

June 2021

UNFPA-SUPPORTED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES GIVE WINGS TO GBV SURVIVORS

“Previously, I worked only because I had to. I did not like my job. But now I am looking forward to the new day”

– Angelika, GBV survivor.

“Now I am happy with everything. I work in the sphere I like. I am in a new relationship where I am respected. Now I feel secure”, says Angelika, an employee of one of the social enterprises opened with UNFPA support.

The first signs of abuse emerged early in Angelika’s relationship with her ex-husband. She was 15 at that time. “Sometimes he shouted at me and

oppressed me psychologically. I had to put up with it. When he first hit me, I told myself “it happened just once”, a young woman recalls.

After the birth of the son, the situation got worse. Angelika’s husband refused to find a job and drank a lot. That is how the 17-year-old girl was forced to provide for the family. Without any education or experience, she tried to get any possible job.

“He beat me with his hands and legs. Even as I was holding our 8-month-old child in my arms. It was the end of our relationship”, Angelika says. Domestic violence had its toll on Angelika’s baby: “He is alerted by loud noises. Sometimes he gets overly nervous without a reason”.





After four years of marriage, Angelika's feelings for her ex-husband are long gone. The young woman admits she hesitated to leave him for the fear of stigma. But the moment came that she could not take it any longer.

Back then, she found herself alone with a child in her arms and no job and prospects thereof. Angelika came back to everyday life with the help of a psychologist and a career advisor. She regained her psycho-emotional stability and took a free manicure course at GG Space, a UNFPA-supported social enterprise in Mykolaiv.

Since March 2021, Angelika works there as a manicure master. For the first time in her life, she enjoys her work.

UNFPA established social enterprises in five Ukrainian cities with the support of the UK Government. All of them operate since March 2021. In June, opening ceremonies, initially postponed due to quarantine restrictions, were held in Poltava (3 June), Vinnytsia (9 June) and Lviv (22 June).

The social entrepreneurship initiatives include:

- [ENJi – Light and Shadow](#) (Kherson) – a visual content studio providing photo and video services
- [GG Space](#) (Mykolaiv) – a place of comfort for women combining beauty salon, co-working and café

- [My Space](#) (Poltava) – a printing studio designing and producing prints on fabrics
- [Source of Beauty](#) (Vinnytsia) – an esthetics studio
- [Butterfly](#) (Lviv) – a social atelier designing and tailoring women's clothes and accessories.

Diverse and ambitious, the initiatives employ GBV survivors and donate a share of the revenue to GBV response and prevention work in their cities. The social enterprises provide workplaces to 16 women survivors of GBV and offer internships for GBV survivors who seek professional development. This opportunity helped 63 GBV survivors to acquire new professional skills as part of career support provided by the online Women Career Hub, created by UNFPA.

Social enterprises empower women GBV survivors to gain economic independence, provide for themselves and their children, develop professionally and restore confidence to build a better future.

Throughout June, the open call invited CSOs and small businesses to apply for seed funding to start their enterprise supporting GBV survivors. UNFPA and its implementing partner Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health received 11 qualified applications. The Selection Board will evaluate the proposals and analyse applicants' capacity to successfully implement the projects. Stay tuned for the news about the new cohort of social entrepreneurship initiatives.

FIRST SHELTER FOR GBV SURVIVORS OPENED IN MYKOLAIV REGION



The network of life-saving services for survivors of gender-based violence continues to grow. In

June, the first shelter for GBV survivors opened in the Mykolaiv region. Established with the support of UNFPA and the UK Government, the shelter is a much-needed safe space solution for GBV survivors in the region. It can accommodate up to 12 women with children simultaneously staying for up to 3 months. Qualified specialists at the shelter provide survivors with comprehensive psychosocial support, legal counselling and social supervision.

The shelter not only strengthens service provision to GBV survivors but becomes a central part of the system of GBV response and prevention in the region.

PLACE OF SUPPORT: DAYCARE CENTRE OPENED IN MYKOLAIV CITY

“The daycare centre opening is one of the steps to build a complete system in the city. We are pleased to see the city’s progress in addressing domestic and gender-based violence”

– Jaime Nadal, UNFPA Representative to Ukraine, at the launch ceremony.

In June, a daycare centre for GBV survivors started its work in Mykolaiv city. Opened as part of the municipal Centre for Social Services, the daycare centre is the first specialised service of complex psychosocial support to GBV survivors in the

city. Qualified professionals provide individual psychological, social and legal counselling and facilitate peer-support groups for GBV survivors.

The centre also conducts social work to prevent violence and reach zero tolerance for its manifestations in the municipal community.

This specialised service is one of the building blocks of the fast-growing response mechanism in the city. Participant of the project “Cities and Communities Free From Domestic Violence” since May 2020, Mykolaiv is developing a robust municipal GBV response and prevention system. As the next step in the process, the city plans to open a shelter for GBV survivors in autumn 2021.



JUNE 2021



PROSECUTOR GENERAL JOINS OPENING OF CENTRE FOR PERPETRATORS IN KOSTIANTYNIVKA

“Criminal justice in the cases of domestic violence is one of the priorities of the Prosecutor’s Office this year. To overcome this global problem, it is important not only to bring perpetrators to justice but also implement programmes so they could discontinue abusive behaviour”

– Iryna Venediktova, Prosecutor General.

On 25 June, a counselling centre for the implementation of programmes for perpetrators was opened at the police department of Kostiantynivka city. Established with UNFPA and UK Government support, the centre pilots a model of service provision to perpetrators. Kostiantynivka, a participant of the UNFPA project “Cities and

Communities Free From Domestic Violence” since 2020, builds a promising synergy between centre specialists and police mobile group of DV response. It will strengthen municipal mechanisms of protection of GBV survivors and prevention of GBV, including reducing the number of repeated cases of violence.

Iryna Venedikota, Prosecutor General of Ukraine, visited the event and emphasised the importance of such centres operation in supporting development of nonviolent behaviour by those who committed abuse in relationships.

In addition to the newly opened centre, the city has an active mobile group of psychosocial support to GBV survivors and plans to open a daycare centre that will enhance service provision to everyone who suffered from domestic or gender-based violence.

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



Canada

