



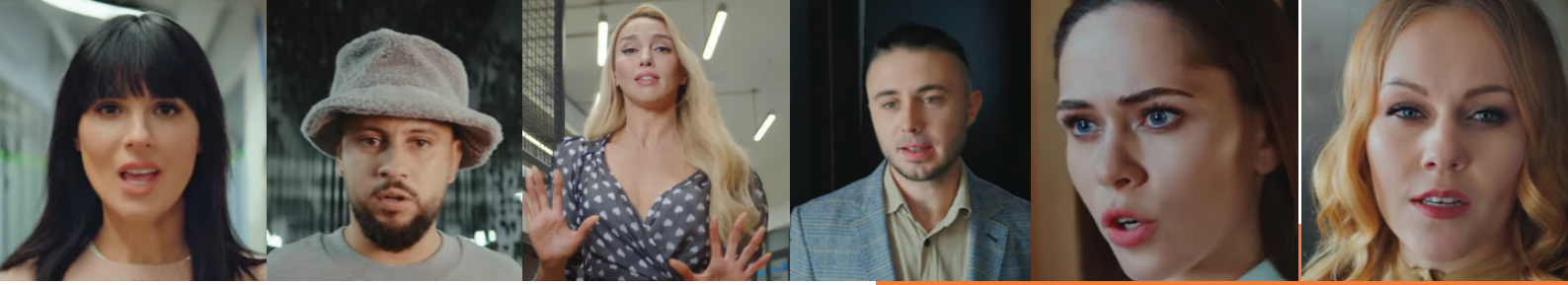
## THE MATTER IS VIOLENCE WON'T HIDE

*"GBV survivors should not be left alone with their problem. Combating violence and helping survivors should be a priority for the state, and Ukraine recognises this priority,"* said First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska at the exhibition launch.

On 25 November, marking the start of the global campaign "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" in Ukraine, exhibition "The Matter Is" ("Rich U Tim") was launched on Mykhailivska Square in Kyiv. The exhibition features 16 ostensibly ordinary household items – each hiding a harrowing story of domestic violence. There is only a step that can turn an item of everyday use into an instrument of horrifying abuse. Similarly, it can take only a step to prevent a dramatic turn of events. A short "Is everything fine?", an offer of help, a timely call to the police can save lives. The matter is everyone can break the circle of violence.

Organised at the initiative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs with the support of UNFPA and other international partners, the exhibition "The Matter Is" is open not only in Kyiv but in many cities across Ukraine till 10 December. The exhibition is also available for online attendance. Please visit [richutim.rozirvykolo.org](http://richutim.rozirvykolo.org) to see installations and hear the stories behind them.

*"I am confident that within the framework of the state policy implementation and tasks, set by the recently signed Presidential Decree on combating domestic violence, we will strengthen the efforts so that every citizen of Ukraine will be confident in protection and could receive all necessary assistance,"* – Olha Stefanishyna, Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine.



## STARS UNITE VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

“Break the circle of violence” – this is the message of Masha Efrosinina, UNFPA Ukraine Honorary Ambassador, and Ukrainian prominent singers MONATIK, Yulia Sanina, Olga Polyakova, Taras Topolya and Alyosha to the Ukrainian society.

For the first time, Ukrainian celebrities have united against domestic violence in a new Break the Circle video. The video promotes non-violent behaviour and calls for action against domestic violence.

In a week after the video release, it collected **over 2 mln** views on YouTube with 98% likes and 5k view in the social media accounts of the engaged celebrities. With rapidly growing reach, the video fosters new positive norms in Ukrainian society.

*“Today, I want to say that over the last few years, you and I have taken this topic out of public “deaf-blindness” so much that we can feel the result: organisations, movements are being created, media is raising the issue, shelters are being built! And, most importantly, women gradually stop being afraid to admit that they have suffered violence and find the courage to seek help, break this difficult and suffocating circle,”* said Masha Efrosinina, who was mobilising celebrities to speak up against violence.

## “NOT LIMITLESS”: RESTORING PERSONAL BOUNDARIES



*“It took at least 10 years before I could open up to speak. Lack of support is another equally serious trauma that society inflicts on those who have suffered from disgrace and harassment. I don’t want to be silent anymore,”* says Yana, project heroine, brave to share her story.

Unwanted touches, jokes, catcalling and hints related to appearance are, unfortunately, familiar to many Ukrainian women. According to the first national survey on street harassment in Ukraine, conducted by UNFPA in autumn 2020, 42% of women have been sexually harassed in public. Most of them experienced it twice or more. In almost 50% of all cases, there were witnesses of sexual harassment. However, only in 1 out of 4 incidents, a witness intervened to help (UNFPA Ukraine Survey, 2020).

“Not Limitless” photo project draws the attention of the society to the problem and offers guidance to both victims and witnesses of sexual harassment in public. Learn more about the project at [bit.ua/2020/11/nebezmezhnist](http://bit.ua/2020/11/nebezmezhnist)

In 5 days after the project launch, over \_\_\_\_\_ **Ukrainians** learned how to respond to cases of sexual harassment.

On 27 November, UNFPA presented a photo project “Not limitless” sharing 14 stories of women who experienced sexual harassment in public settings. Every story is different, but there is something in common. All of them left a mark in the memory of the heroines, causing irreparable psychological damage. Cracks in the glass, through which the photos were taken, symbolise the violation of personal boundaries.

## BUILDING POOL OF TRAINERS ON GBV RESPONSE

On 24-27 November, UNFPA held the first module of the master training for the national trainers on GBV response in Irpin, Kyiv region. Held in mixed online-offline format, the module aimed at honing training skills of **25 national experts**, selected through an open call. The trainers strengthened their techniques to conduct training sessions on GBV response for specialists of social services, health care, law enforcement, as well as coordinators and GBV focal points in communities.

Delivered jointly with experts of the Eastern European Institute for Reproductive Health (Romania), the master training helped participants embrace best training practice and align their approaches with international standards. The training was the first step on the way to establishing the expert pool of prospective National Training Centre of Gender-Based Violence Response.

## MUNICIPAL EXPERTS READY TO DRIVE CHANGE



*“We [ed. – participants of the Course] have grown very timely as GBV experts. Now we can help newly created amalgamated territorial communities to build effective and modern systems of prevention and response to gender-based and domestic violence,”* noted Tetyana Lysenko, Director of Social Services Centre of Pokrovsk city, course participant.

44 focal points on GBV response and prevention from 15 Ukrainian cities have completed the UNFPA comprehensive 160-hour-long capacity building programme for key duty bearers at the municipal level. The final part of the 4-module intensive learning course took place in November 2020. The session deepened knowledge and skills of participants in forming zero-tolerance attitude to violence at the municipal level. The participants were equipped with instruments for GBV awareness-raising and community mobilisation work.

Course alumni acquired sound expertise to drive the development of municipal systems of GBV response and prevention. Strongly motivated to make sustainable positive change in their communities, newly-trained municipal experts are a valuable asset in deploying systemic solutions to GBV at the municipal level.

Under the project “Cities Free From Violence”, the training course created an expert community which will be a platform for the exchange of experience and good practice among municipalities from across Ukraine.

## NEW SHELTER FOR GBV SURVIVORS OPENED IN DONETSK REGION

*"In the nearest future, we are going to launch a mobile team of psychosocial support for GBV survivors and extend access to the shelter for residents from neighbouring communities", said Oleksandr Brykalov, Myrnohrad City Mayor.*



In November, a shelter for GBV survivors launched its operation in Myrnohrad, Donetsk region. The shelter was established by municipal authorities with the support of UNDP and UNFPA. While UNDP covered renovation of premises, UNFPA furnished and equipped the shelter with the financial support of the Embassy of Estonia.

The shelter is designed for **10 persons** with 4 extra beds for children. There, GBV survivors can stay safely and confidentially up to 3 months, receiving complex psychosocial support from 4 social workers and a psychologist. In January 2021, UNFPA will strengthen capacity of shelter specialists to provide survivor-oriented support. UNFPA will also conduct a workshop on multisectoral GBV response to develop effective referral pathways in the city.

## SECOND CRISIS ROOM SERVICE SET UP IN KYIV



*"The crisis rooms in Kyiv can serve as a model for other regions, where it is necessary to create the required number of both crisis rooms and shelters to protect domestic violence survivors. [...] Clients of such a social service must be completely safe and be, albeit temporarily, in conditions that are in line with European quality," said Olha Stefanishyna, Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine, during the opening event.*

Under the project "Cities Free From Domestic Violence", UNFPA supported Kyiv city in launching the **second service** of specialised crisis rooms for GBV survivors on 18 November 2020. The crisis rooms have the capacity to provide quality assistance to 7 women and 2 children staying at the same time.

The crisis rooms will extend the service provision to the left bank-part of the city and strengthen the current system. In May 2020, Kyiv city opened crisis rooms on the right bank in partnership with UNFPA, supported by the UK Government. From the start of their service, **51 GBV survivors** (28 women and 23 children) have received crucial safe space and crisis support.