

MASHA EFROSININA EXPLORES GBV RESPONSE SYSTEMS IN KHERSON AND MYKOLAIV

In September 2021, UNFPA Ukraine Honorary Ambassador Masha Efrosinina visited specialised services for GBV survivors and people at risk in Kherson and Mykolaiv. Both cities joined the UNFPA “Cities and Communities Free from Domestic Violence” project in 2020, and continue developing robust municipal systems of GBV response and prevention.

In Kherson, Masha Efrosinina explored the operation of the shelter and daycare centre for GBV survivors, set up with UNFPA technical expertise and UK and Canada financial support. Honorary Ambassador met with municipal authorities, local

police, specialised service providers and civil society organisations to discuss the city’s approach to a systemic response to GBV. Kherson has a police mobile group of GBV response, acting as first-line responders and referring GBV survivors to the local shelter. The shelter can host 12 people simultaneously, providing survivors with qualified psychological, social and legal counselling. Masha Efrosinina also visited UNFPA-supported social enterprise – photo & video studio “ENJi – Light and Shadow”. Employing GBV survivors, the studio lights their way to economic independence and violence-free life. The social enterprise also



conducts professional courses for GBV survivors and supports the GBV response work in the city.

In Mykolaiv, Honorary Ambassador paid a visit to a local daycare centre for GBV survivors and people at risk. There, Masha Efrosinina discussed the city's approach to addressing GBV with local police, specialised service providers and civil society organisations. The daycare centre started working in June 2021 and has already provided

social, psychological and legal support to 304 people in need. The city has a police mobile group of GBV response, addressing the cases of violence in local households. Soon, Mykolaiv plans to open a shelter for GBV survivors, completing a local system of specialised services for GBV survivors. Stay tuned to hear the news about the shelter's launch in Mykolaiv and Masha's new destinations in exploring municipal systems of GBV response and prevention.



ENHANCEMENT OF ODESA SHELTER

“The peculiarity of the new rooms in Odesa is that people who have officially received refugee status in Ukraine can seek help there. They will be provided with specialised assistance given their special life circumstances”

– Olha Stefanishyna, Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine.

On 16 September 2021, Odesa shelter opened two new rooms for GBV survivors. Renovated with

UHCHR help and furnished by UNFPA with UK financial support, the rooms provide opportunities for 8 women to stay comfortably and securely while receiving complex psychosocial support. In its enhanced capacity, the shelter can accommodate **20 GBV survivors** simultaneously with the possibility to stay up to 3 months.

Set up with UNFPA technical support and UK Government funding in May 2019, Odesa shelter has strengthened inclusivity of service provision. The shelter offers support to GBV survivors from refugee communities.

Since 2020, Odesa takes part in the UNFPA “Cities and Communities Free from Domestic Violence” project. With UNFPA technical support, the city established multisectoral coordination, enhanced the capacity of service providers and allocated funds for a sustainable operation of specialised services for GBV survivors.

One of the pioneers in developing municipal systems of GBV response and prevention, Odesa currently hosts domestic study visits of mayors from 30 project communities. The city serves as a role model on the path of deploying systemic solutions to GBV in Ukraine.



ENHANCING GBV RESPONSE ALGORITHMS OF POLICE

“There are several challenges to overcome for effective police response to GBV. Specifically, we deal with domestic violence in rural areas and cases where children are GBV survivors. The results of this work create the basis for improving the police algorithms to respond to GBV”

– Kateryna Pavlichenko, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs.

On 27–28 September 2021, UNFPA, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Police, conducted the two-day expert consultations of police algorithms of domestic violence response.

Representatives of patrol police, police investigation, human rights and legal departments of the National Police, police officers, specialists of human rights monitoring department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and professors of the Academy of the National Police gathered for a multi-faced discussion. The parties analysed different response scenarios and came up with suggestions to action plans of police on DV response and prevention, investigation of cases and referral to specialised services.

As a result of the meeting, participants developed a structure of police algorithms to respond to DV cases at different stages. They also elaborated the ways to address typical challenges faced by police officers responding to DV and GBV cases. The event was an important step on the way to improving GBV response measures and client-oriented support to GBV survivors.



LEARNING EQUATOR FOR FUTURE MUNICIPAL EXPERTS

“I take with me all the knowledge I've gained. I go home inspired. I look forward to continuing...”

– a participant of the training.

On 21-24 September 2021, the 2021 class of future municipal experts from 15 municipalities embarked on the second module of the UNFPA comprehensive learning course on the development of municipal GBV response and prevention systems. In Kherson, the participants dove into the rigorous study of effective multisectoral coordination of GBV response.

Following the concept of the first module, the training blended lectures, individual assignments, group work and on-site learning from practitioners. Municipal specialists visited the shelter for GBV survivors, a daycare centre and a social enterprise “ENJi – Light and Shadow”. The participants met with municipal duty bearers to discuss Kherson's experience in developing multisectoral coordination mechanisms. The training not only enriched participants with valuable insights but motivated them to bring about change in their communities.



Their learning journey will take two more insightful stops – in Dnipro and Kyiv – before reaching the finish line in November 2021.



EMBRACING BEAUTY FOR A BETTER LIFE

“I am a graduate of this project in the distant first season. And today, I am teaching primary colouring. When the girls took their first steps in the art of hairdressing, I was so inspired by it. It is gratifying to see how people with low self-esteem and modest expectations blossom and succeed. I always told them that years of practice makes wonders. And now we have completed the 5th season of the Beauty for a Better Life”

– Inna Huz, a successful alumna of the 1st edition and inspirational coach of the 5th season.

On 30 August, 64 women shone brightly than the summer sun. Proud to have completed the rigorous training, the fresh alumnae were excited to receive the well-earned certificates and start their careers in salon business. For seven months preceding the graduation, they had been mastering the art of hairdressing under the coaching of seasoned experts of the “Beauty for a Better Life” school.

Reflecting on the start of their training in February, participants admitted that they did not believe they would complete the course in the context of

the pandemic and lockdowns. The 5th edition of the project, implemented by UNFPA and L’Oreal since 2018, proved to be exceptionally agile and bold. Run in Kyiv and Lviv simultaneously, the school provided over 500 hours of offline and online training in small groups of up to 20 people each. The project offered enhanced group and individual psychological consultations and supervision to the participants so they could steer through turbulence and uncertainty to economic independence.

The Kyiv class found inspiration in one of the coaches. She understood the participants’ concerns and challenges better than anyone could as she had been in their shoes. An alumna of the first edition of the “Beauty for a Better Life” school, Inna Huz was keen to offer her extensive hairdressing expertise and wholehearted support to the group of women who aspired to start a new life. Thanks to Inna’s example and kind care, training participants demonstrated dedication to learn and succeed.

On their graduation, the 2021 class joined ranks of **164 project alumnae**. The School completion marked the start of a new chapter in the life of the women where they feel empowered to build their careers. They will certainly be an inspiration for thousands of Ukrainian women and girls.