “St. Nicholas City of Mercy”.

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Sincerely yours,

Researcher and author of the scientific report, Iryna Demchenko, Ph.D. in Economics.

SUMMARY

In the process of preparation of the VIII National report of Ukraine to the UN Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women a number of information gaps was revealed. Absence of up-to-date thorough analysis of availability of social services (including shelters) to women survivors of violence is among them, as well as data about organizational and resource capacity of such institutions, their work and its results.

In order to explore these issues this research has been conducted. The following methods were used:

- Internet-questioning of directors and social workers of centres/shelters on functioning of 32 institutions.
- Collection of depersonalized data about 135 women who stayed in centres during 2013-2014 as a result of being subject to violence.
- Personal flexible interviews with 6 women-survivors of violence who were clients of the centres during 2013-2014.

Analysis of obtained empirical data resulted in the following conclusions.

AVAILABILITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

In most regions of Ukraine there are institutions that may provide social services to women survivors of violence, including provision of temporary shelter. Most of these institutions belong to municipal or state property. Main types of such institutions include centres of social and psychological support¹ and social centres for mother and child².

A part of these institutions specializes exceptionally on assistance to women survivors of violence. At the same time, there are a number of centres (at least one third) that provide services to clients of different background. This pertains to institutions of municipal property, namely centres of social and psychological support, as people who survived violence (including women) represent only one of the categories of people who receive assistance in these institutions³. This indicates that in addition to women survivors of violence these centres also provide services to people released from prison, homeless people, and other clients with asocial behaviour – mostly men. This situation not only does not facilitate provision of effective assistance to women-survivors but also may cause new threats, including provocations and conflicts within the institutions.

1 As of 1 January 2014 there are 22 such institutions functioning in Ukraine: in AR Crimea, Volynska, Donetska, Dnipropetrovska, Zhytomyrska, Zakarpatska, Zaporizka, Ivano-Frankivska, Kirovogradska, Luganska, Lvivska, Mykolayivska, Odesska, Rivnenska, Sumska, Ternopilska, Khmelnycka, Cherkaska, Chernivecka, Chernigivska oblasts and in Kyiv and Sevastopol!

2 As of 1 January 2014 18 social centers for mother and child function in Ukraine in: Vinnytska, Donetska, Zakarpatska, Kyivska, Kirovogradska, Luganska, Lvivska, Poltavska, Sumska, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Khmelnytska, Cherkaska (2), Chernivecka, Chernigivska oblasts, AR Crimea, Sevastopol.

3 According to the Article 1 of the Typical Provision about center of social and psychological support approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers as of 12 May 2004 #608, a center provides social services to people who have found themselves in difficult living conditions as a result of natural disaster, being subject to crime, including violence, and other conditions that they cannot overcome without any assistance.

In addition to this, social centres for mother and child⁴ that act in order to conduct social work with the aim to prevent social orphanage⁵, in most cases provide assistance to women who intended or are under a threat to abandon a newly-born child. These are women who need correction of behaviour at the first place. And this envisages somewhat different approaches and directions of work.

Statistical data shows a trend of increase in a number of cases of domestic violence and consequently an increase of a need of women-survivors in qualified social services. According to the data of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine there were 144,848 appeals about domestic violence registered in Ukraine during 2013. This is an increase of 34,846 appeals or 32% in comparison with the situation in 2012 (110,012 complaints were registered during 2012). Most of the complaints about cases of domestic violence come from women, 126,498 (this is an increase of 28% in comparison with 2012⁶).

However existent network of social institutions is not enough to ensure comprehensive social work with people who survived domestic violence. As a reaction to mentioned above appeals, only 73 families were sent to the centres of social and psychological support during 2013. This is 52% less if compared to 2012.

This figure may be a reflection of a formal review of complaints about domestic violence, as well as a low level of interaction between institutions and organizations responsible for provision of the necessary assistance to survivors of such violence.

Among other factors that limit the access of women-survivors to services of specialized institutions, one can name:

- Low level of awareness among women due to the lack of information about such institutions, services and conditions that they provide to clients.
- Low level of confidence in any social institutions among women-survivors.
- Lack of available places in institutions. This factor was mentioned by specialists of 42% surveyed centres.
- The need to stay in institutions with a child (children). Provisions about some institutions envisage stay for adults only.
- Lack of funding. Some of the institutions do not have money to buy food, the issue of maintenance is not solved, heat supply is absent.
- Health condition of women. According to Typical Provisions that constitute basis for functioning of many crisis centres, women with considerable health problems can't become their clients.
- Age of women – to some extent. Every fourth surveyed institution was a center for mother and child. According to the Provision about such institutions, the age of their clients may be from 18 to 35 years old.

4 According to the Article 1 of a Typical provision about a Center for mother and child approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as of 8 September 2005 #879, this is an institution of temporary accommodation for women of seven-nine month of pregnancy with children aged below 18 months, that have found themselves in difficult living conditions that prevent them from performing duties of a mother.

5 Article 5 of a Typical provision about social center for mother and child, approved the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as of 8 September 2005 #879.

6 Number of appeals from women who suffered from domestic violence during the last 3 years made up 85% of the total number of appeals.

Health and age limitations for clients may have a background, however in this situation there is a need to establish other center (or departments under existent ones) that would provide opportunities for women to turn for help irrespectively of age and health condition.

Obtained data proves that not all the centres provide appropriate level of security for women: confidentiality of stay of a woman is not always secured, immediate connection with the police and the necessary technical equipment is absent (“alarm buttons”, surveillance cameras etc.). Development, approval and introduction of new requirements for ensuring security of women in centres are urgent.

There is an unmet need in trainings for specialists of the institutions. In every sixth center there were no trainings for personnel at all conducted during 2013-2014. Employees of institutions of communal and state ownership have very reduced possibilities to receive trainings. The following issues need to be particularly addresses: need for advanced trainings for psychologists practitioners; provision of psychological support to survivors of domestic violence whose condition was worsened by posttraumatic stress disorder as a result of situation in the country; familiarization with new methods and approaches of work with persons who survived violence; provision of mediation services; formation of practical skills of provision of assistance to people who survived violence.

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF CLIENTS OF CENTRES

Analysis of social and demographic profile of clients was conducted based on collected depersonalized information about women who survived violence and stayed in the centres during 2013-2014. Out of 135 surveyed women 24% stayed in centres for mother and child, 37% – in centres for social and psychological support, 39% in other types of centres that belong to NGOs, and communal shelters for temporary accommodation of women who survived domestic violence, Kyiv city Center for work with women.

Profile of a woman-client of specialized center is characterized by:

- Availability of children: 70% of clients stay in centres with children, out of which 45% – with one child, 25% – with several children.
- Average age of a woman-client of a center is 35.5 years old. However women of different age suffer from violence. The youngest was 15 years old, the oldest – 83 years old.
- Different level of education. Obtained data refutes widespread opinion that uneducated women usually suffer from violence: 31% of clients have higher and unfinished higher education, 55% – secondary education and only 14% – unfinished secondary education.
- Most of the clients are economically active part of population (79%), however very few of them work (27%) and even less of them receive income that allow to financially provide for themselves and their children. Many of women are either on maternity leave or de-facto unemployed. Every fifth woman does not have any occupation.
- Almost one third of women are from rural area. This disproves another myth that rural women do not turn for help to crisis centres, and despite the fact that these institutions are usually located in urban areas.
- Absence of their own dwelling. Only 40% of women-clients had their own dwelling. And these women were co-owners of apartments and houses with people who in most cases were perpetrators.

- Two out of three clients do not have established family relationships.
- Only half of women had support from their close social environment.
- In most cases women who find themselves in such institutions are in crisis psychological condition, almost 90% of them are unsure in their own strengths.
- Period of being in the situation of violence is usually long. Only one fourth of clients suffered from violence for less than a year, almost half of women suffered for several years, the rest of them for 10 years and longer.
- Part of women has serious psychological disorders, alcohol dependency, other harmful habits. This usually leads to breaking the rules of internal order of specialized institutions.

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PERPETRATOR

Profile of a perpetrator is characterized by:

- Most of them are men (91%), women make up 9%.
- In most cases, they are people of middle age: 31-40 years old (46%), older than 40 years old – 33%, a lot less of young people – 25-30 years old (21%), people aged below 25 years old were not revealed by the research.
- Level of education of perpetrator is lower than education level of people who suffered from them, however one third of perpetrators (26%) have higher or unfinished higher education.
- Most of the perpetrators are partners of women (cohabitants – 38%, husbands – 27%). Others are usually relatives (father, mother, brother, son, sister), rarely – former-husbands, employers, neighbours etc.
- Typical problem is addiction to alcohol and/or drugs abuse.

The most widespread are physical (82%) and psychological (80%) types of violence. Relatively fewer women complain about economic (51%) and sexual violence (11%). Usually violence is complex, 43% of clients suffered at least from 3 types of violence (physical, psychological, economic).

More than half of surveyed women (60%) turned for help to responsible bodies before turning to centres. Most often they turned to police (52%), centres of social service for family, children and youth – 44%, courts – 35%, representatives of bodies of authorities – 29%, services on children's issues – 28%, representatives of local self-governance – 25%, territorial centres for social service – 21%.

Quite often taken measures turned out to be ineffective. Cases of refusal to accept notices about domestic violence took place in territorial centres for social service, bodies of local self-governance and courts. Cases of absence of appropriate reaction were faces by women from bodies of authorities, police and courts.

Relatively effective were cases when women applied for assistance to centres of social services for families, children and youth, police and bodies of local self-governance. In these institutions women most frequently received concrete recommendations with regard to their following actions, and also were referred to other institutions/organizations.

RESULTS OF STAY OF WOMEN WHO SURVIVED VIOLENCE IN THE CENTRES

In most cases, applications to centres had a positive effect for women. The best indicator is dynamics of psychoemotional condition: 96% of women received psychological assistance and 91% improved their psychological condition.

Almost everyone who searched for protection from perpetrator (89%) has found it (86%).

Efforts of the centres in restoration or establishment of social, including family, relations of clients as well as in development of skills to take care about children turned out to be effective.

Assistance in finding appropriate accommodation turns out to be a more complicated task (28% of clients received this assistance, 21% – solved their problem with accommodation), as well as assistance with employment (respectively 21% and 13%) and restoration of documents (16% and 11%).

Social work gets more complicated and less efficient sometimes due to unwillingness of a part of clients to cooperate, which results from alcohol abuse, social neglecting, and sometimes mental ineptitude.

As a result of women-survivors' stay in the centres and taken measures against perpetrators violence stopped in 20% of cases, in 43% of cases a client and a perpetrator are not in contact anymore, in 19% – violence happens less frequently and only in 7% of cases the situation did not change at all.

Therefore, there is evidence to say that results of activities of centres that provide services to women who survived violence are mostly positive.

INTRODUCTION

In the process of preparation of the VIII National Report of Ukraine to the UN Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women an in-depth analysis of all available materials on ensuring gender equality and promotion of women's empowerment in Ukraine was conducted. Special attention was paid to main problematic areas mentioned in the latest Concluding Observations of the Committee.

The conducted desk-review revealed a list of problematic issues that lack data. This situation makes impossible preparation of evidence-based response to these issues in the national report. Among identified information gaps one can name absence of research on availability of social services, including shelters, for women who survived violence. There is no analysis about both organizational and resource potential of these institutions, as well as the process and results of their work.

This sociological research has been conducted in order to explore the mentioned above issues.

PURPOSE AND TASKS OF THE RESEARCH

- **As the survey aims to learn about availability of social services to women who survived violence, a list of research tasks was solved, namely:**
 - Assessment of organizational and resource capacity of institutions that provide or may provide social services to women who survived violence (with provision of shelter).
 - Analysis of target group – clients of mentioned above centres, including their social needs, specifics and scope of problems, possibilities of their solving.
 - Analysis of obstacles and limitations in provision of social services to women who survived violence and need temporary shelter.
 - Development of suggestions/recommendations on how to improve available system of provision of social services to women who survived violence.

METHODOLOGY

In order to collect and analyse information the following quantitative and qualitative methods were used:

- **Internet-questioning of directors and social workers of institutions/shelters on functioning of the institutions**

In order to implement this, a list of institutions that provide or may provide assistance to women-survivors of violence including provision of temporary shelter was formulated. The next step was to form "reduced" list of institutions that included only those that actually provided services to women-survivors of violence during 2013-2014. Communication by telephone was used to check information about current activities of institutions, main directions of their work, availability of clients who represent our key audience. In case the institution corresponded to the tasks of this research, its manager or assistant manager was offered to participate in this research. The reduced list includes centres for social and psychological support, social centres for mother and

child, other institutions that were founded by civil, charitable, religious organizations, as well as individual philanthropists.

Out of 49 institutions that were offered to participate in the research 32 have sent filled-in questionnaire forms with information about institution, namely:

- Centres for social and psychological support – 17;
 - Centres for mother and child – 8;
 - Other centres – 7.
- **Collection of depersonalized information about women who survived violence and stayed in the centres during 2013-2014**

This method envisages filling in of specially prepared forms “Map of a client” by employees of centres. Separate form was filled in for each individual client that stayed in an institution during 2013-2014 or was currently staying there. Employees of the centres used data from personal data file of a woman, woman’s records and recollections by centre’s specialists who provided assistance to this particular woman. Thus, employees had to fill in as many forms as many clients stayed in their centres during mentioned period. Obtained data is depersonalized, which means that it does not contain first and last names, addresses of clients. This ensured maximum confidentiality of data about clients and adherence of ethical norms of the research.

Altogether, 135 questionnaires about women-clients of institutions were received, including from:

- Centres for social and psychological support – 32;
- Centres for mother and child – 50;
- Other centres – 53.

It is worth mentioning that not all the institutions that participated in the research and may provide services to women-survivors of violence had such clients during 2013-2014. Only 24 out of 32 institutions had clients from our key audience and sent depersonalized information about them. Other 8 may and in fact provide social services to women-survivors of violence, but they do not keep data base about perpetrators because they are more oriented at provision of assistance to other groups of people, at the first place – to women who found themselves in difficult living conditions, pregnant women and young mothers, refugees etc.

- **Flexible interviews with women-clients of institutions that provide assistance to women who survived violence.**

6 flexible interviews with women were conducted. Interviews were conducted in 4 cities: Kyiv (1), Zhovti Vody of Dnipropetrovska oblast (1), Khmelnycky (2), Odessa (2). All regions of Ukraine are represented. Half of interviewed women (3) have already left the institutions, the rest of them – are still staying in the institutions.

Period for collecting empirical data: 16-27 June 2014.

1. SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN WHO SURVIVED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

As results of the desk-review showed, in Ukraine there are quite a few institutions focused on assisting women who survived violence. Among them one can name communal or national institutions, in particular centres for social and psychological support⁷, social centres for mother and child, institutions established by public, charitable, religious organizations as well individual philanthropists. Obviously, the capacity and activity of these institutions differ much depending on size and source of funding, duration of activity, location, staff proficiency and other factors. At the same time there is scarce information on the activity of these institutions as far as there is a need to ensure safety of their women clients and guidance procedure, specifically readdressing of women-survivors by executive authorities and local government, staff of NGOs, other institutions and organizations which may be addressed by affected persons.

During preparatory phase of the review, the shortlist of these institutions was compiled and included only those, which have really rendered support to women who suffered violence during 2013-2014. The information on the current activity of the institutions, main directions of their activity, presence of women clients from among the target group was checked via telephone communications. If the organization was in line with tasks of the review than the director or acting director was offered to participate in it. But only 3 of 4 centres which received offers from researches have taken it. Institutions located in the AR Crimea, Sevastopol and Donetsk oblast did not participate in the questioning in consequence of annexation of AR Crimea and military operations in Eastern Ukraine.

32 institutions, including 8 centres for mother and child, 17 centres for social and psychological support, 7 other centres, have been surveyed within the framework of the review.

24 institutions out of all participants of the review participated in similar research in 2012. Data systematization allowed tracing the time history of clients during 2011-2014 (table 1).

Table 1
Number of women survivors of domestic violence who addressed the institutions by year⁸ and classification of institutions by number of clients, persons

	2011	2013	2014 ⁹
<i>Institutions, where the number of women survivors of violence was over 100 persons in 2013</i>			
Shelter for women survivors of violence under Kyiv municipal centre for women	62	105	62
<i>Institutions, where the number of women survivors of violence in 2013 was over 20 persons in 2013</i>			
Odesa regional center for social and psychological support	0	23	5
Sofia rehabilitation center for girls and women who suffered various forms of violence (Civic Movement "Faith, Hope and Charity")	0	21	11
Total	0	44	16
<i>Institutions where the number of women survivors of violence was from 10 to 20 persons in 2013</i>			
Chernivtsi regional centre for social and psychological support	0	13	5

7 Currently there are 22 such institutions established and functioning in Ukraine, in particular in AR Crimea, Volyn, Dnipropetrovsk, Zhytomyr, Zakarpattia, Zaporizhzhia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kirovohrad, Luhansk, Lviv, Mukolaiiv, Odesa, Rivne, Sumy, Ternopil, Khmelnytsk, Cherkasy, Chernivtsi, Chernihiv regions, in cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol.

Temporary shelter for women survivors of violence of the Centre for family and women, Desnianskyi district of Kyiv	11	12	5
Zaporizhzhia regional center for social and psychological support	5	12	4
Total	16	37	14
<i>Institutions where the number of women survivors of violence was from 5 to 9 persons in 2013</i>			
Koziatyn regional social center for mother and child in Vinnytsia region	0	9	2
Centre for social and psychological support in Lviv region	7	8	2
State institution "Khmelnyskyi regional centre for social and psychological support"	5	7	2
Luhansk regional centre for social and psychological support	0	7	2
Ivano-Frankivsk regional center for social and psychological support	0	6	4
Regional utility institution "Dnipropetrovsk centre for social and psychological support"	0	6	6
Volyn regional center for social and psychological support	11	5	0
Kharkiv division of the All-Ukrainian Charitable Fund for the Victims of Violence		5	2
Total	23	53	20
<i>Institutions, where the number of women survivors of violence was less than 4 persons in 2013</i>			
Rehabilitation centre for persons in the difficult conditions under the Poltava centre for family "Rodynniy Dim" ("Paternal home")	0	4	8
Chernihiv regional center for social and psychological support	3	3	1
Rivne regional center for social and psychological support	5	3	0
Mykolaiv regional center for social and psychological support	5	2	1
Zakarpattia regional center for social and psychological support	2	2	0
Ternopil regional center for social and psychological support "Rodyna" ("Family")	31	2	1
Social centre for mother and child in Lviv region	0	2	1
Zhytomyr regional centre for social and psychological support	1	1	1
Sumy regional center for social and psychological support under the Sumy State Regional Administration	25	1	1
Poltava regional social center for mother and child	0	1	0
Total	72	21	14
Grand total	173	260	126

In 2013 the number of clients increased by 50% if compared to 2011: 24 centres surveyed admitted 173 women clients in 2011, 260 clients – in 2013, and 122 clients as of the beginning of 2014, thus the trend towards the growing number of clients who suffered violence is observed.

By the number of clients who suffered domestic violence, the total figure was conventionally divided into 5 groups by the number of persons admitted by the institutions in 2013.

Table 2

Breakdown of clients by groups of centres and years

Centres by the number of women clients	2011		2013		2014	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Over 100 persons	62	36	105	40	62	49
From 20 persons, no more than 100	0	0	44	17	16	13
From 10 to 20 persons	16	9	37	14	14	11
From 5 to 9 persons	23	13	53	20	20	16
Less than 4 persons	72	42	21	9	14	11
Total	173	100	260	100	126	100

The number of clients of those institutions focused on the category of women survivors of violence is growing at higher-than-anticipated paces. Thus, for example, the number of women clients in the shelter for women survivors of violence under the Kyiv municipal centre for women only, in corresponding years, was 36%, 40% and 49% of the total number of clients.

The percentage of clients of centres, that admitted less than 4 persons, has decreased by 4.7 times since 2011 till 2013. This proves that it is essential to develop centres where women who survived violence would be either specialized, or at least priority category of clients.

Form of ownership of the institution. Most of institutions that provide stationary services to survivors of violence belong to communal property (58%). The second go state-owned institutions – 29%. 8% institutions are owned by non-governmental and charitable organizations, while private institutions constitute only 4% of the total number.

Capacity of the institution. 21% of institutions can accommodate up to 10 persons; 29% – from 11 to 15 persons; 38% institutions can accommodate 16-20 persons; and 12% allow for more than 21 persons daily.

63% of the institutions have 10 full-time employees, while the rest 37% – from 11 to 15 regular employees.

CATEGORIES OF CLIENTS TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE OF SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS

Women who survived violence predominantly gain assistance of centres where they are either the only or priority category of clients (83%).

But many centres focus simultaneously on several client categories (up to 16) (see Table 3). Along with women-survivors of violence they serve for individuals released from prison, homeless persons, other clients having asocial behaviour, i.e. mostly men.

Table 3
Categories of service recipients of social centres according to their regulations,
% of total number of institutions

Category of service recipients	%
Individuals who suffered from violence	83
Individuals affected by natural disaster	54
Graduates of orphan homes from among orphans and children deprived of parental care	46
Trafficked persons	46
Individuals who found themselves in difficult living conditions pursuant to the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine #608 dated 12 May 2004 (aged 18-35)	42
Individuals released from prison	29
Displaced people	13
Refugees	8
Single mothers with dependent children who found themselves in difficult living conditions	4
Homeless people	4
Women from large families, dysfunctional or single-parent families	4
Women not supported by close relatives, friends	4
Women who do not have accommodation	4
Individuals being subject to crime or under the real risk of it	4
Seven-eight-months pregnant (mostly women from among orphans and children deprived of parental care without permanent place of residence)	4
Mothers with newborn children up to 18 months who found themselves in difficult living conditions, if there is a risk of mother and child separation, danger to life and health of the mother or the child (mostly women from among orphans and children deprived of parental care, without permanent place of residence as well as those having low parental capacity)	4

In 2013-2014 most of women-clients of the institutions were citizens of Ukraine. Only 4 of 32 institutions rendered social services to foreign citizens of Armenia, Moldova, Tajikistan, Somali, Guinea, and Russia. Foreign women mainly addressed social centres with such issues as absence of accommodation and registration, the necessity to re-issue documents, employment, award of refugee status etc.

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES

To assess the availability of services the questionnaire includes the question “What are the reasons that make women survivors of violence unable to be accommodated at the institution, to become its client?” (Table 4).

Table 4

Breakdown of answers of the personnel of institutions as to reasons preventing women who survived violence from being accommodated at the institution,
% of total number of institutions

Reason	%
Presence of mental illness	79
Alcohol or drug intoxication of a woman	75
Presence of socially dangerous diseases (tuberculosis, hepatitis A, etc.)	75
Disability or illness that requires nursing care	75
Limited number of places at the institution	42
Age limit	25
Impossibility to stay at the institution with children	17
Remoteness of the institution from the place of their permanent residence	13
Lack of funding for the institution	4
Absence of official status “individual who survived violence”	4
Alcohol or drug addiction of a woman	4

The most obvious reason to refuse in accommodation at the centre is alcohol or drug intoxication of a woman (75%).

Though considerable part of refusals in accommodation at centres are attributed to health condition, as far as in majority of centres clients face such an obstacle to accommodation as the presence of mental illness and socially dangerous diseases, disability, or illness that requires nursing care (over 75%).

It means that women having serious health problems have no access to most of crisis centres if necessary.

In 42% of centres women cannot obtain required services due to the limited number of places at the institution, while all centres for mother and child pose age limits as they admit women aged from 18 to 35 only. This is one more obstacle to obtain assistance in case of violence.

It is obvious that various health- and age-based restrictions are reasonable, but under the given circumstances there is a need to establish other centres (or divisions in already existing centres) with more “soft” constraints that would enable all women to address them irrespective of their age or health condition.

Another factor that restricts women’s access to specialized institutions is the lack of information on their address, services, conditions of their provision etc.

More detailed analysis of information space of women representatives of the target group was carried based on flexible interviews with clients of these centres.

First and foremost women complained of the lack of social advertising (most mass media are not aware of such information; while some of them recalled issue-related billboards, booklets and

flyers). 5 of 6 respondents answered the question “Where did you find information about this center?” as “from social environment”, more specifically from not indifferent neighbour – nurse, friend, classmate, sister, and only one client became aware of the institution via Internet:

“One day I decided to search what can be done via the Internet. I started to read some articles. Then I came across this psychological center. And I set out to apply there. It was my last cry... and I was lucky. I addressed and gained assistance and very good assistance I think.”(Zoya, city of Zhovti Vody).

Respondents frequently underlined in the interview that many women who suffer from violence do not even have access to Internet network therefore it is quite difficult for them to obtain any information about the institution.

“We live in a small town. Not all of us have a computer as we can’t afford it. This causes difficulties. I think that I’m really lucky” (Zoya, Zhovti Vody).

It should be noted that some representatives of the target audience do not have access to any electronic mass media, including television, radio.

“I rarely watch TV. And I don’t listen to the radio. I haven’t even had a TV set at home, we drank away everything. I know that at school we were taught about rights of children and where to go. What’s then if I come to the police and tell that they beat me? Perhaps, there are such information or TV programs to help people. But I’ve heard nothing about them”(Aliona, Odesa).

One more client emphasized that she has seen outdoor advertising of centres of support for women who suffered from violence.

“I’ve never seen it. In Dnipropetrovsk I’ve never seen advertisements, posters – neither on the railway station, nor along Karla Marksa Street, nor in the Central Universal Department Store...” (Zoya, Zhovti Vody).

Answering the question “Where to your opinion is it practical to place advertising about organizations which provide assistance to women who suffered from violence?”, women clients have unanimously noted the need to increase the scope of such information, especially on external media.

“I don’t even have the words. Perhaps this information should be on stands instead of advertisements of anything else. As nowadays there are millions such women as me. Every second woman suffers from violence at home. Every second man indulges in stimulants. And then they torture their children and wife. But the state is powerless here as it is impossible to imprison everyone. Activity therapy centres are closed. (Irina, Khmelnytskyi).

One more obstacle for a woman who suffered violence is the low level of confidence in similar centres as well as myths that she should “work-off” the assistance.

“...But frankly speaking one may find such assistance. Even if it is temporary, it is necessary for one to think and acquire strength, spirit to recover to continue fight with this life. But only few women know of this. Even at work, if I talk about this, they react somehow mistrustful. Why? I don’t know” (Irina, Khmelnytskyi).

“I haven’t heard of such centres. When a girl told me, I didn’t even understand what it is going on. I thought that at first they would help, and then they will carry us somewhere to work off this assistance or sell us. But then I talked to psychologists and realized that I was mistaken.” (Aliona, Odesa).

At the same time, it appeared that most women who survived violence are afraid to disclose information on the place of their stay, they concern about confidentiality and safety.

*“Women should know about such centres. But men should not. As they may do mischief there”
(Nataliya, Khmelnytskyi).*

These concerns are justified with urgent reasons (it will be discussed below). Accordingly, it is essential to inform women actively and with all available means about institutions which offer basic package of social service (psychological, legal advice) and which (if necessary) can efficiently re-address them to institutions which provide temporary shelter.

ENSURING CLIENTS’ SAFETY

A priority task of the crisis centre for women who survived violence is to ensure their safety from perpetrators. However, this is by no means always the case that these centres manage to perform this task. Table 5 contains the question “Which obstacles arise in ensuring safety of your institutions’ clients having suffered from violence?”

Table 5

Obstacles in ensuring clients’ safety during their stay in the institution

Obstacles	Number of answers
Clients’ reliability (frequently a woman tells the place of her stay to a perpetrator)	5
Absence of signal buttons (alarm button, emergency button)	3
Absence of security service	2
Men and women have separate rooms but they use public premises (common kitchen, WC, corridor)	1
The right of both parents to communicate with the child	1
Impossibility to ensure clients’ anonymity during their cooperation with state institutions	1
The institution is open, the information on provided services is widespread within the whole region that enables perpetrators to find their victims (For example: the last case was that a man from a remote village found the address of two social institutions which provide temporary shelter using the Internet to put his wife back to the area of his control)	1
Children of women who survived violence go to schools and kindergartens where their “affectionate father” (aggressor) often persecutes them to manipulate them	1
Absence of efficient and adequate response of internal affairs’ authorities	1
Absence of corrective action on perpetrator	1
Absence of surveillance cameras	1
Absence of daytime receptionist	1

Answers of institutions’ personnel prove that not all centres provide appropriate level of security for women: confidentiality of stay of a woman is not always secured, active connection with the police and the necessary technical equipment (“alarm buttons”, surveillance cameras etc.) are absent. All this proves the need to develop new requirements for ensuring security of women in centres and their obligatory observance in all centres.

THE AVAILABILITY OF HUMAN AND METHODOLOGICAL RESOURCES TO INSTITUTIONS

Centres urgently need personnel to acquire additional knowledge, skills for the provision of services to people who survived violence.

It is quite naturally the more experience are specialists in centres, the more professional are applications for training.

Special attention should be paid to consult practical psychologists in the following areas indicated by respondents:

- General psychology
- Peculiarities of providing psychological assistance to survivors of domestic violence whose condition is aggravated by post-traumatic stress-induced disorder caused by the situation in the country
- New methods and approaches to work with individuals who survived violence
- Provision of mediation services
- Methods and practical skills to provide psychological support to individuals who survived violence

The crucial task is to systematize, summarize and spread advanced experience and modern social technologies in a wide variety of issues to deal with individuals who survived violence; to make specialists aware of changes to the legislative framework.

Professional training of institutions' personnel remains an open problem: not a single specialist in each sixth center completed training in 2013-2014.

Different centres have different opportunities of professional training even if they are located in the same city. Things are much better in non-state-owned centres with large operating history, but much worse in institutions financed from state or local budget. Thus, for example, there are two social centres in Odesa: regional communal institution the Regional centre for social and psychological support and Sofia Rehabilitation Centre for girls and women who suffered various forms of violence (Civic Movement "Faith, Hope and Charity").

Answering the question "Are the institution's workers regularly retrained?" the communal centre told "No. We haven't participated in retraining". Non-state-owned centre gave the following answer: *"Each month 7-9 organization employees visit various educational seminars and trainings organized by organization's partners, in particular ICF "International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine,"*

Accordingly, the number of employees of Odesa regional centre for social and psychological support that completed training in 2013-2014 is zero, while it equals 115 trainings in the Sofia Rehabilitation Centre.

It is essentially to analyse the centres' need in new theoretical and methodological knowledge, practical skills; to explore resources of state, non-state and international facilities; to develop modern guidelines and ensure regular training of employees of institutions.

2. WOMEN WHO SURVIVED VIOLENCE – CLIENTS OF THE CENTERS

Depersonalized database contains information on 135 women who stayed in institutions during 2013-2014. 24% of them were accommodated at social centres for mother and child, 37% in centres for social and psychological support and 39% in other centres.

Table 6

Period of clients' stay at the institution

	Total, %	Type of centre, <i>persons</i>		
		Mother and child	Social and psych. support	Other
Up to 10 days	5	1	4	1
11-30 days	12	7	8	4
1-2 months	21	4	14	7
Up 3 months	23	4	17	6
Up 6 months	16	5	6	11
6 months – 1 year	12	7	1	9
Over 1 year	23	4	0	15
Total	100	32	50	53

Most women clients (60%) have been staying at centres for the period from one to six months. But every third woman needed a longer period to solve her problem, where one fourth of clients needed more than 1 year. Short-term stay suited only insignificant part of women. Only 17% of women lived in centres less than one month.

The duration of stay in institution is conditioned by their specific nature and operational procedure. Centres for social and psychological support have the shortest term of women's stay in it. It equals at the average 2 months, though according to the operation procedure the recommended term is 3 months. Centres for mother and child may have longer term: from 7th month of pregnancy and till the newborn reaches the age of up to 18 months. According to obtained data the average period of women's stay in such centres is about 6 months, though every third client stayed there longer. The maximum term, indicated by one woman in client questionnaires, was almost three years.

According to the review, the longest term of stay have clients of centres established by NGOs. The average period here is about 11 months as far as each fourth client has been accommodated for more than one year, including cases where this period was 3 and 6 years. For this reason women clients of these centres had their term of stay prolonged.

Centres for mother and child (1 case for 31 clients) as well as centres for social and psychological support (5 of 50) practice clients' stay there for the period longer than prescribed by the operation procedure more rarely.

Quite a few clients (more than one third) leave institutions after expiration of the longest possible period. As a rule, the decision to leave is taken by a client herself. But there are some cases where employees of the institution have to expel the client. The matter is a regular violation of internal rules by a client, in particular alcohol abuse.

Most women (70%) stay at centres with their children, where 35% stay with one child and 25% – with several children. One client even lived with her grand-child. The rest of women were accommodated at the centre (29%) alone.

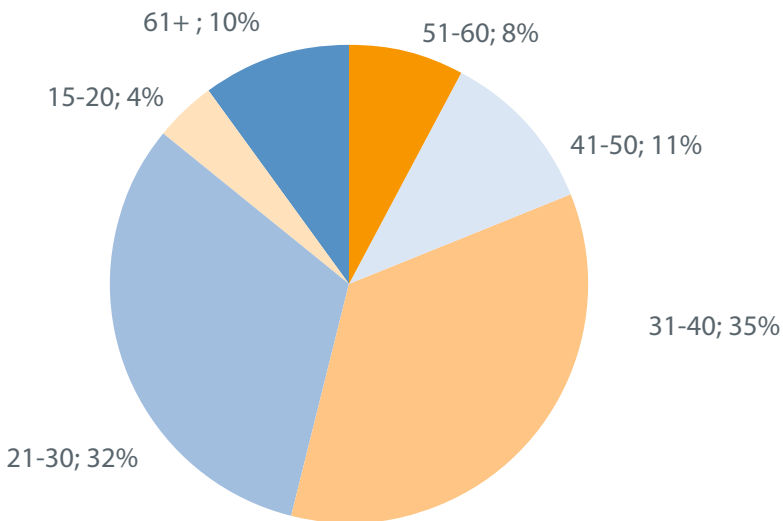
SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF CLIENTS OF CENTRES

Though social workers reported the cases when they were addressed by men who survived violence, these are women who mostly suffer from violence and consequently apply to specialized institutions.

This is proved by the data of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine. According to its operative data, 144,848 domestic violence-related applications were registered in Ukraine in 2013, where the majority – 85% (126,498 cases) were applications submitted by women.

The largest percentage (67%) of clients is presented by individuals of young and average age of 21-40 years old. Many clients (29%) were above 40 years old, in particular 18% are older than 50 years old and 10% are above 60 and older (Fig. 1). The average age of a woman-client is 35.5 years old. The youngest client was 15 years old and the oldest was 83.

Fig.1. Breakdown of clients of centres by age, %.



If you compare the age of clients of centers with age groups which are serviced by most part of centres (18-35 years), it may be concluded that women who survived violence in older age have less opportunities to obtain services of specialized institutions regardless their needs.

The analysis of clients' level of education refutes a widespread opinion that uneducated women usually suffer from violence: 31% of clients have higher and unfinished higher education, 55% – secondary education and only 14% – unfinished secondary education.

Most of the clients are economically active part of population (79%), however very few of them work (27%) and even less of them receive income that allow to financially provide for themselves and their children. Many of women are either on maternity leave (one third) or de-facto unemployed. Every fifth woman does not have any occupation.

By family status women-clients differ greatly from other women population. Percentage of married women is significantly lower, in particular 21% of women are married, 25% live with a partner, 21% are divorced, 4% – widowed and 21% – never married.

77% of women have children, 4% were pregnant at the moment of admission to the institution. Among women with children 46% had 1 child, 30% – two children, 13% – three, 11% – 4 and more.

By health condition: 66% are almost healthy, 28% had health problems and 6% women were disabled.

By type of residential area: 44% live in Kyiv and regional centres, 25% reside in other cities, 31% – in villages and rural area. This disproves another myth that rural women do not turn for help to crisis centres, is a strong argument for the development of network of centres aimed at helping rural residents.

SOME ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CLIENTS

The most important factors that raise women's vulnerability to violence are economic, social and psychological dependency from the perpetrator. Frequently this dependency is caused by the fact that a woman does not have her **own dwelling** (or at least title to a part of it). This factor depresses a woman, consequently she automatically turns dependant from her husband, cohabitant or other people, for example, mother-in-law being the owner of the dwelling. Very soon the difference of opinions grows into conflicts, including violence that a woman cannot stand against.

At the moment of application to the institution only 42% had their own house or apartment. 22% reside in a house/apartment of their husband or cohabitant; 14% rented dwelling; 1% lived in a boarding house, 12% had no place to live, 1% resided in premises unsuitable for living.

5 out of 6 women who participated in in-depth interviews did not have their own dwelling at the moment of application to the institution. As far as the dwelling where these women resided was owned by another person (husband, cohabitant, mother-in-law) respondents noted remarkable psychological and physical pressure both on them and their children, as well as the impossibility to resist it constructively as they had *"...no place to go"*.

"These circumstances were caused by my husband. I live in my husband's house together with our children. This is my second marriage. And my husband is mentally unbalanced person with sadist disposition. In public he behaves as a normal person. But at home he cultivates constant suppression both moral and physical" (Irina, Khmelnytskyi).

"...my mother-in-law hasn't liked from the very beginning, she told that I was poor and her son needs a girl from Kyiv with her own apartment... We had nowhere to go except for the mother's-in-law flat, so we moved there" (Natalia, Kyiv).

"My mother-in-law disliked everything in me: I make laundry not quite good, I cook disgusting, I pay all my attention to the child and completely ignore her husband. When I cook dinner,

leave the kitchen, she will over-salt it to make things lively for me. And then she will tell my husband that I did this as I think only of other men”.

Unavailability of affordable and social dwelling will force many women to tolerate various types of violence, raise children in aggressive family environment to have roof over their head. Great deal of family conflicts is induced by parents-in-law, if young families have to live together with them. The state shall create the market of affordable dwelling, develop and implement the social housing programme that will make possible not only to decrease signs of domestic violence, but to relieve family crisis related to intergeneration conflicts.

Another frequent factor giving rise to violence against women on the part of a perpetrator is her **financial dependency**. According to obtained data, at the moment of application to the institution only 33% of women were able to financially sustain themselves and their children, while the rest (67%) were materially dependant from perpetrator.

“...when I ruled my own business...we could afford everything. But unfortunately in 2008, when the crisis came, my business went down. I was afraid to lose material basis as my I had no profit anymore...And he earned as much as earlier” (Zoya, Zhovti Vody).

Based on in-depth interviews, 4 women out of 6 were completely financially dependent from perpetrator at the moment of application to the institution. And the level of income of two other women was lower than necessary subsistence minimum. And things are even worse if a woman-client and her cohabitant/husband or former husband have a common child. As a rule, a partner does not pay alimony, so a woman has to provide for herself and her child on her own. Furthermore, the child also suffers from perpetrator's acts as due to circumstances he/she is grown in unfavourable environment.

“This has lasted for about a year, then he started to fight with me, my mother-in-law turned me out in winter for me not to treat her son, but disregarded that he took to drinking. All in all he stopped to give money even for the child, and I was working at vegetable stand for 12 hours every second day while the child is at kindergarten” (Nataliya, Kyiv).

Quite often client's **perpetrator has alcohol and/or drug dependency**. This impairs normal communication with him, search of constructive resolution of conflicts, forms psychological co-dependency in a woman, other family members. Day by day an individual degrades, his/her mental disorders aggravate and all means to return normal relationship have no effect.

“My boyfriend appeared a drug addict... At first we argued due to lack of money... then I tried for the first time, and then if all this is going in front of your eyes, you'll volens nolens wait for drugs” (Viktoria, Odesa.)

“... In one word, quarrel by quarrel, and my husband started to come home late and drunk. I told him that he may take to drinking as he is drunk 3-4 time per week” (Nataliya, Kyiv).

“Sometimes it happened that I got up at 6 a.m. and he's drinking with his friends. There were repeated fights. Sometimes I told him that I dislike all this. I asked how he can live in such a way and what he is going to do in future. But the only answer was that I may get out if I'm dissatisfied with something. And all this was followed with offensive expletives...Then he started to beat me hardly” (Aliona, Odesa).

Benefits and allowances guaranteed by the state: at the moment of application to the institution 35% women received social benefit; 23% – pension; 10% other social allowances.

But quite often these state benefits do not equal even a subsequent minimum. Sometimes men even register all these social benefits for childbirth in their name and waste this money on alcohol, drugs, while their families do not receive these costs at all.

"Currently I suspended payment of all social allowances for him to be out of money. As far as he registered all social benefits in his name. Even my maternity benefit. He executed powers of attorney at his work and registered everything in his name. All this money went to nowhere, not to children, to nobody. Everything was spent for vodka". (Irina, Khmelnytskyi).

Absence of social and family ties: 62% had no family ties, 55% did not have support of a close social environment. There are many reasons causing such situations, where the most frequent are the following: asocial behaviour of relatives (in particular, alcohol and drug dependency of parents of a young woman or her adult children in case of older clients) or their death.

All questioned women had no social ties as well. Women-clients either did not have parents or, if they did, they did not communicate with them due to various reasons.

"Everything was great until our mother was alive. Then the mother died. My sister and I argued" (Viktoria, Odesa).

"I was born in Zolotonosha, I lived in a village not far from Zolotonosha, but now I have no one, my father has another family and doesn't get in touch with me since I'm 15, my mother died" (Natalia, Kyiv).

"My family originates from Khmelnytsk region. But my father was a military servant and we travelled all over the world. My parents stayed in Prydnistrovia. And I came here since there was a war. I got married here. So I left here. And my children were born here" (Irina, Khmelnytskyi).

Lack of self-confidence: social workers detect this problem in 89% of women-client at the moment of their application to institutions.

Women vividly described their unstable psychological condition before their application to the institution.

"I saw no way out... Absolutely... I didn't know what I should do" (Zoya, Zhovti Vody).

"...I knew neither where to go nor what to do. If it wasn't for this Centre, I didn't know what would have happened to me" (Aliona, Odesa).

"...I'm a patient person. I has been waiting and waiting. But I was exhausted. And, thanks God, that I'm here because I don't' know how it could end" (Irina, Khmelnytskyi).

"...I was simply going insane..." (Natalia, Kyiv).

Necessary family skills: 82% had necessary family skills to manage household; 62% had skills to care after children.

Readiness to incidence of domestic violence: 32% of women, as to social workers, could even provoke the perpetrator for acts of aggression; but only 15% knew about ways to prevent aggression.

It should be noted that quite often a woman may encourage a perpetrator for violence with her words and actions. During one of the interviews a woman told that she was ready and realized that she agreed to live with a person who would not like her presence at her home that was her mother-in-law. We may guess that she assumed the occurrence of conflicts, but she did not imagine the scale they can reach.

"My mother-in-law hasn't liked from the very beginning, she told that I was poor and her son needs a girl from Kyiv with her own apartment..." (Natalia, Kyiv).

The other respondent returned to her husband many times *"for children's sake"* regardless that she knew of his mental disorders and alcohol abuse.

Besides vulnerability of a woman having alcohol or drug dependency, material psychological and mental disorders grow progressively. Quite often these women behave aggressively not only in response to perpetrator. They tend to hysterical response, manipulative and provocative behaviour in any social environment, and even towards social workers of the institution. These women are the most difficult clients, as they do not want to change anything in their lives. Almost all centres for social and psychological support and social centres for mother and child have noted that there are such women. More rarely, however still among clients of centres for mother and child there are women with mental disabilities. Working with this category it is also quite difficult to reach any positive effect.

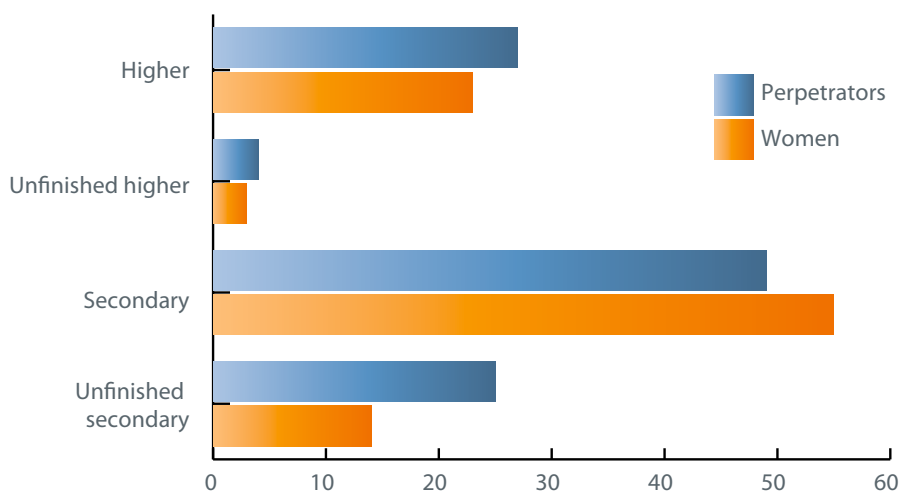
So all causes of violence against women are complex (they include both her psychological and economic dependency) and intensify with other negative factors, first of all, alcohol and drug dependency of perpetrator, his mental disorders and illnesses, too prejudiced attitude on the part of relatives, friends and acquaintances.

3. DATA ABOUT PERPETRATORS

For the first time ever the conducted survey provided a possibility to collect information about perpetrators, in particular to compile their socio-demographic profile. Most of perpetrators (91%) are men, women make up 9%.

Almost one half of perpetrators are 31-40 years old (46%), every third (33%) is older than 40, every 5th (21%) – young man aged 25-30. people aged below 25 years old were not revealed by the research.

Fig. 2. Level of education of women and their perpetrators, %



Overall level of education of perpetrators is lower than the education level of women who suffered from them. Among the first there are a lot of persons with unfinished secondary education, however one fourth of perpetrators (26%) have higher or unfinished higher education (Fig. 2).

Almost half of perpetrators (45%) do not work, and less of them (41%) are employed, while others are on retirement benefit (8%) or there are no data on them. Typical problem of most perpetrators is addiction to alcohol and/or drugs abuse.

"The young man did not want to work...He was addicted to drugs too. But I revealed this a little bit later..." (Viktoria, Odesa).

"My husband is mentally unstable person with sadist disposition. In public he behaves as a normal person. But at home he takes away my salary. Vodka. Strange friends...Now everything turned even worse. He doesn't work at all. He receives disability pension benefit – he's got confusional insanity. From the first sight he seems quite a normal person. But at home, especially when he is drunk, he is a terrible person...He's already 54 years old, without relatives. He suffers asthma. I had to wake up at night and give him anti-asthmatic drug as he could lose his breath when he was drunk. Then I had to get up, raise him, give the drug, help to take it. I thought that he would live for family and his children. I don't mind if he drinks from time to time. He's a man anyhow. He has a team, friends. But this is unbearable. I was working for vodka only... (Irina, Kyiv).

"The matter is that he not only drinks... Where there was alcohol there was marital infidelity..." (Zoya, Zhovti Vody).

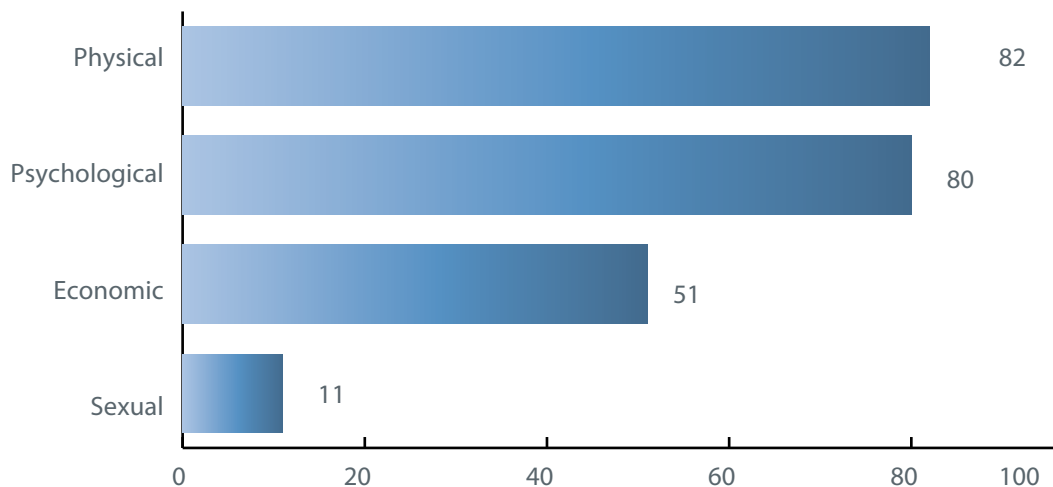
"my mother couldn't even register passport for me. She did not care how I was studying and what I was doing. We had practically nothing to eat at home as all money was spent for alcohol... Moreover, before I came to the Centre, I started dating a boy. Everything was fine during the first month. But after the second month of our relationship he also started to abuse me..." (Aliona, Odesa).

Most of the perpetrators (65%) are partners of women: cohabitants – 38%, husbands – 27%; 6% – sons; 4% – brothers; 3% each – fathers and mothers; 2% each – sisters and step-fathers; 1% each – daughters and grandchildren. 14% of perpetrators are others, in particular former-husbands, step-mother, adult children of husband from other marriage, employer, other persons who are not relatives to a woman.

TYPES OF VIOLENCE

The most widespread types of violence are physical (82%) and psychological (80%) (Fig. 3). Physical violence is understood as infliction of injuries (beating, suffocation, slaps etc.); tracing, total control etc. In 4 out of 6 interviews women mentioned physical pain as a reason to apply to the centre.

Fig. 3. Incidence of certain types of violence, %



"I managed to remove the beating, as he was given 15 days to work out... He beat our neighbour too. And fell on the police too. And he seems to receive a suspended sentence... All the neighbours know how he is... everyone is afraid of him" (Natalia, Khmelnytskyi).

"Teachers at school knew I had a bad family and they did not pay much attention to this. I could come to school all in tears or bruises after I was beaten by my step-father. But I tried not to tell much about what had happened. I just told that I quarrelled with my sister... Then when

I was living with a boyfriend he started beating me hard... Before I was taken to the Centre he beat me so much that even broke my rib. My face looked awful. I left him..." (Aliona, Odesa).

Results of the review show that physical violence may be very serious as it may imply injuries that need a professional medical aid and may pose a serious threat to woman's health: "Then he started beating me hard", "I managed to verify battery, he beat me so much that even broke my rib. My face looked awful".

Consequently, an urgent task is to criminalize grave cases of domestic violence. In particular, there is a need to revise the text of Art. 1732 of the Code on Administrative Offences, which prescribes penalties in case of "intentional acts of physical, psychological or economic nature (exertion of physical violence that did not lead to physical pain and caused body injury, menace, offence or persecution, deprivation of dwelling, food, clothes, other property per costs whereto the victim has a right prescribed by the law etc.). As far as it potentially coincides with a list of offenses specified in the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine (in particular, Art. 125 "Intentional light bodily injury" and Art. 126 "Battery and tortures") it may cause confusion as to which manifestations of domestic violence fall within administrative and which within criminal responsibility. As long as it is essential to criminalize grave cases of domestic violence, Art. 173-2 shall be revised to cover less grave cases of domestic violence.

Usually physical violence is combined with psychological, especially, if a perpetrator is mentally unstable, alcohol or drug addict. All 6 respondents who completed in-depth interviews reported that in addition to all other types of violence they endured psychological pressure, including: offences, humiliation, vulgar language; criticism, swearing, affairs, gossips, blackmail, menace, intimidation etc.

"He started to suppress me morally. No matter was he drunk or not. Everything in me irritated him: I sat wrong, I stood wrong... I put something in a wrong place, I did something wrong... Because he returned home in a state of euphoria – he had some love affairs as well... Drinks. And here was I fussing in front of him. Moral environment and financial position were very difficult..." (Zoya, Zhovti Vody).

Arguably rare (50%) women turned for help in case of economic violence. Here belong such perpetrator's acts as intentional confiscation of money belonging to a woman; absence of her financial support from the perpetrator or his subsistence, even if a woman/cohabitant is unable to provide a subsistence minimum for her; coercion to any type of work, including criminal (provision of commercial sexual services, fabrication and sale of drugs), forcing to buy alcohol and/or drugs at her own expense. There are multiple cases when men register social benefits for child birth using their card accounts and spend them for their own needs (section 2). All manifestations of economic violence are quite widespread. It was reported by 5 out 6 respondents of the interview.

"... when I was 16, I worked as a waitress because we had nothing to eat at home" (Aliona, Odesa).

"I was working almost for vodka only. I couldn't give my child even five roubles to school. Because I couldn't have money in possession. And when I was back there was no day when he was a normal man. This person is just a consumer. I thought that maybe I did something wrong. But everything was inefficient. Where there is vodka, there's no place to family" (Irina, Khmelnytskyi).

"He stopped to give money even for the child, and I was working at vegetable stand for 12 hours every second day while the child was at kindergarten" (Natalia, Kyiv).

"I've got a child. My boyfriend didn't want to work. I had to get involved into non-traditional business. My boyfriend was drug addict too. But I revealed this later. At first, we quarrelled due to the lack of money..." (Viktoria, Odesa).

According to answers of employees of centres, 11% of clients also suffered from sexual violence committed by their cohabitants, husbands, former husbands, fathers or step-fathers. We think that this indicator is somewhat underestimated as most women feel uncomfortable talking about this topic. During the interviews one out of 6 respondents admitted being under a threat of sexual violence, in particular coercion to sexual contacts, attempted rape.

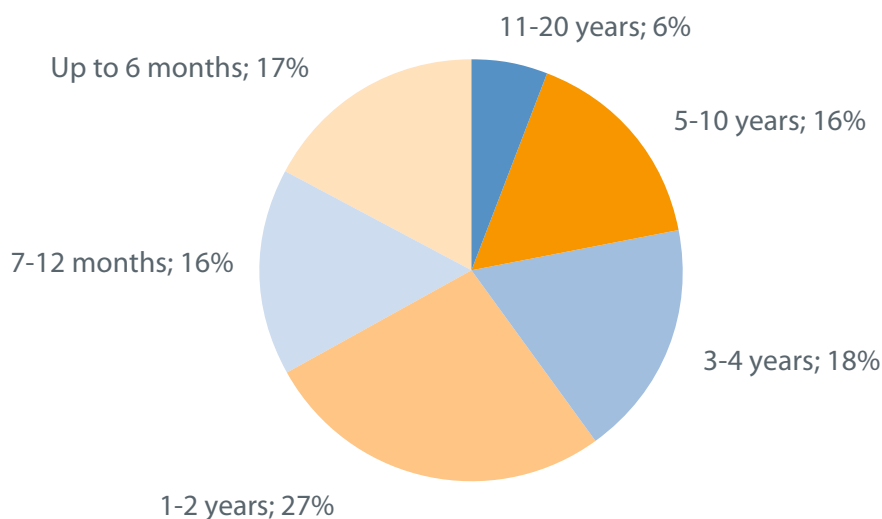
"...my stepfather who usually simply beat me, attempted to molest me, he just importuned me when he was drunk. I ran to our neighbours. I could be out for several weeks. My mother was indifferent. When he almost raped me, I decided to run away. When they were speaking I gathered those three miserable things I had and got out. I knew neither where to go nor what to do. If it wasn't for this Centre, I don't even know what would have happened to me" (Aliona, Odesa)."

Usually violence is complex. More than 2 types of violence fall to one woman, 43% of clients of centres survived at least 3 types (physical, psychological, economic).

4. COMBATING VIOLENCE AND SERVICES OF SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS

Most women were suffering violence for a long time before they applied to Centres. This period was less than 6 months for 17% of women-clients. Almost half of clients suffered from violence for several years, in 22% of cases this situation lasted for more than 5 years (Fig. 4). One of the clients – a girl of 19 years old mentioned during the interview: “I can tell in lay terms that there were only several months without violence in my life” (Aliona, Odesa).

Fig. 4. Duration of violence survived by women before their application to the Centre, %



Over a half of women (60%) turned for help to terminate violence before they were accommodated at crisis centres.

Table 7
Institutions, organizations which clients applied for help, %

Institutions, organizations	Number of applicants	Rating
1. Police	52	1
5. Centres of support for families and children	44	2
2. Courts	35	3
3. Government representatives	29	4
6. Service on children's issues	28	5
4. Representatives of local authorities	25	6
7. Territorial centres of social service (provision of social services)	21	7
8. Private social workers/psychologists and other institutions and organizations	21	8

Most often women survivors of violence turn for help to police – 52%. Relatively more rarely they address centres of social service for family, children and youth (44%), courts (35%), government representatives (29%), services on children’s issues (28%), representatives of local self-governance authorities (25%), territorial centres for social service (21%), private social workers/psychologists and other institutions and organizations (21%) (Table 7). Though 70% of clients had under-age children, only 25% turned to services on children.

Applying to government authorities, institutions and organizations many women-survivors faced indifference and omissions of employees there. Cases of refusal to accept notices about domestic violence took place in territorial centres for social service, bodies of local self-governance and courts. Cases of absence of appropriate response were faced by women in government authorities, police and courts.

Relatively effective were cases when women applied for assistance to centres of social services for families, children and youth, police and bodies of local self-governance. In these institutions women most frequently received specific recommendations with regard to their further actions, and were referred to other institutions/organizations. Specific recommendations as to ways to prevent violence were given only by the service on children issues, social centres and police (Table 8)

Despite the availability of many acts, in particular, the provision on interdepartmental interaction in case of domestic violence, this mechanism is not implemented practically. It needs revision and introduction of relevant amendments. The crucial task is to work out methodological recommendations in the given area and arrange training for executive state officers concerned.

Besides it is essential to engage local civil institutions in resolving the problem of domestic violence: to train local women’s organizations to prevent violence and eliminate it at the community level, encourage their initiative for provision of assistance to women survivors of violence.

Table 8

Where a woman turned for help and what were the results, % of those who applied

To whom a request was addressed?	Response					
	Refused to accept an application	Given specific recommendations on further actions	No response to an application	Referred to other body/institution/organization	Given specific recommendations on ways to prevent violence	Other*
1. To police	0	42	9	18	7	24
2. To court	4	26	5	0	0	65
3. To government representatives	0	24	18	18	0	40
4. To representatives of local authorities	7	50	0	14	0	29
5. To center of support for families and children	0	33	0	45	19	3
6. To service on children’s issues	0	38	0	6	18	38
7. To territorial center of social service (provision of social services)	9	9	0	27	0	55

“Other” for police this means “discussions” – according to a flexible interview.

“Other” for courts – this means an explanation why they cannot accept an application and which documents are needed for them to accept it.

ASSISTANCE OBTAINED BY WOMEN IN CENTRES

Taking into account multi-vector nature of problems that women address the specialized institutions with, the latest offer complex social support to their clients. (Table 9)

Table 9

Services provided to clients in institutions, %

Type of service	%	Rating
Psychological consultation	96	1
Protection from perpetrator	89	2
Support in medical examination	70	3
Provision of clothes, shoes, other humanitarian support	69	4
Establishment/reestablishment of positive social connections	66	5
Practical skills for taking care about a child	54	6
Establishment of positive relationship with relatives	44	7
Support in solving residential problems	28	8
Support in obtaining job	21	9
Registration for state social support	17	10
Support in registration/restoration of documents	16	11
Legal advice	16	12
Services to obtain registration	7	13
Support in applying for education	7	14

Most women find in centres not only shelter, but psychological consultations (96%), physical protection from perpetrator (89%), support in medical examination and treatment, if needed, (70%), humanitarian support (69%), assistance in establishment or re-establishment of social connections (66%).

The younger a client the more urgent development of practical skills for taking care about a child is. More than half of clients (54%) received such services. If there is a need, employees of centres provide other types of social services, related to representation of client’s interests in various government authorities, for example, for restoration of documents, registration, submission of application for state benefits etc. (from 44% to 7%).

Results of social support provided by employees of centres are listed in Table 10.

Comparative analysis of data listed in Table 9 and 10 proved most to give positive effect. The best indicator is dynamics of psychoemotional condition: 96% of women received psychological

assistance and 91% improved their psychological condition. Almost everyone who searched for protection from perpetrator (89%) has found it (86%). Efforts of the centres in restoration or establishment of social, including family, relations of clients as well as in development of skills to take care about children turned out to be effective. Assistance in finding appropriate accommodation turns out to be a more complicated task (28% of clients received this assistance, 21% – solved their problem with accommodation), as well as assistance with employment (respectively 21% and 13%) and restoration of documents (16% and 11%).

Table 10

What were the results of support obtained from employees of the Center, %

	%	Rating
Psychological and emotional condition is improved	91	1
Protection from perpetrator	86	2
New social connections established	73	3
Medical examination completed (children)	69	4
Humanitarian support obtained (shoes, clothes, personal hygiene products etc.)	66	5
Received practical skills on taking care and raising a child	56	6
Lost social connections recovered	43	7
Relationships with relatives recovered/established	35	8
Assistance in care and treatment of children obtained	33	9
Residential problem solved	21	10
State social support is formalized	15	11
Job obtained	13	12
Documents are registered/restored	11	13
Obtained legal advice	11	14
Education is arranged	7	15
Registration obtained	4	16

The efficiency of stay in centres is also proved by changes in economic, social and psychological condition of women, according to social workers. Data in Table 11 are a strong argument in favour of stable improvement of women's psychological condition as at the moment of going out of the institution most women clients felt self-confident (88%), had established social connections, including family connections, and knew the ways to prevent aggression (95%). Improvement of psychological condition of women resulted not only from psycho-therapeutical professional work, but also from resolution of a range of financial, legal, residential (rarely) problems of clients.

Table 11

Economic, social and psychological indicators of a client at the moment of application to and going out of centres, %

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>At application</i>	<i>At going out</i>	<i>Index growth</i>
1. Had her own dwelling	50	54	4
2. Had possibility to secure herself and her children financially	33	69	36
3. Obtained state benefits and assistance:			
3.1. Guaranteed state benefits and allowances to families with children	35	45	10
3.2. Pension	23	27	4
3.3. Other social allowances	10	13	3
4. Had established family relations	32	72	40
5. Had support from close social environment	40	80	40
6. Was self-confident	11	88	77
7. Had necessary skills to manage a household	82	97	15
8. Had necessary skills to take care about children	62	91	29
9. High probability that a woman can provoke aggression of perpetrator	32	17	-15
10. Knew ways to prevent aggression	15	95	80

Quantitative data on the effectiveness of assistance received by clients in centres are proved by interviews with women. They mentioned a range of circumstances due to which they consider their stay at institutions and communication with their employees really beneficial for them, in particular the following:

- Feeling of safety

I felt safe here. Here you can see just ordinary women. I came, greeted and felt myself safe among them. (Irina, Khmelnytskyi).

- Friendly attitude of employees of centres to all clients regardless their social status, personnel readiness to solve problems

"They received me in a friendly and nice manner. All employees here are nice and pleasant. All of them: accountants and all the other girls. It is seen that they sympathize people. They understand everything... People are treated well here. So it is easier to overcome such changes. If people are good, everything goes well... I could expect such attitude only among my friends in the village. I didn't expect such a kind attitude from strange people. (Natalia, Khmelnytskyi).

"We were met as if we were close relatives... Firstly it was strange to hear: don't worry, we'll do everything, we'll help you. On the other hand – we had an impression that we know these people for ages... You all are equal to them, either you are a prostitute, or a drug addict, or an alcohol addict. You are a human for them. They don't emphasize that you take drugs. They don't treat us with disgust. They smile all the time. And you realize that if your problems are treated with humour they become much easier. They don't get stuck on the problem. (Viktorija, Odesa).

"I was surprised that I was met very friendly. I was so disillusioned with this life and I thought that this world is so harsh that no one will offer assistance. But to my surprize they met me very well, listened to me, spoke to me, helped me, raise my self-confidence" (Zoya, Zhovti Vody).

-
- Appropriate level of competence of personnel responsible for search of efficient ways to solve various legal and psychological matters

"If you need to speak to a psychologist – you're welcome. The same with the legal advisor. And you didn't have to pursue anyone and beg to listen to you. Legal experts and psychologist came to us and wondered if I need anything or if I'm concerned of something. They gave us pieces of advice. I can't tell anything bad... Here they really provide assistance, but not simply send you away. So the assistance was even bigger than I could expect. That was a miracle". (Viktoria, Odessa)

"Firstly, psychologist relieved my depression. Completely. She worked, talked, advised... She convinced me to trust in myself and to live my life. The legal expert is also very competent. He suggested that I may sue all banks as I had unpaid loans... And thanks to him I submitted counter-claims... Yes, in this centre I received everything what I expected, I was helped here" (Zoya, Zhovti Vody).

- Ability of personnel to efficiently satisfy crucial needs of a woman-client, raise her self-confidence, develop skills and ability to stand for her interest at state bodies, institutions.

"Firstly, I was not left with my children on the street. I came here, and they gave clean bedding to me and my children. What is more, I came here out of money as my husband took away my wage card. They gave me meal. I can feed, give drink, wash my children... So far this is not services, this is a great assistant" (Irina, Khmelnytskyi).

So a key result of stay in crisis centres is not only ensuring temporary safety of a woman-client and her children. It also implies change of life principles and improvement of psychological condition of women and children who survived violence, development of skills of overcoming difficult life circumstances, constructive communication, overcoming a range of obstacles to ensure economic and physical independence from a perpetrator.

"They made clear that I'm human, they didn't humiliate. They raised my self-confidence, I gained confidence in future. Then I will build my life myself as nobody can do this instead of me..." (Natalia, Kyiv).

"I became more self-confident. Earlier I didn't want anything. I wanted only to be in warm place. I needed nothing else to be happy. And now I have great plans for my future now. In summer I'll work. Then I want to go to study somewhere, to complete education. Perhaps I'll live in some hostel. I'll have student allowance. I'll have to register my place of residence. I may find a good boy who will not beat me. I don't have to decide drink or not. I hate alcohol. I've seen what it is since my childhood. So I will not drink alcohol. And neither will my future husband, whom I may meet someday. And my children will never see what I have." (Aliona, Odesa).

"Having come home my husband and me sat down to talk. I started the conversation. I spoke in a manner "Forgive me everything if I were guilty of something as I may be also guilty. But let's talk... I wouldn't like to destroy the family, to leave my son without the father. Let's talk and think, perhaps we shall start everything from the very beginning. Everything is far from being so difficult and bad as we think... Some people manage to live with the same salary. As long as the town is small, we need less than we think... And as to loans, we also can resolve this matter, there is always a way out. After my return from the centre everything improved in the family. He found strength to revise everything... We thought and decided to live as one family and not to leave a son without father" (Zoya, Zhovti Vody).

Moreover some preventive work with perpetrators may be carried out at the initiative of social workers. Answers of employees of centres as to measures taken towards perpetrators are specified in Table 12.

Table 12

Measures taken towards perpetrator, %

Preventive conversation with policemen	49
Preventive conversation with employee of children's service	31
Registered with police for committing domestic violence	19
Officially notified about inadmissibility of committing domestic violence	12
Protective order issued	2
Administrative measures taken according to Art. 173-2 the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Violations	9
Fined	13
Other	31
No measures taken	12

However, the issue of effectiveness of these measures is still open. For example, 8% of perpetrators were sent for completion of correction programmes. But according to social workers, none of them have really completed this programme.⁸ Obviously, this measure may be effective only under the condition of monitoring of the fact of completion of the correction programme by the perpetrator and determination of administrative responsibility for ignoring it. Direct communication of employees of centres with perpetrators also has some results but they are not proved.

"First of all my husband and mother-in-law were called to the Centre, this helped for some time, they spoke with psychologist and social worker, and they calmed down... After a talk with psychologist my husband became more tender to me and the child. He changed his job... Leaving the center I decided to find some cheap accommodation. And my husband doesn't mind. He is different in absence of his mother" (Natalia, Kyiv).

The result of influence on perpetrator is weaker if he has alcohol and/or drug dependency. As in this case people need specialized treatment, the access to which is quite limited with low effectiveness. However this issue may be a subject of separate research.

My husband has alcohol addiction. He drinks, now on an every day basis. I think that this is already alcohol dependency. We cannot treat it in our city as we don't have appropriate specialists. But the centre also can't resolve this problem as they have another profile of activity. So we have to go to Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk – to specialists (Zoya, Zhovti Vody).

Another urgent problem is an absence of social accommodation. Even with the help of specialists of centres a great number of women who survived violence cannot solve this problem and find affordable dwelling. Thus this entails not only an actual place of residence but the impossibility to register it and to obtain social benefits according to provisions of applicable legislation.

"We didn't manage to solve residential issue... We do not have official residence registration. Despite all the lawyer's efforts she couldn't do anything. Though there are many empty houses

⁸ According to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine internal affairs authorities registered 95204 persons for preventive work related to domestic violence that is by 13.4% less than in 2012 (in 2012 internal affairs authorities registered 107951 persons). In 2013 internal affairs authorities send 5590 persons who committed violence to undergo corrective action that is 5.8% of total number of registered people (in 2012 only 2.8% of total number were covered by the correction programme). Only 1500 persons, being 1.5%, completed correction programme (in 2012 only 0.7% of total number of sent people has completed them).

in villages in Chornomorskyi district. They don't allow. They don't want to give even temporary dwelling but offer 6 acres for construction and that's all". (Viktoria, Odesa).

"This is only dwelling, they cannot solve this problem" (Natalia, Kyiv).

Based on the results of women's stay in the centre and measures taken against perpetrators, violence stopped in 20% of cases, in 43% of cases a client and a perpetrator do not get in touch anymore, in 19% – violence happens less frequently, and only in 7% of cases the situation did not change at all.

Therefore, obtained data gives reasons to speak about high effectiveness of activities of centres that provide services to women who survived violence and the necessity to develop the network of such social institutions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Improvement of social protection of women who survived violence and provision of their access to quality social services including temporary shelters is possible under the following conditions:

1. Improvement of legislative basis.

This applies to both existing legislation and a number of departmental and interdepartmental orders, instructions, namely:

- Criminalize serious cases of domestic violence: article 173-2 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offense has to be reviewed so that it covers less serious cases of domestic violence, and for more serious cases article 125 “Deliberate minor bodily damage” and article 126 “Beating and torture” of the Criminal Code of Ukraine should be used.
- Legally adjust the issue of temporary exemption of perpetrator out of the family as an alternative way to ensure shelter for survivor.
- Determine legal responsibility of perpetrator for ignoring the need to pass correction program.
- Develop and introduce a system for social order from bodies of local self-governance for provision of social services by NGOs in the area of violence prevention, creation of shelters for women who survived violence.
- Develop and introduce a national system for social housing that would allow not only to reduce manifestations of domestic violence but also to soften family crises connected to conflicts between generations.
- Review regulation about the order of inter-sectoral collaboration to address appeals on cases of domestic violence, as now this mechanism is not effective.
- Review the list of individuals who receive services (e.g. homeless people, refugees, etc.) in order to avoid conflicts within institutions. Introduce respective changes to basic documents (regulations, charters, etc.) and practical activities.
- Improve normative documents that regulate activities of communal institutions providing temporary shelters, in particular to solve the following issues:
 - there are no nutritional standards for children under 3 years old, envisaged in the centres for social and psychological support. This complicates and in many cases makes impossible stay of a woman with a child of this age;
 - a list of women who may receive assistance in social centres for mother and child need concretization. In particular there is a need to include women abandoned a child due to being subject to violence.

2. Regular methodological and training activities.

Development of educational materials on the mentioned above issues stays topical issue, as well as conduction of joint training activities for employees of different national institutions who are responsible for implementation of referral mechanism on domestic violence.

It is necessary to conduct training and education activities on an annual basis for psychologists and social workers of centres that provide services to women who survived violence. The need for the specialists of centres to learn how to apply modern technologies of social work and practical skills of crisis counselling etc. is unmet.

3. More effective utilization of existing institutional capacities.

- Actively develop specialized centres where women who survived violence would be either specialized or priority category of clients.
- Ensure provision of assistance to elderly people who survived domestic violence (especially women) in territorial centres of social services (provision of social services) including provision (in case necessary) shelters in permanent departments for continuous or temporary stay.
- Open new centres (or departments under existing ones) that would not restrain access to services for all women-survivors irrespectively of their age and health status.
- Create centres in rural areas that are oriented at provision of assistance to residents of villages/settlements or restore the institute of social workers of centres of social service for families, children and youth who would directly provide assistance in territorial communities.
- Engage local organizations of civil society into solving the problem of domestic violence: teach local women's organizations how to prevent violence and combat it at the level of community. Support initiatives of NGOs that have necessary resources to work with target group.

4. Adequate information support for women vulnerable to violence.

It is necessary to disseminate information (increase its volume) about social services in all the territorial communities. Obviously today we lack information about local institutions that provide real assistance to women who survived violence, including temporary shelters. Awareness about the rights of people who survived violence and responsibilities of perpetrators needs to be raised. Here it is necessary to take into consideration that part of target audience lacks access to modern information technologies (Internet, TV, radio).

ANNEX: LIFE STORIES OF THE CLIENTS OF THE SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS

STORY 1

*Natalia, Kyiv City, 30 years, married with a 5 year-old son
Stayed in the center from February till March 2014*

I was born in a village near Zolotonosha. Now I have no close relatives. My mother died, my father found another family, and he has not contacted me since I was about 15 years old. I got training as a seller in Zolotonosha, but did not work long, as I met my future husband at a friend's wedding in Cherkassy. After 5 months I got married. Now I live with my husband, 5-year-old son and mother-in-law in a one-room apartment in Kiev, Troyeschina District.

My story is not a one-day story. It lasts for almost 7 years. My mother-in-law has not wanted me as her daughter-in-law since the day we met. She constantly repeated me that I am poor, and her son needs a woman from Kyiv with an apartment and so only. When we got married, for the first two years we lived in the dormitory room of my husband's friend who at that time was working in Norway. Upon his return, we had to move out. We had nowhere to go except for my mother-in-law's apartment, as it is very expensive to rent an apartment. So we moved to Slavko's mother. At that time my son, Sashko, already turned 3, and that's when the problems started... Before I had little contact with my husband's mother, and now we see each other every day. My mother-in-law is annoyed by everything in me: I wash or bleach badly, I cook tastelessly, I do not look after her son at all and all my attention is drawn to the child. Sometimes, when I am cooking borsch, and briefly leave the kitchen, she puts too much salt in it on purpose, and then says to my husband that the borsch is oversalted, because I think only about men.

At first I endured everything, but once, on my son's birthday, came his godfather and gave me flowers. My mother-in-law told my husband that it was because I slept with him and it was unknown who the father of my son was. At that moment I couldn't bear it anymore and called her an "old disgusting toad". So day went after day, one argument after another. My husband stopped giving money for the child, started coming home late at night and drunk. I constantly asked him: "Do you want to drink yourself to death? How can you 3-4 times a week come home drunk?" My mother-in-law, of course, was on her son's side. She said that with good wives men do not drink. It lasted for almost a year and then my husband started to "raise his hand against me", and my mother-in-law drove me from home even in winter, so that I did not bother her son. His drinking didn't worry her a bit; she was comfortable with it.

I worked in a vegetable shop every other day, 12 hours per day, during that time my son was at the day-care. One day when there were lots of people at the market and I sold everything quickly, I came home two hours earlier. When I entered the apartment, I saw that my husband, mother-in-law and a neighbor from the second floor were sitting at the table, and my child was running on the balcony unsupervised. My heart dropped in my stomach, and my mother-in-law said: "Olenka came to visit us. She baked a pie. Slava likes it very much. You never do anything like this". And I answered her: "I know why you have invited Olena...". She has her own apartment and she lives

alone. Slavko said nothing to support me, and in the evening we argued again and he raise his hand against me once more.

In the morning, drowned in tears I went to a neighbor. She advised me to go to the Center. My friend works as a nurse nearby and knows about this institution for quite a while. When I got an appointment with a social worker and told what was going on in my family, they advised me to get my things and documents and to come there. They welcomed me. All I had to do was to take all necessary documents with me. They informed me that they can admit me even without documents, but I always have my passport and child's birth certificate with me in a bag. I never left important papers at home, so that my mother-in-law would not take them as it had once happened ... One day our marriage certificate disappeared. Then my husband with a scandal got it back from her chest of drawers with bed linen.

I was greeted wonderfully at the Center. I was working with a psychologist, social worker and they even involved a district police officer to solve my problem. He visited my husband and mother-in-law to have an educational conversation. He explained that I cannot be left in the street with a child, and he would exercise all possible means according to the law. He asked to overcome all domestic disagreements without participation of the third parties. At first my husband used to come to the Center, but then he said that he was not going to pound the pavement and when I came to my right mind, I would return back home myself.

Many women who come here often have housing problems and suffer from violence and despair. When I moved in here, we lived together with my son, but in 2 days came a 26-year-old girl with two children. Her husband in alcoholic delirium wanted to throw her out from the balcony. So, we went on living together in the Center: Olya and her children, and my son and me. Unfortunately, there is not enough information on such Centers for ordinary women, many do not know that they even exist. I had an impression that the Centers are not really interested in mass awareness about them. And indeed, in the street you can see many billboards, but none of them informs about such an important institution and services it provides. There is no information at women's health clinics either. But it's a chance for people who suffer from violence. If not for my neighbor, I would have never found out about it. At least for a short period of time I could have a rest, the child became calmer, since I have no one to support me.

I was positively impressed by the center. We were treated well, with respect, understanding, without insults. Everyone tried to solve my conflict with the mother-in-law, but she doesn't want to listen to anybody, and what is more important – she doesn't believe anyone. My husband is a very mild person by his nature and can't make decisions. He thinks that his mother is older, wiser, with a greater experience and she has no intention to cause harm. At first my husband and mother-in-law were invited to come to the Center to speak with a psychologist and social worker. They even calmed down for some time. The mother-in-law went to visit her sister, said that I had brought shame upon her in the neighborhood, when I had left with the child. She said I had made her look as a real monster in the eyes of other people. She stated that my main goal is to take away her apartment, but these words are complete nonsense. My child was taken care of by a social counselor. My son became calmer, started to draw more. He likes it when nobody screams or argues, and when there are other children to play with and have fun. It pleases me so much that somebody cares about my child and me. We were given children clothes, cookies and tangerines. There were no problems or conflicts between the Center's personnel and me. We felt really good here, and I am infinitely grateful to all of the Center's workers, but I have to restore my life somehow, soon my son is going to school.

The only remaining unsolved problem is a housing problem. My child and I continue going to the Center just to play, talk to the psychologist, social counselor, to everyone there. I have been made to understand that I am a human being after all, my self-esteem has been raised, and the confidence in the future has been aroused in my heart. At first, I didn't keep my hopes and expectations about the Center high, I was just going crazy. But now I'm not so frightened as I was. I am going to build my life myself, as no one can do that better than me. Now I know that any time I can ask for aid and support, find shelter. Now I decided to look for inexpensive accommodations and my husband seems not to object. While his mother is away, he turns to be absolutely different person. Maybe Slava will reconsider his attitude to the family; I hope everything will change for the better. After his conversation with the psychologist, he became more attentive to the child and me, changed his work. Now he works as a taxi driver, does the night shifts (night fees are higher, and so his salary is higher, too). I think everyone invested a lot of effort. Even my husband tried to talk to my mother-in-law peacefully, in the manner he had been taught by the psychologist, but as I have already said that conversation lead nowhere. She hates me so much, that at times it terrifies me. I also don't like her, but at first I very much wanted her to like me.

My mother-in-law went to her cousin's summer cottage in Sumy for six months. I believe she will be back not before September, and by that time we will move to a rented apartment. We plan to save some money. It may be possible to rent a small apartment in Troyeschina District for 2800-3000 hrn. per month. I hope we will succeed in this. Now I live in the same apartment, where I lived before.

While staying at the Center during one month, I understood that I had to go home in order not to lose my husband. In fact, he changed his tune and even told his mother not to bother my child and me, while before he was afraid to say a word against her. I'm not sure if it will last long, it still remains to be seen.

STORY 2

*Natalia, Khmelnytsky Region,
married with two children*

I live a village near Khmelnytsky City. I work as a general laborer for a private entrepreneur. I came to the Center due to domestic conflict – I am a victim of my husband. I suffered from violence for four years before I contacted the Center. For the first year it was bearable, but then something horrible started... The disagreements in my family sometimes led to such conflicts that I had to call the police. On the call arrived several policemen and took my husband, but in a while they released him and the story repeated from the beginning, again and again. Last time I had a chance to have battery-induced injuries verified and my husband got 15 days of corrective labor for his behavior. Unfortunately, such appeals led to no result; there were no positive changes in his actions. Everyone knew of such a terrible character and temper of my husband: relatives and neighbors, but it's not that they were afraid to help, they even didn't want to talk to him once again.

A friend of mine recommended going to the Center, without her I would never have found out about its existence. At first I went to the public protection service. Its officers informed me that in the city there was an institution, which offered protection from violence – “Child Guidance and Family Counselling Center”. It was not difficult for me to be admitted to the Center. The administrator of the department explained what I needed, told how I could get there, gave me her phone number. Upon my arrival she helped to file all the documents required for further placement. There were no problems with documents. After medical examination my children and me were placed at the Center.

We were welcome here. People who work here are very polite and pleasant. It is clear they are compassionate, understand everything and put themselves in your shoes. Together with the Center's workers we discussed every step that I have to take to overcome all my troubles. Here I was offered not only psychological support, but also assistance with accommodation, since I am not going to return to my village – I'm afraid for my children and myself. They found an accommodation for me, explained how I could solve all legal problems between my husband and me. Such issues take time in solving. At the moment court hearings are held, and we need to solve property issues. I hope my children will get at least something.

The most impressive was the attitude of the Center's workers to my children and me. I could expect such communication only among real friends or good acquaintances, but here strangers were so kind. I never expected it. There were absolutely no problems in communication with the personnel. I got great support at this stage of my life. My kids and I got psychological aid, the housing problem is almost solved, and we are going to solve all other issues after moving to our new dwelling. There aren't any unsolved problems left for now, the Center's workers exercised their best efforts and I contributed to our cooperation. The institution is very good and there should be more of these institutions to go to, as anybody can get into a situation like this. It is really bad that the information on these Centers is not available to all women, but I also believe that men should not know about their location as they can cause much grief.

Now I have many plans, though I am a bit at a loss right now. While the housing problem is being solved, I want to arrange a day-care for my children; I plan to find a job and live peacefully in my new home.

STORY 3

*Olena, Odesa Region, not married
Stayed at the Center for three months*

I live in a small town in Odesa Region, Velyko-Mukhailivsk District, near Odesa City. As a child I had very good relations with my mother, but I rarely saw my father – only once a year. When I turned 8 years old, my mother brought a man to our house. He was younger than her for about eight years. Before that my mother spent lots of time with me, paid me much attention, but when she started to live with him, she began to drink much and forgot my name. If she didn't like something, she could throw me out into the street even at 3 or 4 a.m. She didn't care about my studies and what I were doing. I came home at 12 a.m., when everyone was sleeping, and left at 6 a.m., though I could sleep till 8 a.m. as the school was nearby. But she didn't care. There was almost nothing to eat at home and all money was spent on alcohol, all belongings were sold. When I was 16 years old, I worked as a waitress to earn some money for food. In this way I got my first work experience, however, my employers were not very pleased with me as I were underage and without passport.

I waited till I turned 18 years old and left home. My friends told me that there was a special institution – “Faith. Hope. Love” – and one of my classmate even took me there. I have a certificate of general education. I completed 9 years of school education. However, I rarely attended school. Especially often I ditched school during the 9th year when I had my shifts as a waitress. I didn't continue my studies and didn't get any official profession. The teachers at school knew I had a bad family, but didn't pay much attention. I could come to classes in tears and covered in bruises after being beaten by my stepfather, but I tried not to tell much about what had happened. I just told that I got into an argument with my sister.

Now I have no contact with my mother, as well as with the stepfather and I don't want to have any contact with them in the future. They became complete strangers to me. I haven't seen my mother for more than a year and I am even happy about it, as I don't want to see her, if only from afar, but not to live with her. Even when she asks me to forgive her, I will not be able to forget everything that happened to me. How could they throw me barefooted out into the street in winter at 15 degrees below zero? Then I even got pneumonia. I rarely saw my relatives, they lived in a village and I had nowhere to go. There was no place, where I could go and be sure that I wouldn't be driven away again. I had a sister. She is 10 years older than me, but when the stepfather appeared, she moved away from home.

I was going out with a guy. Everything was all right for the first month, but from the second month he started to give me a bad time. We lived together and there were movements when I woke up at 6 a.m. and he was drinking with his friends. One of them already lying and watching TV. There were constant fights. I told him many times: “I don't like it!”, asked: “How can you live this way? What are you going to do next?” He answered in foul language and told me that if I didn't like it, then I should leave him. He started beating me hard. Last time, before I was taken to the Center, he beat me so hard that I had my rib fractured. I was head-to-toe covered in bruises.

My friends took me to the Center. Here I lived alone. They helped me to get a passport, provided with medical care, took to the police to have battery-induced injuries verified. The police looked for my domestic partner, but they couldn't find him as he rented an apartment and didn't have any registration. I would like to add that I suffered from violence since I was a child: from 8 till 18 years old. Before I got placed in the Center, I could count days when I didn't suffer from violence with the fingers of one hand. I was beaten very hard. Just before I left home, my stepfather who usually simple beat me, tried to harass me, touched me while being drunk. When this happened I ran to the neighbors. I could be

away from home for weeks, but my mother didn't care. Last time he almost raped me. Then I decided to run. When they were in the kitchen, I gathered my three pitiful pieces of clothing and left. I had nowhere to go, I had no idea what to do. I even didn't have a passport. If not for this Center I cannot imagine what would become of me. I came to my friend and she said that she had acquaintances who worked at the Public Organization "Faith, Hope, Love", they would be able to help. In the Center I spoke with a psychologist, in fact, I cried more than talked. It was a great psychological trauma for me. Then we went to the police, where I repeated everything.

During the first month of my stay at the Center I often had nervous breakdowns due to mental disturbances, and even now sometimes it happens again. But the psychologists helped me a lot. If not for them I cannot imagine what would become of me. I often got bad thoughts in my head... Before I sought help only from my friend as I didn't know anyone with whom I could speak, and I had never heard anything about such Centers. When my friend first told me about it, I didn't understand at all what was she talking about. I thought that at first they would help and then they would take me somewhere to work off or would just sell me. And only after speaking with the psychologists and other workers, I understood that I was wrong. The information on such institutions is unavailable, so now I tell about them to all my friends, even to those who have good families. Their acquaintances may need support, but the addresses of such centers are nowhere to find. If you go past it, you may notice the sign with the name, but actually it's quite difficult to find. There should be advertisements, but not on TV. For example, I don't watch TV much and don't listen to the radio. I had no TV at home, because all money was spent on alcohol. I know that at school we were told about children's rights and where we could go, but could I really go to the police and tell that I was being beaten? Now I have radio, TV and Internet, but with my work I have not much time to follow everything. Maybe there are information or programs on how to help people, but I have never heard of them.

It wasn't difficult to be admitted to the Center. At first I came not alone, but with a friend. I was very welcome there. Very good people work there, they support and help, make you think positive. At first I was a little bit shy. I was all beaten, covered in bruises, I thought that when they looked at me, they would send me away... However, they started talking to me kindly: without insults, scoffs, nothing like that. Together with the Center's workers we went to the police, I had battery-induced injuries verified in the presence of a psychologist, because I myself couldn't tell anything normally. Then I was unable to string two words together, as I couldn't stop crying. I had nervous breakdowns. During the first month of my stay at the Center I could do nothing more, but stay in bed and cry, only sometimes I came out to eat. I wanted absolutely nothing. Together with the Center's workers we discussed my problems and how to solve them, how I needed to get my own documents, because without documents you're "nobody". Soon they helped me to get a passport. Next month, when I got a passport and started to work, I began to forget about everything bad that happened to me. Now I plan to get a work record book.

To be honest I never expected such help. I believed that they would simply sit and talk with me and then would forget about me. Instead, they called me and said they could help, though I understand that I am not the only one who needs help. Many people need help both moral and financial. I was treated very kindly. Sometimes it seemed that they treat me like their own child. The social workers I was in touch with even brought me food. I could freely come and go any time I wanted, even late at night, but I never wanted that. I only went to work and returned back here. I absolutely didn't want to wander somewhere else. At my work I only asked to let me go at certain hours as I didn't want to walk at night. In the afternoon I went to a shop or where I needed, but otherwise there was no need. The Center's workers helped to solve my psychological problems, as well as some legal issues. The most impressive for me was the kind attitude of both volunteers and social workers. They never made fun

of me, when I addressed them with any request. They always helped me and treated me as a person, as a human being.

I still have many unresolved issues. I want to get an education, to enter some educational institution, work, but I plan it to be sometime closer to autumn. Maybe I will succeed as it's impossible now to be without education, I don't want to work as a waitress my whole life. I have many plans for the future. I want to have my own house, and a family. To be honest, this is what every girl wants, so to speak. I will never treat my child the way I was treated in my childhood. Sometimes I want to ask my mother why she didn't send me away to an orphanage, if she couldn't feed me? Why did she tortured me all that time? Now I gradually start to trust people, but with caution. After my boyfriend and stepfather it's so hard to do. At first, I started to trust the psychologists with whom I spoke. Before I tried not to tell anybody anything. I was afraid that they would reproach me and say that I was bad, because I had nothing. I was afraid of being made fun of, and the psychologists were the first people in whom I confided.

Now the Center's workers help me to renew my registration. I want to ask the Center for legal help again, but now I am short of time, because of my work. When I get my registration, I will go to study and so I will move forward. I believe they did everything they could, everything that depended on them. It is clear they can't buy me a house, because they are ordinary people with their own life stories, but they have supported me in a difficult situation. The social workers stayed with me, when I came from work and needed to talk. I was like a child that comes from school and tells her mother what happened during the day. As a child I was not able to do that. I was looking for a person to talk to. I was just a "mouse" before. At school my peers had cell phones, good things, they talked about computers, they all had pocket money, and I had none of those. The Center's workers stayed with me till late evenings, though they had their own families, children and problems. Indeed, they have done everything possible for me and left only pleasant impressions. Even now, when I ask them for help, they never say no. I will be grateful to this people all my life. Even now, when I come to them, I see how they talk to others. Different people come to the Center, not only beaten like me, but they treat everyone very kindly. When I got free time, at least several hours, I try to come here, because here I feel at home. The workers offer cookies and sweets, when they have it, they never take anything home. I can sit and watch TV here, and the sofa is so comfortable.

I stayed alone at the Center for 3 months. Nobody asked me to leave. I just got a job and started to earn money. I knew that I wasn't the only one who needed help. So since there was an opportunity to move out, I decided to rent a room and let another person in a similar situation to come in my place, a person who needs help more than I do now. That's what I decided. After leaving the Center I've changed, became more self-assured and self-confident. Before I wanted nothing, only to get warm and that was all I needed to be happy, and now I have great plans for the future. In summer I will continue working, then I will go to study. Maybe I will live in a dormitory, get a scholarship. Maybe I will meet a good guy who won't let loose with his fists, let alone legs, and so on. The only thing has not changed – my attitude to alcohol. Since childhood I saw what it is like, so I will never drink and my future husband, if I have one, also won't drink. My children will never see what I have seen.

I don't want to meet my stepfather or mother. I do not visit them, because I have no relatives there. My ex-boyfriend lived in the city. I showed his apartment to the police, but there was no one inside, because he rented it. I also hope I will never meet him again. Psychologically I remember everything, I'm still afraid of any relations with guys, I will wait. At this moment I'm more concerned with my work. I want to get an education and don't want to think about any relations. I often come to the Center. They will never drive me away. This place you can call "home", here you can get help, and I really hope that nothing bad will ever happen to me again.

STORY 4

*Zoya, Zhovti Vody Town Dnipropetrovsk Region, married with a 15-year-old son
Stayed in the Center for two weeks*

I have a higher education. I am a production engineer by profession. I have a great work experience in different sectors. Recently I was involved in bakery and confectionery business.

I am a victim of my husband. When I had a business, the whole family used to go on vacations; we made very good money and indulged in every pleasure. In 2008 due to crisis my business fell apart like a card castle. That's when everything started... My husband began to drink and reproach me that I had driven the family to bankruptcy, because there had been bank loans and unpaid debts left. All the time I heard the same... Drinking, reproaches, humiliation... Previously I led a normal full life and never thought about psychological assistance. I was completely involved in the business, and, in fact, everything was normal. I had a good family with its customs and traditions. We were successful, but with time the situation aggravated: my husband started drinking and not only that... When there was drinking, there also was cheating – I felt that, though I never checked, because I can't spy on a person or pry, call, eavesdrop, look into the other's cell phone and read SMS messages. No, I didn't do that. But any woman always feels when she is being cheated, and other people implied it a couple of times... I understood everything and joked about it in order not to show that I realized it. It was easier. Let them think that I'm a fool, but not a woman who knows everything and continues to live with such a husband. I was afraid to be left without financial support, because it's always more difficult at first to be well off and then poor than vice versa – at first to be poor and then well off... I was afraid. I had no income and my husband's business thrived – he earned as much as before.

My husband started to control all the money, to look, listen, follow how much or where I take the money. He started to buy food himself, so that I could not buy something for myself. I'm not even speaking about buying clothes. Our relations turned to be that way that I even had no right to buy sweets. When my husband was drunk, he was rude and morally oppressed me. Soon this humiliation continued even when he was absolutely sober. He was annoyed by everything in me: how I sat or stood, where I put something or what I did ... He came home in euphoria from cheating and alcohol, and here was I – glimmering before his eyes... Moral climate became very strained and financial situation – very hard.

Finally, all my forces left me, it seemed like there was no way out. One evening I decided to look up in the Internet what could be done in my situation, and I found several articles on this topic and a message about the Social and Psychological Assistance Center. So I decided to go there. It was my last heartfelt cry... I thought: "Maybe it's my luck?". And it really was my luck. I contacted the Center, and I'm sure I got very good help there. But it's not easy to find information about such Centers. Our town is small, not everyone has a computer at home due to the general social situation. I believe I was just lucky. I have never seen any information about the Center neither in Dnipropetrovsk, nor at the railway station, nor in Karl Marks Street, nor at the Central Universal Department Store; I have never seen any advertisements or billboards...

It was not difficult to be admitted to the Center. At first I called and then arrived. I was welcomed with respect and understanding. The Center's workers listened to me and we discussed how to solve my problems. They helped me, gave advice, and I'm very grateful to them. First, phycologist completely removed my depression, spoke with me, gave advice, made me believe in myself once more, made me understand that I should not be sad, should not give up, but instead I should live and be happy about every day of my life. They also have a very good lawyer. He advised to file countersuits to banks on outstanding loans. Without the lawyer's consultation I would never be able to solve this problem.

Moreover, I didn't know it could be solved. I believed that if a bank filed a lawsuit, it was always right. It turned out to be different, since it is possible to file countersuits. The amount I owed was overwhelming; I had no idea where to get the money and thought that all was lost, but after the lawyer's advice I got hope. He explained that this amount was accumulating like a snowball, and it was unreasonable and unlawful. This amount should have been "stopped" long time ago, but the banks always hope that a person won't get to the bottom of it, and so they put you on a clock and that's it. The lawyer told me how to do it correctly, how to write a claim, whom I should contact. I was provided all kinds of assistance as I expected. All my expectations and hopes were fulfilled in this Center. I was so disillusioned in life, thought this world to be so harsh that no one would ever offer me a helping hand. But, surprisingly, here they welcomed me, listened to me, spoke with me, helped to raise my self-esteem.

I can't say anything unpleasant, I haven't expected such attitude. These two weeks I spent thinking a lot. I was wrong about many things as well; lots of things also depend on a woman. Back then, when I was a business-lady, he could be feeling oppressed. While my child and I were staying in the Center, he called and I told him: "Don't worry, we're in Dnipropetrovsk. We're fine". When I came back home we sat down to "negotiate" and I started the conversation. I said: "Forgive me if I really was guilty of anything, but I'm not ideal. Let's talk... I don't want to ruin the family, to leave our son without a father. Right now he is going through transitional stage. Let's think. Maybe we need to start with a clean slate. Not everything is so difficult and bad as we imagine it... People manage to live with a small salary. Moreover, our town is small, so we don't need as much as we think we do... And as for the loans, it also can be resolved, because there are no dead-end situations".

I tried to talk to my husband before, but all those conversations were different. There were mutual insults: he insulted me and I insulted him... All this led to a scandal. But, upon my arrival from the Center, we just talked. I didn't let him to be nervous, angry, tried to suppress his aggression, to convince him, and I believe I more or less succeeded in it. Everything turned around for the best in my family. He gathered his forces to think and decide that we need to move on together as a family and not to leave our son without a father.

The main reason for my problems is the influence of alcohol on my husband. He continues to drink 200 grams of alcohol every day. I consider it alcohol addiction. We can't treat it in our town, because there are no appropriate medical professionals here. This issue can't be solved at the Center, as it belongs to a completely different sphere. We have to contact medical professionals in Kryvyi Rig or Dnipropetrovsk. I am sure I will convince him to start treatment. He needs to understand that he really requires treatment and has to work hard to overcome his addiction.

In general, I am happy with the assistance provided in the Center. I think such institutions should be opened even in small towns, maybe their branches. Not every woman suffering from violence and lacking money can go at least to the regional center. And even in our town there are many people who need help. Many of them drink, men torture their wives, so I want to open a similar institution in our small town. After my stay in the center, I looked at things with different eyes. Recently I found a job in the Internet. I started to earn some money. Now my life is easier and more comfortable. Now I feel that I contribute to the family budget, and it raised my self-esteem. While I stayed in the center, my husband called periodically. At first, he didn't know about my whereabouts, then I told him where I was. I had no reason to stay away from home longer, because he called and asked, and I understood much during this period. After staying there for two weeks, I decided there was no reason to delay my return. Now we live as a family, in one apartment, and keep the house together. If not for alcohol, everything would be perfect. And if, God forbid, I were in the similar crisis, I would go to this same Center for the second time.

LIFE STORY 5

*Iryna, Khmelnytsky City, has two daughters
Now she is staying in the Center*

I am staying in the Center with two daughters for two months. My older daughter is 8 years old, and my younger daughter is 7. I have secondary education and I work. Life circumstances turned out that way that for three years now I work as a cleaner after nine years of working as an accountant. My relatives and I are from Khmelnytsky Region. My father was in the military. Our family lived in many different corners of the world. Now my parents live in Transdnistria, but I moved here, while there was a war. Here I got married and gave birth to my children.

I live in my husband's house together with the children. My husband is a psychologically unstable man with sadistic inclinations. In public he behaves normally, but at home there is constant physical, moral and psychological oppression. He takes my salary, drinks and brings home some dubious friends. I endured it for a long time, before I took my children with the help of the police and came here. That's my second time in this institution. Two years ago I also lived here for some time. But, as any normal woman, I want a family, a father for my children, a house. I tried to mend relations with my husband, but today everything is getting only worse. He doesn't work. He receives a disability pension (schizophrenia). He looks like a normal person, but at home, especially when drunk, he becomes terrible. All this started to influence the children. My younger daughter began to choke, a choking cough appeared due to the constant nervousness. As I'm a very patient person, I delayed and delayed, but now my forces left me... Thanks to God, my children and I are now in the Center, as I don't know how it could have ended.

Two years ago I came to this institution seeking for assistance in rebuilding relations with my husband. At that moment I was ready to get a divorce. But when we met, I felt sorry for him. I thought that nobody needs a person of his age – and he is 54 now. He has no relatives, no one. My motherly feelings arose as I always considered him my third child. My husband suffers from asthma. When he has an attack at night, I have to get up and give him his spray bottle, help him with it; and when he is drunk, he can choke. On the other hand, somebody needs to clean, to wash, and to cook. I stayed here briefly – about a week – and decided to return to my family. I believed that if you showed a person such kindness, he would seek it and value your care. He has nobody except for the family with two small kids. I hoped he would live for his family and children. Of course, I accepted that he could drink from time to time, because he is a man, he has a company, his friends. But, in fact, it's horrible. I worked only to buy vodka and couldn't give 5 hryvnias to a child for school, because I was not allowed to keep my own money. When I came back, there was not a single day when he was normal. I thought that I was doing something wrong, maybe he needed a different approach, but all of it was in vain. Where there is vodka, there is no family. My family's problems last for about 10 years now. Usually no one wants to interfere in the family problems, let alone resolve them. I asked for assistance at the Child Protection Board. They even came and spoke with my husband. But that didn't help. He pretended to listen, nodded, said: "All right, everything will be fine", but as the doors closed behind them, the horror began. It became worse. Police? And what could police do? They are strangers. They can't tell him: "You behave badly" He knows that perfectly well. I suppose it's impossible to affect him. He is sick, and he just uses everyone. The first time I went to the police was a long time ago, when I was pregnant with my second child and had to run away from him at night with my older daughter. There was no result. They said: "What can we do?" Police can only talk to such people and that's all. There are no

Medical-Labor Centers today, and he has never been seen drunk in a gutter. As a decent man he goes home, occasionally hitting sidewalks. But at home... when schizophrenia is joined by vodka, there is no sleep, nothing. In the morning he doesn't remember anything. In such days I sleep with the children in their room and I am so worried that when I fall asleep he may do something to my children. So I almost don't sleep.

To be honest I didn't what to go to the police, but my nerves were on edge, I couldn't bear it any more. Nearby lives my husband's friend, he is like my husband. I work from 7 a.m. till 9 p.m. Two days I'm at work and two days – at home. I have chosen this schedule on purpose. One day, when I returned home at 10 p.m., my children and I became the objects for humiliation and beating. In despair I went to the law enforcement authorities to save my children. As of today I stopped all his social payments in order to make him run out of money. All social payments, even my maternity benefits, he registered in his name. Through his work he got powers of attorney and registered everything in his name. Absolutely everything went down the drain. Even the children got nothing. All money was used on vodka. And now he comes to me and asks to come back home, because he is out of money. He even reproaches me how I could stop all payments and take money from the family. How could I? I did it, because of vodka. He will drink less. Besides, he has a pension. Let him drink away his own money. Now he started to manipulate with the house. When we got married, the house was in his private ownership. For me it's better to live in a gutter than return to my previous life. My beautiful, cleaver and good girls deserve a better life. I want them to learn from good examples.

At first I found out about the Center from my cousin. She also lived here for some time – she left her husband with three kids. Now she is divorced. I visited her in her apartment and she gave me an advice. I contacted the Child Protection Board, explained my situation and they sent me here. But there is very little information about the Center. When I was going here by taxi with all my belongings, as I was moving them to the Center, I tried to give a driver the Center's card. I said that as he was driving people this information might be useful to someone. There are many women like me. But the driver responded that he was not going to be involved in such advertisement. People do not believe that it's possible to find help. I know it's temporary, but I need it just to sit down and gather my forces, to restore myself and to continue fighting. When I tell about the Center at work, everyone is suspicious. Why? – I don't know. I believe information on these institutions should be on billboards instead of other advertisements, because every other woman suffers from domestic violence, every other man drinks and tortures his children and wife. And the state is powerless. Thanks to God, when I was moving in here, there was no queue, but usually there is a queue for placement in the Center. To get all necessary documents for placement you need a fluorography and medical screening, and that's all. It's not difficult. It could be done in one day. I came here and calmed down. I felt protected among ordinary women. I came, said hello and I felt that my children and I were safe here. I spoke with a psychologist. Alla Fedorivna shows one situation, another situation, but any woman has her own choice. Everything should be done step by step. For example, today I need to go there and get a certificate. In other words, you should have a goal. And, as Alla Fedorivna says, you need to break the triangle of violence. If the woman is ready, it should be broken. For example, with the support of a social worker I stopped all social payments to my husband.

When I was packing up my things and moving to the Center, social workers called the police. In 10 minutes they arrived. Together we entered the house and I quietly took my things. As of today I am getting divorce consultations. Here there is a free lawyer who consults and helps to fill in applications. All the workers here talk to you as if at home. They don't let you to "draw into your

shell". First, my kids and I were not left in the street. Second, the children and I came here without any money, and immediately we were given food rations and clean bed linen. Here I can provide my children with food and drinks; I can wash them and their clothes. It's not just assistance, it's a great help. It feels like here everyone knows each other for 100 years. I haven't expected it. When a woman sees only a dead-end without any glimpse of light, she becomes angry at the whole world. But when you are accepted as you are, you aren't forced to hide something about yourself and your situation, than you cool down. You feel that you're not alone. Experienced people work here, they know how to behave with a person in a difficult situation. If I don't understand anything, I ask again, ask for another explanation.

Now my husband doesn't get the children's money, I took away all my belongings. Now I am obtaining certificates for the divorce. And this is very important for me. You can't go to any social services related to money alone. They ignore you, unless you come with someone competent. Then everything is different. Such person enters and presents himself as a social worker from a certain institution, asks to answer a certain question. I would never have resolved it myself.

The Center's workers invested a lot of effort to solve my problems. It's impossible to do it quicker than they did. My communication with the Center's workers affected me very much. I am a person that needs to be pushed (when it's bad, let it be bad, when something is absent, let it be absent), but when I'm told "Go!", then I go and understand that it was the right decision and I need to go.

After staying in the Center I came to a conclusion that only I can solve my problems. Now I live in the present day and without my divorce stamps and papers in mind. Life and papers are different things. It will be quite hard for me in the future. Two small kids, and a salary of about 2000 hrn. And I will need to rent an accommodation. It will be difficult. But I'm sure that somehow it will work out. I won't take a long shot, but I'm sure that I have protected my kids from violence. I'm fed up of being covered in scars and bruises, my physical forces left me.

If it could be possible to evaluate the institution where I got help with a five-point scale, I would give it a five with a plus. Even relatives don't help in that way. The Center's workers support, give advice, but it is the woman who takes a final decision. And the result depends on how quickly she will act. Look, the center has only two rooms, but how many women who need help... Those three months provided to a woman to overcome her crisis – it's not enough. In the process of divorce, a woman is accompanied by financial expenses, problems, depression. The network of such institutions should be expanded and the time of stay should be extended.

Now I have plans for the future. I want to rent a temporary accommodation and move there with my kids, so that they could normally attend school. And I could normally work and provide for my children. I want to break all my relations with the husband, even legal ones. I want to live calmly. Come back home from work and know that there are my children waiting for me, but not arguments and fights.

**EVALUATION OF AWARENESS ON THE EXISTENCE
OF THE UN CONVENTIUNON ON ELIMINATION
OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
WOMEN AND RESPECTIVE LEGISLATION**

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1. PRINCIPLES OF RESEARCH

On 12 March 1981 Ukraine ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW – hereinafter Convention) and since then has committed to implement its provisions in practice and submit national reports on measures taken to meet the obligations at least every four years. In 2010 it presented the sixth and seventh reports on implementation of the Convention, and took a number of steps based on observations and recommendations set out in the Convention. In September 2014 Ukraine shall submit the VIII National Periodic Report to the CEDAW Committee. The Report is being prepared under the supervision of the Department of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.

The United Nations Population Fund supports the Government of Ukraine in the implementation of the obligations under its international agreements in the field of gender equality and supports the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine in the preparation of VIII National Periodic Report to the Committee on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. In order to assess the public awareness of the existence of the Convention and the possibility for its implementation a survey was conducted among adult population of Ukraine. **The purpose of the survey** is to obtain valid and reliable data on the Ukrainian population's awareness of the presence of international and national legal instruments that enable compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

In addition to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), other international laws governing the issue of discrimination and violence against women include:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- The Convention on the Prohibition of Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution of others (1949)
- European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950)
- Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (1956)
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Girls, Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)
- The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993)

Specific documents in Ukrainian legislation also govern the prevention of discrimination, gender equality and preventing violence against women. In particular, the documents currently in force include:

- The Constitution of Ukraine (28 June 1996), Chapter II, 'Rights, Freedoms and Duties of Man and Citizen'
- The Law of Ukraine 'On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men' (8 September 2005), Chapter IV 'Equal rights and opportunities for women and men in social and economic domain'
- The Labor Code of Ukraine, Article 1-2 (equal labor rights for all citizens)
- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (20 September 1999)

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- The Law of Ukraine 'On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings' (20 September 2011)
 - The Law of Ukraine 'On Prevention of Domestic Violence' (15 November 2001).

The assumptions formulated at the beginning of the analysis of the data available on the awareness of Ukrainian people of respective international and Ukrainian laws are as follows:

- awareness of laws prohibiting violence is higher than on non-discrimination laws;
- a higher level of awareness of the laws is observed among young people, and among people with higher education and in large cities.

Assumptions regarding better knowledge of legislation on violence were based on the fact that, in recent years, several awareness raising campaigns and initiatives on the subject have been implemented. For example, the campaign '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence' is held by the world community annually since 1991 – always within the period from November 25 to December 10. The UN Secretary-General launched an international campaign 'UNite to End Violence against Women' to be held since 2008 until 2015. It calls on governments of all countries, civil society, youth, businesses, journalists to unite and fight back a global epidemic of violence against women and girls. One of the long-term campaigns is '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence' which is in place in Ukraine since the beginning of 2000 with the active participation of NGOs and line ministries. Besides, 'La Strada-Ukraine' has a national hotline to combat violence and protect children's rights. Prevention of domestic violence and gender equality is pursued by several large international projects. In particular, with the support of the European Union in the years 2010-2012, the EU project 'Women's and Children's Rights in Ukraine – Communication Component' was implemented by the Equal Opportunities and Women's Rights Programme in Ukraine, which is a joint project of the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme.

2. METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted based on the 'regular Omnibus' GfK Ukraine by random-route quota sampling among 1,000 respondents, with quotas by region, locality size, age and gender of the respondent. The sample is representative of the population of Ukraine over 16 years by sex, age, region and size of locality. Survey method – personal interview at the respondent's home. The maximum margin of error is 3.1% (for figures with a value over 45%).

Questions for inclusion in the Omnibus questionnaire on awareness of the thematic points of the Convention, international and Ukrainian law, as well as the experience of discrimination and violence have been formulated by the UN Population Fund experts in collaboration with researchers at GfK Ukraine, Nadiya Komarova and Tamara Martsenyuk.

The questions were structured in two thematic blocks – 1) on awareness of national and international legislation to enforce and implement the provisions of the Convention; 2) on personal experience and awareness of discrimination and violence. Responses to this questionnaire were analyzed as a whole and by socio-demographic characteristics: gender, age, education, region and type of locality. Distribution by regions and areas is as follows:

Kyiv

- North – Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Sumy regions;
- West – Volyn, Rivne, Ternopil, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Transcarpathian, Chernivtsi;
- Center – Khmelnytsky, Vinnitsa, Cherkassy, Kirovograd, Dnipropetrovs'k, Poltava;
- South – Odessa, Mykolayiv, Kherson, Zaporizhia;
- East – Kharkiv, Lugansk, Donetsk.

The fieldwork took place from 2 to 15 June. For data analysis, the sample was weighted so that the age-sex distribution of respondents matched that of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine as of 1 January 2013.

3. AWARENESS OF THE EXISTENCE OF UKRAINIAN AND INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION ON EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES, AND PROHIBITION OF VIOLENCE

Awareness of the laws that prohibit various forms of domestic violence against women is in general better than of the laws designed to improve the status of women in the labor market and their representation in politics. About one half of the respondents **know about the Ukrainian laws** prohibiting *human trafficking*, including sexual or labor exploitation of women (45%). The second highest level of knowledge is attributed to the Ukrainian laws prohibiting exploitation of women in prostitution by third parties, even with their consent (40%). With regard to *domestic violence*, over a third of respondents know about the existence of Ukrainian laws prohibiting physical and sexual violence against women in the family (39% and 36%, respectively), the awareness of the laws prohibiting psychological and economic violence in the family (29% and 23%, respectively) is lower

Regarding the level of *representation in business and politics*, from 20% to 24% of respondents gave a positive answer to the question as to Ukrainian laws that guarantee women an opportunity to be represented in political parties, in the government and in business equally with men (24, 24 and 20% %, respectively).

Regarding *relations with the employer*, one third of the respondents are aware of Ukrainian laws prohibiting sexual harassment in the workplace, but only 22% know about the existence of Ukrainian laws that obligate employers to create favorable conditions for women and men combining family responsibilities with raising children and professional duties. The lowest level of awareness by respondents is of the existence of Ukrainian laws prohibiting job offers limited to people of certain sex or setting lower labor remuneration of women compared to men for the same work (14% and 15%, respectively). Fig. 3.1. provides data on Ukrainians' awareness about a number of aspects that are mentioned in the CEDAW and governed by separate legislation both in Ukraine and abroad.

The **awareness level of international law** was the highest in regard to the laws that prohibit *human trafficking*, including sexual or labor exploitation of women (45%), *sexual harassment in the workplace* (42%) and exploitation of women in prostitution by third parties (41%). From 29% to 39% of the respondents are aware of the international laws that prohibit various forms of *domestic violence*, and in the case of psychological and economic violence, significantly more respondents are aware of the international law than of the Ukrainian (psychological violence 35% vs. 29%, economic 29% – vs. 23%).

Most respondents believe in the **lack of Ukrainian laws** prohibiting *lower remuneration to women in comparison with men* for the same type of work (17%), and *job offers limited to people of certain sex* (13%).

Fig. 3.1. Awareness of the Existence of Laws on Equal Rights and Opportunities, and Prohibition of Violence against Women. The entire sample, N = 1000

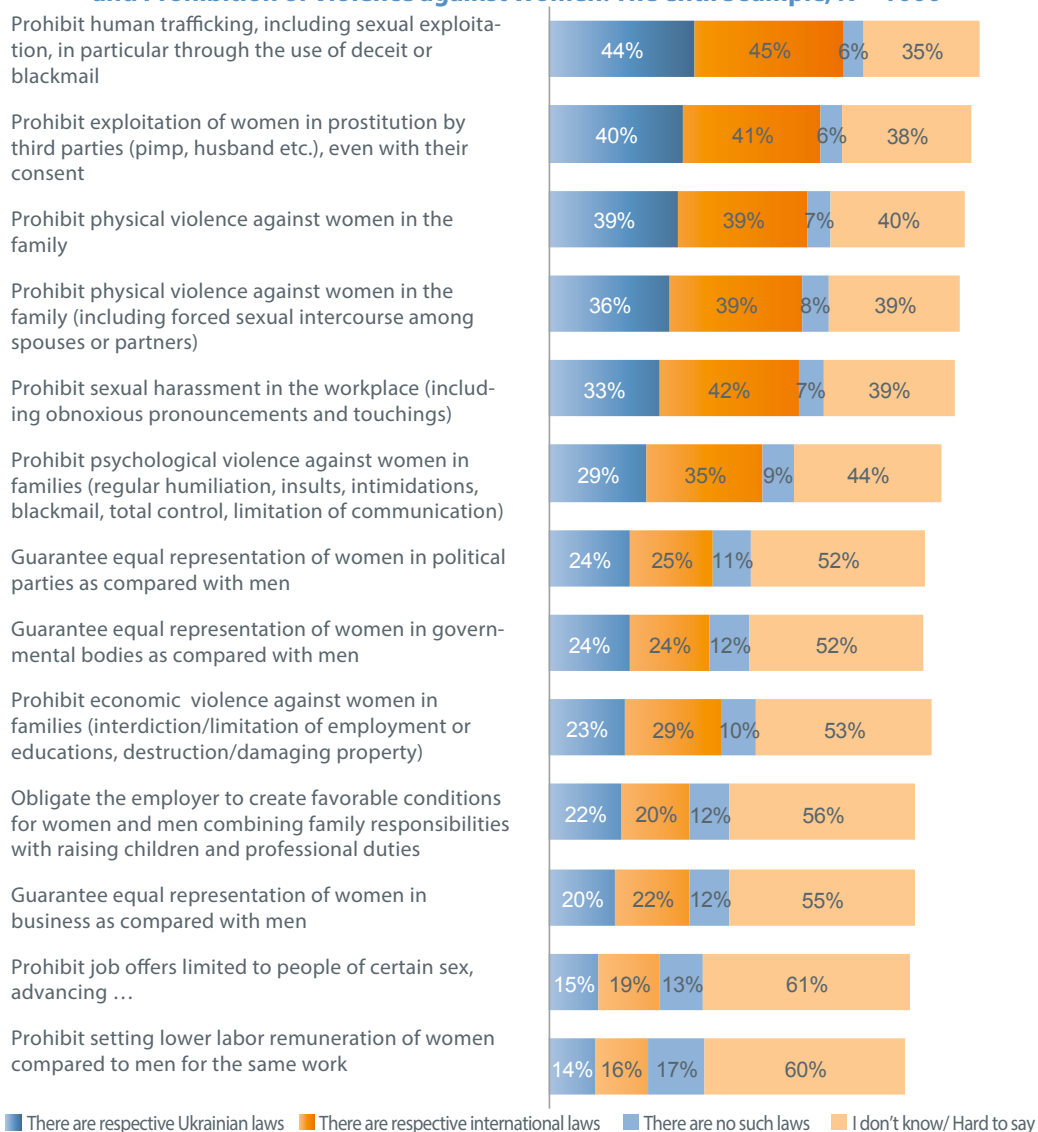


Table 3.1 shows the distribution of awareness about the presence of international and Ukrainian legislation on gender. The difference in the level of awareness of the laws **among women and men** is statistically significant in the case of Ukrainian legislation guaranteeing women the *opportunity to be represented in political parties as compared with men* – 27% of women and 21% men know about such laws. Men were significantly more than women inclined to believe in the non-existence of *laws that prohibit setting lower labor remuneration of women compared to men for the same work*.

Table 3.2. shows **differences by age group**. The age group of 30-39 has the highest level of awareness about the existence of a number of Ukrainian laws (as related to violence and anti-discrimination), and the age group over 60 is often less aware thereof.

Table 3.1

Awareness of the Existence of Laws on Equal Rights and Opportunities, and Prohibition of Violence against Women

The entire sample, N = 1000; men, N = 453; women, N = 547

Laws	Gender	There are respective Ukrainian laws	There are respective international laws
Prohibit human trafficking, including sexual exploitation, in particular through the use of deceit or blackmail	Man	43%	43%
	Woman	44%	46%
	Average	44%	45%
Prohibit exploitation of women in prostitution by third parties (pimp, husband etc.), even with their consent	Man	42%	40%
	Woman	39%	42%
	Average	40%	41%
Prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace (including obnoxious pronouncements and touchings)	Man	33%	40%
	Woman	33%	43%
	Average	39%	39%
Prohibit sexual violence against women in the family (including forced sexual intercourse among spouses or partners)	Man	36%	38%
	Woman	36%	41%
	Average	36%	39%
Prohibit physical violence against women in the family	Man	39%	37%
	Woman	39%	39%
	Average	33%	42%
Prohibit psychological violence against women in families (regular humiliation, insults, intimidations, blackmail, total control, limitation of communication and isolation, suicide intimidations, or ignoring another person)	Man	29%	33%
	Woman	29%	36%
	Average	29%	35%
Guarantee equal representation of women in political parties as compared with men	Man	21%*	23%
	Woman	27%*	26%
	Average	24%	25%
Guarantee equal representation of women in governmental bodies as compared with men	Man	23%	23%
	Woman	25%	25%
	Average	24%	24%
Prohibit economic violence against women in families (interdiction/limitation of employment or educations, destruction/damaging property), forced appropriation of proceeds or property, forced deprivation of food, clothing, medications)	Man	22%	27%
	Woman	23%	30%
	Average	23%	29%
Obligate the employer to create favorable conditions for women and men combining family responsibilities with raising children and professional duties (for example, allowing to work a flexible schedule)	Man	22%	18%
	Woman	22%	22%
	Average	22%	20%
Guarantee equal representation of women in business as compared with men	Man	18%	21%
	Woman	21%	23%
	Average	20%	22%
Prohibit job offers limited to people of certain sex, (with the exception of specific work that may physically be performed only by people of certain sex) or setting demands which give benefits to people of certain sex	Man	14%	17%
	Woman	16%	19%
	Average	15%	19%
Prohibit setting lower labor remuneration of women compared to men for the same work	Man	15%	15%
	Woman	13%	17%
	Average	14%	16%

* The difference is statistically significant at the level of 0.90

*** The difference is statistically significant at the level of 0.99

Table 3.2

Awareness of the Existence of Laws on Equal Rights and Opportunities, and Prohibition of Violence against Women

The entire sample, N = 1000; 16-19 years, N = 61; 20-29 years, N = 176; 30-39 years, N = 169; 40-49 years, N = 169; 50-59 years, N = 176; 60 years and older, N = 249.

Laws	Gender	There are respective Ukrainian laws	There are respective international laws
Prohibit human trafficking, including sexual or labour exploitation, in particular through the use of deceit or blackmail	16-19	41%	47%
	20-29	46%	51%
	30-39	56%***	45%
	40-49	41%	44%
	50-59	43%	44%
	60 or older	37%**	40%
	Total	44%	45%
Prohibit exploitation of women in prostitution by third parties (pimp, husband etc.), even with their consent	16-19	45%	45%
	20-29	46%	47%
	30-39	49%**	46%
	40-49	37%	39%
	50-59	39%	45%
	60 or older	32%**	32%
	Total	40%	41%
Prohibit physical violence against women in the family	16-19	37%	44%
	20-29	44%	44%
	30-39	43%	44%
	40-49	35%	36%
	50-59	40%	39%
	60 or older	35%	31%
	Total	39%	39%
Prohibit sexual violence against women in the family (including forced sexual intercourse among spouses or partners)	16-19	38%	48%
	20-29	41%	41%
	30-39	38%	44%
	40-49	33%	35%
	50-59	37%	42%
	60 or older	32%	34%
	Total	36%	39%
Prohibit sexual harassment against women in the workplace (including obnoxious pronouncements and touchings)	16-19	36%	45%
	20-29	38%	45%
	30-39	36%	47%
	40-49	28%	41%
	50-59	36%	44%
	60 or older	28%	34%
	Total	33%	42%

Laws	Gender	There are respective Ukrainian laws	There are respective international laws
Prohibit psychological violence against women in families (regular humiliation, insults, intimidations, blackmail, total control, limitation of communication and isolation, suicide intimidations, or ignoring another person)	16-19	35%	44%
	20-29	32%	40%
	30-39	38%**	36%
	40-49	28%	34%
	50-59	24%	34%
	60 or older	24%	30%
	Total	29%	35%
Guarantee equal representation of women in political parties as compared with men	16-19	23%	34%
	20-29	23%	27%
	30-39	31%**	30%
	40-49	21%	23%
	50-59	25%	22%
	60 or older	22%	20%
	Total	24%	25%
Guarantee equal representation of women in governmental bodies as compared with men	16-19	24%	31%
	20-29	21%	26%
	30-39	29%	28%
	40-49	21%	22%
	50-59	25%	23%
	60 or older	24%	20%
	Total	24%	24%
Prohibit economic violence against women in families (interdiction/limitation of employment or educations, destruction/damaging property), forced appropriation of proceeds or property, forced deprivation of food, clothing, medications, control of all costs – if it is not required for survival)	16-19	23%	31%
	20-29	26%	35%
	30-39	27%	35%
	40-49	19%	24%
	50-59	22%	27%
	60 or older	19%	25%
	Total	23%	29%
Obligate the employer to create favorable conditions for women and men combining family responsibilities with raising children and professional duties (for example, allowing to work a flexible schedule)	16-19	21%	20%
	20-29	27%	24%
	30-39	25%	19%
	40-49	17%	20%
	50-59	25%	21%
	60 or older	17%*	18%
	Total	22%	20%

Laws	Gender	There are respective Ukrainian laws	There are respective international laws
Guarantee equal representation of women in business as compared with men	16-19	19%	28%
	20-29	22%	25%
	30-39	22%	25%
	40-49	19%	22%
	50-59	21%	21%
	60 or older	16%	18%
	Total	20%	22%
Prohibit psychological violence against women in families (regular humiliation, insults, intimidations, blackmail, total control, limitation of communication and isolation, suicide intimidations, or ignoring another person)	16-19	13%	20%
	20-29	15%	22%
	30-39	16%	21%
	40-49	17%	16%
	50-59	18%	20%
	60 or older	11%	15%
	Total	15%	19%
Guarantee equal representation of women in political parties as compared with men	16-19	15%	17%
	20-29	15%	17%
	30-39	16%	19%
	40-49	17%	15%
	50-59	12%	14%
	60 or older	9%**	14%
	Total	14%	16%

* The difference is statistically significant at the level of 0,90

** The difference is statistically significant at the level of 0,95

*** The difference is statistically significant at the level of 0,99

Table 3.3. provides a comparison in terms of awareness of legislation on equal rights and opportunities and or prohibition of violence by educational level. The difference in the level of knowledge of the existence of Ukrainian laws among respondents with higher education compared to the general distribution of the sample is statistically insignificant. However, respondents with *primary/basic secondary education* are less informed about the existence of the majority of the laws of Ukraine than respondents with higher levels of education.

Table 3.3

Awareness of the Existence of Laws – Distribution by Educational Level

The entire sample, N = 1000; Primary/Basic secondary education, N = 105; Complete general secondary education, N = 341; Incomplete higher education, N = 239; Higher education, N = 272

Laws	Education	There are respective Ukrainian laws	There are respective international laws
Prohibit human trafficking, including sexual or labour exploitation, in particular through the use of deceit or blackmail	Primary/Basic secondary education	29%***	30%
	Complete general secondary education	43%	47%
	Incomplete higher education	43%	40%
	Higher education	46%	48%
	The entire sample	44%	45%
Prohibit exploitation of women in prostitution by third parties (pimp, husband etc.), even with their consent	Primary/Basic secondary education	30%**	19%
	Complete general secondary education	37%	42%
	Incomplete higher education	42%	42%
	Higher education	44%	44%
	The entire sample	40%	41%
Prohibit physical violence against women in the family	Primary/Basic secondary education	29%**	21%
	Complete general secondary education	36%	38%
	Incomplete higher education	43%	41%
	Higher education	41%	41%
	The entire sample	39%	39%
Prohibit sexual violence against women in the family (including forced sexual intercourse among spouses or partners)	Primary/Basic secondary education	26%***	24%
	Complete general secondary education	35%	40%
	Incomplete higher education	40%	40%
	Higher education	38%	41%
	The entire sample	36%	39%
Prohibit sexual harassment against women in the workplace (including obnoxious pronouncements and touchings)	Primary/Basic secondary education	24%*	23%
	Complete general secondary education	30%	43%
	Incomplete higher education	37%	42%
	Higher education	36%	44%
	The entire sample	33%	42%
Prohibit psychological violence against women in families (regular humiliation, insults, intimidations, blackmail, total control, limitation of communication and isolation, suicide intimidations, or ignoring another person)	Primary/Basic secondary education	20%***	21%
	Complete general secondary education	28%	34%
	Incomplete higher education	32%	36%
	Higher education	33%	38%
	The entire sample	29%	35%
Guarantee equal representation of women in political parties as compared with men	Primary/Basic secondary education	18%	11%
	Complete general secondary education	25%	25%
	Incomplete higher education	21%	22%
	Higher education	25%	29%
	The entire sample	24%	25%

Laws	Education	There are respective Ukrainian laws	There are respective international laws
Guarantee equal representation of women in governmental bodies as compared with men	Primary/Basic secondary education	17%*	9%
	Complete general secondary education	23%	25%
	Incomplete higher education	22%	22%
	Higher education	28%	28%
	The entire sample	24%	24%
Prohibit economic violence against women in families (interdiction/limitation of employment or educations, destruction/damaging property), forced appropriation of proceeds or property, forced deprivation of food, clothing, medications, control of all costs – if it is not required for survival)	Primary/Basic secondary education	14%***	15%
	Complete general secondary education	20%	26%
	Incomplete higher education	26%	31%
	Higher education	26%	34%
	The entire sample	23%	29%
Obligate the employer to create favorable conditions for women and men combining family responsibilities with raising children and professional duties (for example, allowing to work a flexible schedule)	Primary/Basic secondary education	25%	10%
	Complete general secondary education	18%	21%
	Incomplete higher education	25%	20%
	Higher education	23%	21%
	The entire sample	22%	20%
Guarantee equal representation of women in business as compared with men	Primary/Basic secondary education	15%	7%
	Complete general secondary education	18%	22%
	Incomplete higher education	18%	21%
	Higher education	23%	27%
	The entire sample	20%	22%
Prohibit psychological violence against women in families (regular humiliation, insults, intimidations, blackmail, total control, limitation of communication and isolation, suicide intimidations, or ignoring another person)	Primary/Basic secondary education	7%***	7%
	Complete general secondary education	12%	16%
	Incomplete higher education	19%	21%
	Higher education	18%	22%
	The entire sample	15%	19%
Guarantee equal representation of women in political parties as compared with men	Primary/Basic secondary education	8%*	5%
	Complete general secondary education	12%	15%
	Incomplete higher education	12%	16%
	Higher education	17%	20%
	The entire sample	14%	16%

* The difference is statistically significant at the level of 0,90

** The difference is statistically significant at the level of 0,95

*** The difference is statistically significant at the level of 0,99

The level of awareness of the law also varies depending on the region of residence (Tabl.3.4.). The inhabitants of Northern Ukraine are the most informed about the existence of respective Ukrainian laws (both anti-discrimination and violence-related), the second place is held by the residents of Kyiv, the third – by the inhabitants of the West and the South, and the least informed are the residents of the Centre and the East.

Table 3.4

Awareness of the Existence of Laws – Distribution by Region

The entire sample N = 1000; Kyiv, N = 66; North, N = 121; West, N = 209;
Central Ukraine, N = 232; South, N = 149; East, N = 223

Laws	Region	There are respective Ukrainian laws	There are respective international laws
Prohibit human trafficking, including sexual or labour exploitation, in particular through the use of deceit or blackmail	Kyiv	38%	34%
	North	69%***	63%***
	West	51%	54%**
	Central Ukraine	36%**	38%**
	South	43%	39%
	East	33%***	38%**
	The entire sample	44%	45%
Prohibit exploitation of women in prostitution by third parties (pimp, husband etc.), even with their consent	Kyiv	35%	41%
	North	60%***	58%***
	West	41%	59%***
	Central Ukraine	34%	28%
	South	55%***	37%
	East	27%***	32%***
The entire sample	40%	41%	
Prohibit physical violence against women in the family	Kyiv	31%	37%
	North	62%***	57%***
	West	41%	56%***
	Central Ukraine	32%**	29%***
	South	47%**	28%***
	East	27%***	30%***
The entire sample	39%	39%	
Prohibit sexual violence against women in the family (including forced sexual intercourse among spouses or partners)	Kyiv	37%	42%
	North	54%***	55%***
	West	43%	58%***
	Central Ukraine	31%	31%
	South	34%	28%***
	East	27%***	29%***
The entire sample	36%	39%	
Prohibit sexual harassment against women in the workplace (including obnoxious pronouncements and touchings)	Kyiv	34%	45%
	North	50%***	56%***
	West	35%	58%***
	Central Ukraine	30%	30%***
	South	35%	35%
	East	23%***	35%
The entire sample	33%	42%	
Prohibit psychological violence against women in families (regular humiliation, insults, intimidations, blackmail, total control, limitation of communication and isolation, suicide intimidations, or ignoring another person)	Kyiv	36%	37%
	North	40%***	45%**
	West	35%	52%***
	Central Ukraine	22%**	26%***
	South	32%	24%***
	East	22%***	28%**
The entire sample	29%	35%	
Guarantee equal representation of women in political parties as compared with men	Kyiv	31%	34%
	North	36%***	29%
	West	30%	34%***
	Central Ukraine	17%**	12%***
	South	29%	30%
	East	15%***	21%
The entire sample	24%	25%	

Laws	Region	There are respective Ukrainian laws	There are respective international laws
Guarantee equal representation of women in governmental bodies as compared with men	Kyiv	39%***	28%
	North	34%**	28%
	West	25%	34%***
	Central Ukraine	15%***	12%***
	South	31%	29%
	East	17%**	21%
	The entire sample	24%	24%
Prohibit economic violence against women in families (interdiction/limitation of employment or educations, destruction/damaging property), forced appropriation of proceeds or property, forced deprivation of food, clothing, medications, control of all costs – if it is not required for survival)	Kyiv	29%	42%**
	North	35%***	43%***
	West	28%	44%***
	Central Ukraine	16%**	19%***
	South	24%	21%**
	East	14%***	19%***
	The entire sample	23%	29%
Guarantee equal representation of women in business as compared with men	Kyiv	30%	26%
	North	19%	22%
	West	30%***	32%***
	Central Ukraine	19%	10%***
	South	21%	19%
	East	18%	19%
	The entire sample	22%	20%
Obligate the employer to create favorable conditions for women and men combining family responsibilities with raising children and professional duties (for example, allowing to work a flexible schedule)	Kyiv	26%	38%***
	North	30%***	23%
	West	23%	28%
	Central Ukraine	14%**	8%***
	South	21%	29%
	East	15%	22%
	The entire sample	20%	22%
Prohibit psychological violence against women in families (regular humiliation, insults, intimidations, blackmail, total control, limitation of communication and isolation, suicide intimidations, or ignoring another person)	Kyiv	31%***	26%
	North	7%**	13%
	West	23%***	31%***
	Central Ukraine	9%**	10%***
	South	15%	16%
	East	11%	19%
	The entire sample	15%	19%
Prohibit setting lower labor remuneration of women compared to men for the same work	Kyiv	32%***	25%
	North	12%	11%
	West	16%	20%
	Central Ukraine	6%***	8%***
	South	17%	20%
	East	13%	18%
	The entire sample	14%	16%
Prohibit human trafficking, including sexual or labour exploitation, in particular through the use of deceit or blackmail	Village	48%	47%
	Borough (up to 50 thousand)	47%	47%
	Town (51-500 thousand)	46%	48%
	City (over 500 thousand)	32%***	36%***
	The entire sample	44%	45%
Prohibit exploitation of women in prostitution by third parties (pimp, husband etc.), even with their consent	Village	43%	40%
	Borough (up to 50 thousand)	43%	45%
	Town (51-500 thousand)	37%	46%
	City (over 500 thousand)	36%	35%*
	The entire sample	40%	41%

Laws	Region	There are respective Ukrainian laws	There are respective international laws
Prohibit physical violence against women in the family	Village	48%***	37%
	Borough (up to 50 thousand)	44%	44%
	Town (51-500 thousand)	33%*	46%**
	City (over 500 thousand)	27%	27%**
	The entire sample	39%	39%
Prohibit sexual violence against women in the family (including forced sexual intercourse among spouses or partners)	Village	46%***	40%
	Borough (up to 50 thousand)	42%*	45%*
	Town (51-500 thousand)	29%**	44%
	City (over 500 thousand)	25%	27%
	The entire sample	36%	39%
Prohibit sexual harassment against women in the workplace (including obnoxious pronouncements and touchings)	Village	38%	41%
	Borough (up to 50 thousand)	39%*	47%
	Town (51-500 thousand)	29%	48%*
	City (over 500 thousand)	23%	31%***
	The entire sample	33%	42%
Prohibit psychological violence against women in families (regular humiliation, insults, intimidations, blackmail, total control, limitation of communication and isolation, suicide intimidations, or ignoring another person)	Village	37%***	35%
	Borough (up to 50 thousand)	33%	41%*
	Town (51-500 thousand)	24%	38%
	City (over 500 thousand)	20%	25%***
	The entire sample	29%	35%
Guarantee equal representation of women in political parties as compared with men	Village	27%	21%
	Borough (up to 50 thousand)	30%*	28%
	Town (51-500 thousand)	21%	24%
	City (over 500 thousand)	19%	27%
	The entire sample	24%	25%
Guarantee equal representation of women in governmental bodies as compared with men	Village	25%	22%
	Borough (up to 50 thousand)	31%**	30%*
	Town (51-500 thousand)	21%	22%
	City (over 500 thousand)	19%	25%
	The entire sample	24%	24%
Prohibit economic violence against women in families (interdiction/limitation of employment or educations, destruction/damaging property), forced appropriation of proceeds or property, forced deprivation of food, clothing, medications, control of all costs – if it is not required for survival)	Village	29%**	28%
	Borough (up to 50 thousand)	27%	34%
	Town (51-500 thousand)	16%***	30%
	City (over 500 thousand)	17%**	25%
	The entire sample	23%	29%
Obligate the employer to create favorable conditions for women and men combining family responsibilities with raising children and professional duties (for example, allowing to work a flexible schedule)	Village	22%	20%
	Borough (up to 50 thousand)	26%	23%
	Town (51-500 thousand)	17%	20%
	City (over 500 thousand)	23%	18%
	The entire sample	22%	20%
Guarantee equal representation of women in business as compared with men	Village	24%	19%
	Borough (up to 50 thousand)	25%*	25%
	Town (51-500 thousand)	16%	19%
	City (over 500 thousand)	14%**	28%**
	The entire sample	20%	22%

Laws	Region	There are respective Ukrainian laws	There are respective international laws
Prohibit setting lower labor remuneration of women compared to men for the same work	Village	20%	18%
	Borough (up to 50 thousand)	16%	19%
	Town (51-500 thousand)	9%	18%
	City (over 500 thousand)	12%	18%
	The entire sample	15%	19%
Prohibit setting lower labor remuneration of women compared to men for the same work	Village	15%	12%
	Borough (up to 50 thousand)	18%	16%
	Town (51-500 thousand)	11%	17%
	City (over 500 thousand)	11%	20%
	The entire sample	14%	16%

* The difference is statistically significant at the level of 0,90

** The difference is statistically significant at the level of 0,95

*** The difference is statistically significant at the level of 0,99

4. EXPERIENCE OF DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE

4.1 Experience of discrimination

From 2% to 3% of all respondents indicated that they had personally faced some form of discrimination. In reality, the penetration of discrimination may be substantially higher due to the taboo nature of the topic, inability of respondents to recognize discrimination (evidenced by the fact that one half of Ukrainians know nothing about the existence of any anti-discrimination laws from the proposed list for Ukraine). Most of these respondents have faced gender-based discrimination in employment, that is to say, with vacancies for people of a particular gender or employer's requirements giving preference to people of a particular sex – 14% of respondents reported this as their personal experience or the experience of their relatives/friends. Such discrimination forms as lower labor remuneration of women for the same work as compared to men and women's lower representation in business than that of men scored 10% among the respondents

Fig. 4.1. shows the distribution of responses on discrimination experience within the entire sample, and Table 4.1. – distribution of responses on the experience and awareness of the instances of gender discrimination. It is noteworthy that there is no statistically significant difference in the responses of men and women compared to the entire sample.

Figure 4.1. Experience and Awareness of Discrimination

The entire sample, N = 1000.

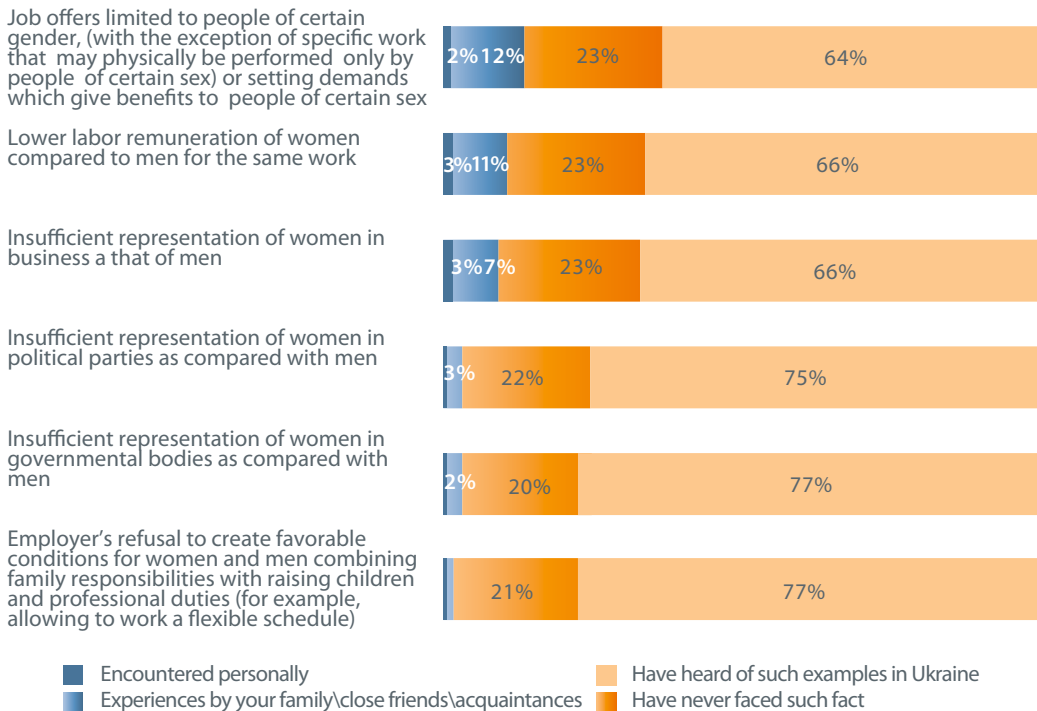


Table 4.1. Experience and Awareness of Discrimination Instances – Distribution by Gender

The entire sample, N = 1000; male, N = 453; women, N = 547

Laws	Gender	Encountered personally	Experiences by your family \ close friends \ acquaintances	Have heard of such examples in Ukraine	Have never faced such fact
Lower labor remuneration of women compared to men for the same work	Man	2%	6%	21%	71%
	Women	4%	9%	26%	62%
	Average	3%	7%	23%	66%
Job offers limited to people of certain gender, (with the exception of specific work that may physically be performed only by people of certain sex) or setting demands which give benefits to people of certain sex	Man	1%	6%	21%	72%
	Women	2%	8%	26%	63%
	Average	2%	7%	24%	67%
Employer's refusal to create favorable conditions for women and men combining family responsibilities with raising children and professional duties (for example, allowing to work a flexible schedule)	Man	1%	11%	19%	68%
	Women	3%	12%	27%	60%
	Average	2%	12%	23%	64%
Insufficient representation of women in business as compared with men	Man	1%	3%	15%	81%
	Women	0%	2%	24%	74%
	Average	1%	2%	20%	77%
Insufficient representation of women in political parties as compared with men	Man	1%	1%	19%	79%
	Women	0%	1%	22%	76%
	Average	1%	3%	22%	75%
Insufficient representation of women in governmental bodies as compared with men	Man	1%	4%	18%	78%
	Women	1%	1%	25%	73%
	Average	1%	3%	22%	75%

4.2 Experience of violence among women and awareness of violence

From 1% to 3% of women reported about personal experience of violence. Most of the instances were related to domestic violence against women (3%) followed by physical abuse (2%). Confessions of experience in other types of family violence – sexual and economic – are less common (1%), perhaps, they are less frequently recognized by respondent as a form of violence. It is insulting and beating that is often identified as violence, mainly because these forms of violence were in the focus of social advertising. In order to assess the frequency of violence as personal experience of labor and sexual exploitation victims, as well as various forms of domestic violence, it is more expedient to conduct a separate special study using self-completion questionnaires for (by sorting out the questionnaires with questions about the experience of violence without contact details of the respondents in a separate box).

From 2% to 17% of observed cases of various domestic violence forms were reported in the closest circle of friends and relatives, and the most common responses again were those dealing with physical and psychological violence.

Figure. 4.2.1. Personal Experience of Violence among Women

The answer "Personally encountered" was proposed only to women, N = 551

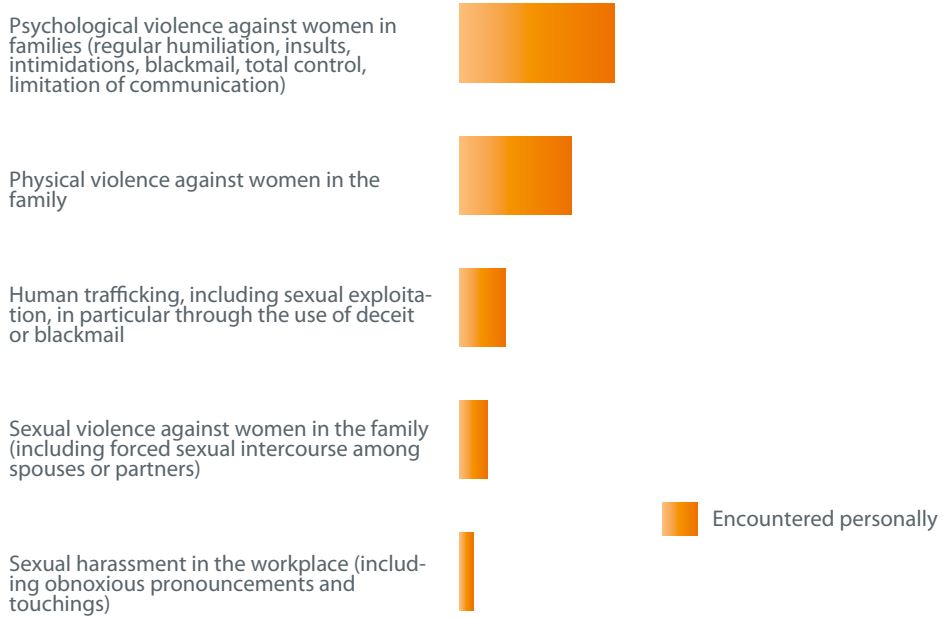
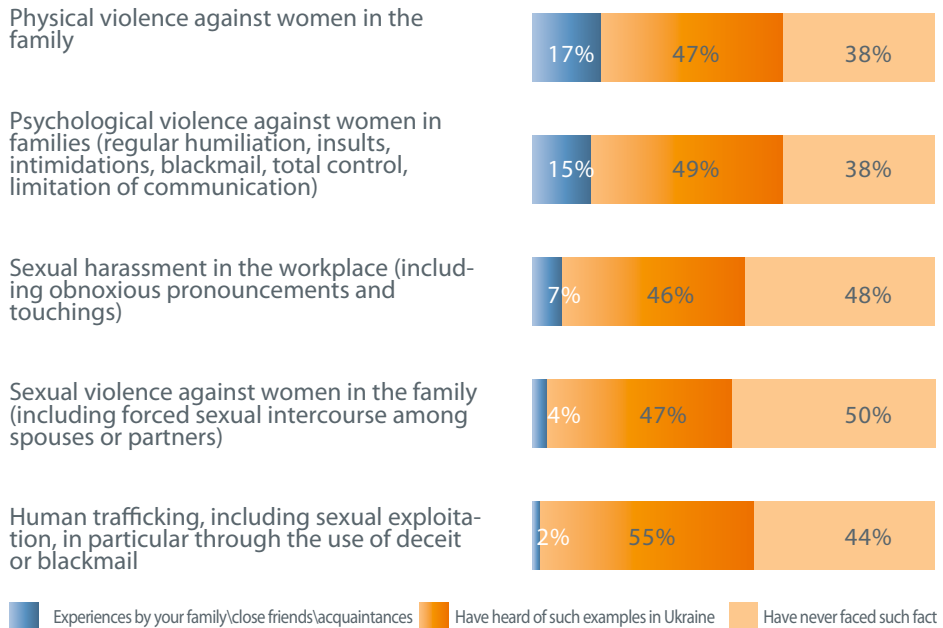


Fig. 4.2.2. Awareness of Violence among Women



5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thus, the level of awareness of the various provisions of the Convention and Ukrainian laws related thereto among adults is relatively low, ranging from **14% to 44%**, **the level of awareness of international law – from 16% to 45%**. **In general, laws on combating violence** are better known than anti-discrimination laws: most people are aware of the existence of laws against human trafficking, and the lowest level of awareness is of the existence of laws prohibiting job offers for people of certain gender), and set requirements providing benefits to people of a certain gender, and those prohibiting lower labor remuneration of women compared to men for the same work.

Regarding the prevalence of discrimination, from 2% to 14% have faced it in person or know of similar experience of their friends or relatives. In reality, the penetration of discrimination may be substantially higher due to the taboo nature of the topics, inability of respondents to recognize discrimination (evidenced by the fact that one half of Ukrainians know nothing about the existence of any anti-discrimination laws from the proposed list for Ukraine).

From 1% to 3% of women reported about personal experience of violence. Confessions of experience in other types of family violence – sexual and economic – are less common (1%), perhaps, they are less frequently recognized by respondent as a form of violence. It is insulting and beating that is often identified as violence, mainly because these forms of violence were in the focus of social advertising.

From 2% to 17% of observed cases of various domestic violence forms were reported in the closest circle of friends and relatives, and the most common responses again were those dealing with physical and psychological violence.

Increased awareness of violence and of Ukrainian laws governing this area give reason to believe that a higher level of awareness of the existence of certain laws contributes to a better understanding of the problem, and vice versa. For example, knowledge of the 'gender gap' in the wages of women for performing similar work and with similar skills as compared with men together with knowledge of the existence of the legislative acts regulating this sphere of life could encourage in particular women employees to reasonably defend their labor rights in their cooperation with the employing company and may lay the basis for grassroots activism in this area.

Further awareness-raising activities can primarily focus on those thematic components of the Convention, whereof the population is less knowledgeable. This applies to Ukrainian legislation, which 1) guarantees women the opportunity to have access to governmental positions, to be represented in government, political parties and business on par with men, and 2) ensure equality in employment (prohibition of lower labor remuneration of women compared to men for the same work, job offers for people of certain gender, employer's obligation to create favorable conditions for women and men combining family and professional responsibilities, etc.). Also, further public awareness-raising activities should consider the lower awareness of relevant legislation among the residents of Central and Eastern Ukraine. In the medium term, for raising the awareness of young people about respective laws, it is advisable either to include a special course on human rights in the high school program, covering labor rights including the prevention of domestic violence and human trafficking; or thoroughly familiarize the children with their rights within the framework of the school subject 'Law'.

For key stakeholders who are somehow involved in legislative activities affecting the implementation of gender equality policy in Ukraine and the level of awareness about certain laws, the following recommendations should be highlighted:

For the Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Human Rights (Ombudsperson)

Give more attention to raising public awareness on issues of human rights in fighting gender inequality in general, and domestic violence in particular (at least using such resource as a web page), and publishing statistical information on violence against women, as well as lawsuits on the matter etc.

For the President of Ukraine

Establish a separate office of Gender Equality Ombudsman as an independent body that would solve the issues related to human rights' violations based on gender. Ukraine's Commissioner for Human Rights (ombudsperson) is dealing not only with gender equality, but all types of human rights' violations. Therefore, given the problems of the Ukrainian society, whereto the international community pays particular attention, such as human rights' violations in prisons in general, and during the pre-trial period, as well as torture in the interrogation of suspects etc., the issue of equality for men and women is not a priority for the Ombudsman.

For the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine

The Ministry should deploy more professionals in its work with gender equality issues in order to better inform the public about these issues; in particular, it is advisable to use the expert pool that has been formed over the past decade in Ukraine

For the Ministry of Interior

Introduce continuous education (at the level of higher education and training) in relation to law enforcement on prevention of domestic violence. The police should also facilitate the dissemination of information on the prevention of domestic violence.

For the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

1. Introduce the required course on human rights in the curriculum, which would cover gender equality and combating violence in the family.
2. Introduce the required 'Gender and Media' course in the training curriculum for journalists, as well as include a course on gender equality and combating violence in the family in the training curriculum for future law enforcement officers; for civil servants – it would be 'Gender and Politics'.
3. Allocate funding and teaching load for creating gender studies' departments at universities that have relevant scientific and research base.

For universities

Introduce compulsory or optional courses on issues of gender equality and combating violence in the family into university's training program; if necessary (lack of staff, who would be able to teach such courses), conduct a train-for-trainers course for potential teachers or invite killed workforce to do it.

For NGOs

1. In order to exercise more active influence on the authorities 'from below', women's, gender, and human rights organizations and others should unite for reaching a common goal – eliminate gender inequality and domestic violence.

2. Actively establish communication with the media in order to ensure efficient coverage of their developments; undertake joint information campaigns, in particular when certain awareness-raising events, such as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

For political parties

Include the issue of gender equality in the Ukrainian society into their political programs; promote the establishment of women's factions at parties. The programs of almost all political parties in Ukraine regard gender issues as unpopular, they are usually distorted, and mainly reduced to the solution of social issues such as family, motherhood, childhood, health, alcoholism etc. Demographic crisis and the way out of it is a problem which attracts the attention of almost all political forces. Only the 'Udar' political party has included a thematic unit on gender politics in their platform. This is practically the only political force in Ukraine that conveys such a message.

For the mass media

1. Develop internal ethical principles regarding coverage of domestic violence, gender stereotypes, gender inequality and so on. Television continues to be a powerful broadcaster of gender-role stereotypes.
2. Draw more attention to gender (in) equality and combating domestic violence.
3. Actively participate in the coverage of social events held by public authorities and NGOs. A positive example of successful cooperation between different actors, both media and public authorities, international organizations, experts etc., is the 'Stop Violence' campaign.
4. Participate in training on gender equality, overcoming gender stereotypes, highlighting the phenomenon of domestic violence, etc., organized by international projects, public authorities and NGOs.

