



MASTERING NEW CRAFT AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

Implemented by L'Oréal and UNFPA, «Beauty for a Better Life» School helps women who found themselves in difficult life situations to break the circle of violence. The project teaches the participants the basics of the hairdressing craft through a special education course that empowers women to pave the path to better lives. In February, eighty women started their training as part of the school's fifth season in two cities at once: Kyiv and Lviv.

Kyiv City College of Light Industry became the School's first Training Centre, which opened with the support of the Kyiv City State Administration. Another Training Centre was launched with NGO Bosco Centre support in Lviv.

Since the beginning of the project, **94 Ukrainian women have received free education in the beauty industry.** Today the majority of them work at beauty salons, some run their businesses. "The atmosphere was very inspiring as well as the tutors. Some

"I never thought I could accomplish it myself," – Tetyana, alumna of the "Beauty for a Better Life" School (class of 2019).

of them were the schools' first season participants. Two of them opened their salons. That inspired me the most: if they achieved this, why wouldn't I?" says Tetyana, participant of the School's second season. She reluctantly recalls her life before the project. Tetyana calls toxic relationships with her parents a "tyranny" and prefers to bury these memories in the past. She says that participation in the project gave her self-confidence. Two years ago, she opened her first beauty salon. After "Beauty for a Better Life" School, Tetyana's life has dramatically changed: today she is confident about her future because she knows she can accomplish everything she wishes.

In times of COVID-19, economic empowerment of women is critical to prevent repeated violence and curb the negative impacts of the pandemic.

ENHANCING POLICE CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO GBV

"The urgent police response to cases of domestic violence – this is the core function of our newly established mobile police group. We encourage those who suffer violence to contact the police. The police mobile group will react immediately and provide all needed support," – Vadym Stelmakh, Head of Department for Prevention in Kamyanets-Podilskii Police Unit.

One hundred and twenty-five police officers completed training on the specifics of police response to GBV and

survivor-oriented support. Teams of newly created police sectors on GBV prevention and response in Vinnytsia, Lviv, Odesa, Sumy, Kirovograd, Khmelnytsky and Dnipro regions are confident in addressing GBV cases and providing assistance to survivors. The capacity development was aligned with the Standard Plan for Police Training on Response to GBV, approved by the Ministry of Interior and National Police in 2020. With UK Government support, UNFPA also provided **modern equipment to 50 new police mobile groups** of GBV response.

DAYCARE CENTRE WITH CRISIS ROOMS OPENED IN VINNYTSIA



"I want to thank UNFPA for showing us the right way to move towards preventing and combating domestic violence. Now we see that we need to keep working in this direction and help people," – Halyna Yakubovych, Deputy Mayor of Vinnytsia.

On 15 February, a daycare centre with crisis rooms for GBV survivors was opened in Vinnytsia. Established with UNFPA support, the centre is the third of its kind in Ukraine. The centre creates a good ambience for the provision of free psychosocial and legal support to GBV survivors and people at risk. At the same time, modern and comfortably furnished, crisis rooms can accommodate 5 women with children, requiring comprehensive support. Only in the first week after launch, **33 clients received quality survivor-oriented assistance** at the daycare centre, while 1 woman with 2 children found safe space and support at the crisis room.

Participant of the UNFPA "Cities Free From Domestic Violence" project, Vinnytsia has made notable progress in developing the municipal system of GBV response and prevention. With UNFPA technical support, the city strengthened multisectoral coordination, enhanced capacity of service providers and allocated funds for a sustainable operation of newly created specialised services for GBV survivors.

Recognising the importance of further improving access of survivors to quality help, Vinnytsia is working on establishing two more crisis rooms. The city also plans to create a municipal GBV data management system.

ON THE WAY TO SET UP NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

On 23–26 February, UNFPA conducted a second module of the master training for the team of twenty national trainers on GBV Response. The participants enhanced their expertise in primary GBV prevention, work with perpetrators and multisectoral coordination at the local level. As part of the training, the pool of trainers had to develop and conduct thematic capacity development workshops for their peers under the supervision of experts of the Eastern Institute for Reproductive Health (Romania).

Emboldened by such experience and enriched with practical tips, capacitated national trainers develop standard training programmes for GBV service providers. Aligned with the designed curriculum, the programmes will form the methodological foundation of the National Training Centre for GBV service providers. Once established, the Centre will provide quality capacity development to thousands of specialists working on GBV response and prevention in communities.

YOUNG LOVE: PREVENTING ABUSE IN RELATIONSHIPS

Education Project “(No) Trivia in Relationships” continues to deploy new approaches to raise young people’s awareness of psychological violence in relationships. In January–February, **more than 250 young people** from 10 Ukrainian universities **explored the dangers of psychological abuse** and learnt to identify toxic relationships.

Targeted online sessions enabled interactive learning for students, including via engaging peer-to-peer discussions and exchange of reflections. The format proved a strong addition to the arsenal of project interactions, including publication of informative posts, live broadcasts with bloggers and thematic initiatives.

One of such recent initiatives was the “Love is Not...” media project that engaged influential Ukrainian youth bloggers. Youth opinion leaders were photographed in the format of leaflets, each tells about one of the

signs of psychological violence in relationships. All the photos were posted on the bit.ua informational resource and shared by the invited bloggers on their accounts which in total have 2.3 million followers. Overall, **over 100,000 young people learnt to recognise signs of psychological violence** thanks to the project.

From 13 to 20 February followers of the (No) Trivia Instagram page had an opportunity to participate in the online week of psychological help. Young people asked questions about toxic relationships and got a detailed answer from a seasoned psychologist in the format of a video story that kept the name of the requester confidential. Thus, 74 people received free tailored psychological support and **more than 27,000 users raised their awareness** on the prevention of psychological abuse in relationships.

“Thank you very much for answering such exciting questions and providing support,” writes @marichka_sea, follower of the (No) Trivia Instagram page.