

On 24 May, UNFPA and StarLight Doc presented the film “Behind the Silence” with support from Canada, the United Kingdom, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), and the Ukrainian Humanitarian Fund (UHF). The film explores the impact of the full-scale war on domestic violence and highlights services that support survivors of violence, including war-related sexual violence. The premiere was attended by over 300 people, including honorary ambassadors and representatives from partner countries.



BEHIND THE SILENCE: UNVEILING THE IMPACT OF WAR ON GBV



Since the onset of the large-scale war in February 2022, responding to and preventing gender-based violence has become increasingly important. In 2022, the National Hotline for the Prevention and Counteraction of Gender-Based Violence received a record high of 38,472 calls. During the same year, the police and social welfare authorities received 251,829 reports of domestic violence.

With a focus on assisting survivors of violence, particularly conflict-related sexual violence, the police and social services have expanded their assistance. Documentary “Behind the Silence” was created to raise awareness about the issue and provide information about available support.

[Watch the documentary online](#)

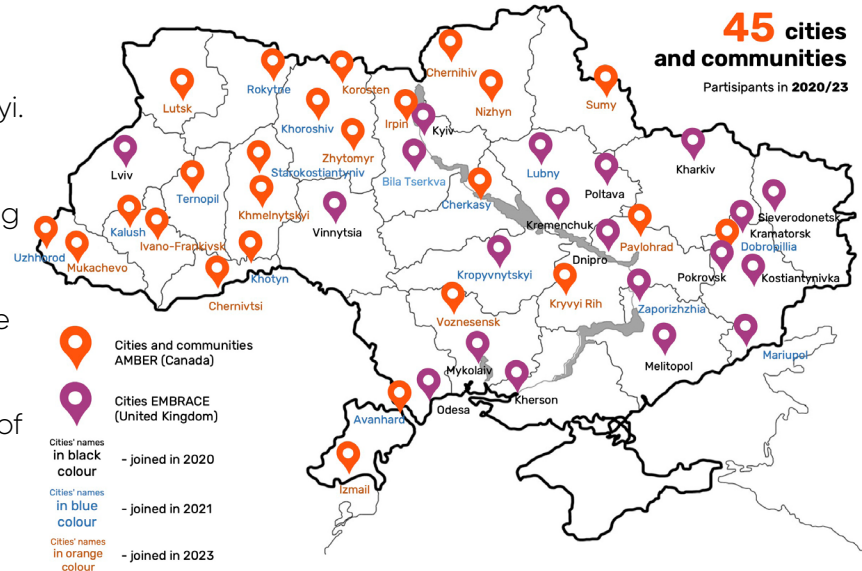
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15 NEW CITIES COMMIT TO CREATING VIOLENCE-FREE COMMUNITIES

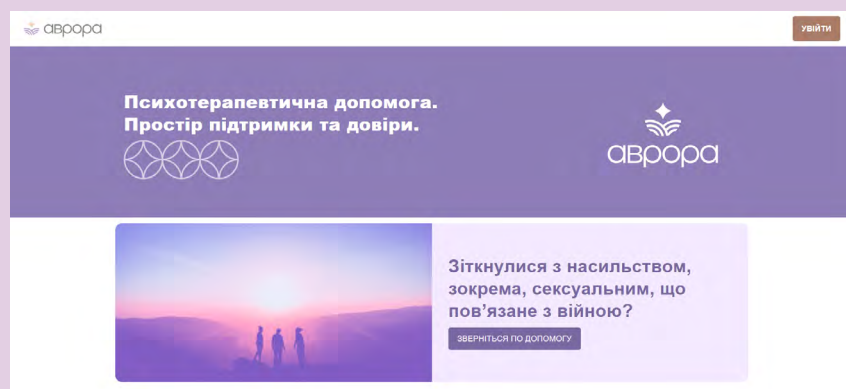
The "Cities and Communities Free from Domestic Violence" project in Ukraine has recently expanded, with the addition of 15 new cities. These successful contenders are Chernivtsi, Zhytomyr, Nizhyn, Kryvyi Rih, Lutsk, Sumy, Irpin, Mukachevo, Chernihiv, Pavlohrad, Izmail, Ivano-Frankivsk, Korosten, Voznesensk, and Khmelnytskyi.

From 2023 to 2025, with the support of UNFPA, these cities and communities will work on building GBV and domestic violence response and prevention systems. UNFPA will provide training for specialists and financing to create or improve services that assist GBV survivors. The "Cities and Communities Free from Domestic Violence" project was launched in May 2020 with the aim of strengthening cities and communities in Ukraine by providing resilient protection and assistance mechanisms to survivors.

"CITIES AND COMMUNITIES FREE FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE"



CONFIDENTIAL AND CONVENIENT: DISCOVER THE UPDATED "AURORA" PLATFORM



[A new online platform, "Aurora",](#) has been launched in Ukraine to offer secure, free, and anonymous psychotherapeutic assistance to survivors of war-related violence, including sexual violence. Users can benefit from up to 15 free sessions with trauma-informed specialists who provide individualized assistance.

The platform prioritizes the needs of survivors, offering confidential and anonymous services that can be accessed via phone or online. It also provides medical and legal services to address pressing health concerns and protect human rights. Additionally, the platform employs a case manager who provides ongoing support and assists survivors in navigating the necessary services.

[Read more](#)



STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF SERVICE PROVIDERS IN WARTIME

In 2023, a total of 989 service providers took part in 34 workshops focused on preventing and responding to gender-based violence. These training sessions were conducted by UNFPA across 19 regions of Ukraine, with the support of the Government of Finland.

The workshops were designed to increase the ability of police workers, social workers, and psychologists to respond to GBV cases during wartime. The sessions provided practical guidance on identifying, responding to, and referring survivors to relevant services, with an emphasis on survivor-centred assistance.

[Read more](#)

FROM VISION TO REALITY: "VONA HUB" ENCOURAGES WOMEN'S BUSINESS INITIATIVES

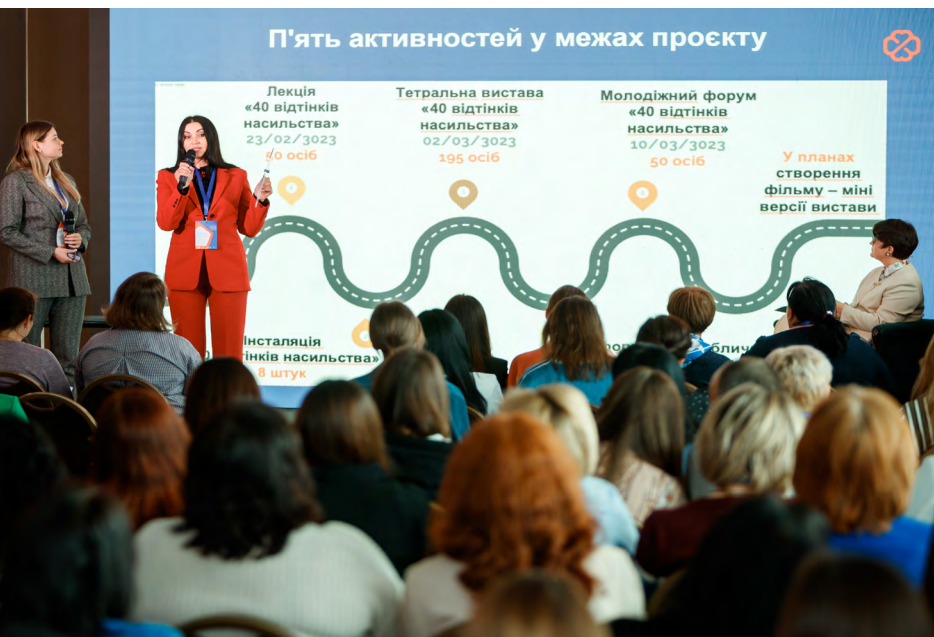
So far this year, 65 women who completed training at "VONA Hubs" were provided with starter kits to initiate their own businesses in the beauty industry in Zaporizhzhia, Lviv, Kyiv, Uzhhorod, and Lutsk.

In addition, "VONA Hub" has granted funds for the implementation of three projects in Chernivtsi. One project is focused on manufacturing safe and organic detergents, while the other two are related to the production of scarves and handmade souvenirs.

The purpose of "VONA Hubs" is to offer professional courses and assist women who are survivors of domestic or gender-based violence or who are at risk, to establish their own businesses. In the second quarter of 2023, "VONA Hub" clients who aspire to become financially independent will continue to receive starter kits and mini grants.



"ICEBREAKERS": FOSTERING CREATIVE APPROACHES TO GBV PREVENTION



In May 2023, UNFPA organized the "Icebreakers" forum in Kyiv, which brought together 77 representatives from various communities, including NGOs, activists, and thought leaders. The forum was conducted to discuss the achievements of community-based participatory prevention programme aimed at changing social norms to prevent domestic violence. Participants had the opportunity to share success stories, discuss plans for further work, and build relationships.

Since the autumn of 2022, UNFPA has been conducting two-day online workshops on changing social norms to prevent gender-based and domestic violence. Successful teams had the opportunity to prepare a project. As a result, 52 projects are being implemented with 43 communities being engaged and over 5 million people being reached. Communities organized educational events, media campaigns, street actions, and produced and disseminated information materials on how to prevent violence. Some creative solutions include chatbots, comics, theatrical performances, and quest games.



UNFPA Programme on GBV Response and Prevention is implemented with the support of the governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, USA, Finland, Belgium, Sweden, Norway, Australia, France, Spain, Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (OCHA), Denmark, Estonia, European Union (ECHO), Iceland, Ireland, and Czech Republic.



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