

EMERGING TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL NORMS



Perceptions of GBV in Ukrainian society have been transforming, giving way to norms that do not tolerate violence.

Conducted annually since March 2019, UNFPA-led national study Omnibus captures the positive shift. Ukrainians demonstrate increased awareness of GBV – **6%** more people can identify psychological violence and **9%** more people can spot economic violence compared to early 2019. People state better understanding (**6%** rise) that unwilling sex in marriage also constitutes sexual violence. Ukrainians show higher sensitivity to the issue of GBV, **9%** more men and **8%** more women acknowledge that men and women may equally become subject to violence.

Most common beliefs that condone GBV have been challenged. **5%** more people consider the statement 'If he beats you, it means he loves you' obsolete (reaching **87%**). Another **5%** more Ukrainians think

that a woman should not tolerate violence to save the family (**80%**). The perception informs behaviour change. **5%** more people state their willingness to intervene in a GBV incident to stop it (**67%**).

Ukrainian society gradually grows more sensitive to GBV, disapproving its manifestations and offering support to survivors. There is an emerging recognition of GBV as a societal problem (rather than personal) that requires a consolidated response of the community. Changes in public perception and growing unacceptability of GBV also sends a powerful signal that Ukrainian society expects due response to GBV.

Such increasing awareness and understanding of the unacceptability of violence will help not only eradicate GBV but grow violence-free generation of Ukrainians.

INTEGRATED APPROACH TO CAREER COUNSELING FOR GBV SURVIVORS



“...Almost a year of constant humiliation. After losing my job, I stopped being a person for my husband. He does not notice me, does not give me money at all, humiliates me in front of parents and friends. Any place I went to in my search for work, I was nowhere taken because of the lockdown. I turned to a career counsellor for help and received not only some advice and assistance in writing a resume and job search, but also continuous professional counselling and support. I am already working, I have received my first salary! I plan to take training and start my own business, which I have been dreaming of for a long time...”

– Svitlana, GBV survivor from Kharkiv.

Many women who recently left an abusive situation face the need to return to work immediately to gain financial resources to support themselves and their children. Women are unsure of how to re-enter the workforce after a long break, accumulated in years of violence and isolation. Some survivors already have a job but need to find additional or higher-paying employment to provide for themselves and their children after leaving the abuser. Many GBV survivors have low motivation, struggle with career decision-making and job readiness, which makes it challenging to break the circle of violence.

Established with UK Government support in late 2020, online Women Career Hub offers individual confidential consultations with a possibility to schedule an unlimited number of follow-up appointments. Each 1-2-hour long career counselling session is unique. Meeting specific needs of a client, career counsellors do talent mapping, provide support with job search, create individual professional development plans and connect to relevant training and employment opportunities.

During January-March, career counsellors gave **697 consultations** to women-survivors who were referred by shelters and day centres or applied online. More than **300 women** enrolled in a career support programme. Women receive employability guidance from a career adviser, but also have access to free sessions with psychologists for supervision if they need it. This modality helps survivors not only to secure employment but maintain it during turbulent COVID-19 time. Partnership with local businesses, social services and entrepreneurship initiatives has also allowed career counsellors of Women Career Hub to address survivors' career needs in a more integrated and complex manner.

SHELTER FOR GBV SURVIVORS OPENED IN DNIPRO



“Counteracting domestic violence is an area that the city will continue to develop in the future. After all, the priority for Dnipro is to provide comprehensive social support to its citizens regardless of age, sex or social status,”

– Borys Filatov, Mayor of Dnipro.

On 1 April, a shelter for adult GBV survivors was opened in Dnipro. Established with UNFPA support, the shelter is the first of its kind in Ukraine. It is designed to provide complex assistance to up to **10 adult women** simultaneously. The city created the service to complement an existing large shelter for **40 women** staying with children. Dnipro is the first city in Ukraine that has created two separate services to provide a safe space and comfortable environment for GBV survivors tailored to their needs.

Within the framework of the UNFPA “Cities Free from Domestic Violence” project, Dnipro confidently develops a system to prevent and respond to domestic and gender-based violence.

Strengthening its service network, the city plans to open a daycare centre and crisis rooms for GBV survivors. It also aspires to work with perpetrators on their behaviour change.

POLICE MOBILE GROUPS TO RESPOND TO GBV: EQUIPPED FOR ACTION

Under the EMBRACE project with UK Government support, UNFPA procured equipment for newly created police mobile groups and sectors to respond to domestic and gender-based violence. Fifty specialised mobile groups, which join the efforts of **200 police officers**, received laptops, tablets, car dashboard and body cameras, thermal printers, car fire extinguishers and first aid kits. The equipment was also delivered to

thirty seven newly created police sectors for GBV response in communities. Essential for documenting evidence and performing risk assessment in each DV/GBV case, the hardware enables due operation of the specialised police officers. Coupled with robust training on DV/GBV response delivered by the project, it ensures the capacity of the police mobile groups and sectors to effectively respond to DV/GBV.

UNFPA Programme on GBV Response and Prevention is implemented with the support of the governments of the United Kingdom, Canada and Estonia.

