

# EQUALITY SPRINGBOARD NEWS DIGEST

JANUARY TO MARCH, 2022

The Equality Springboard is a joint Swedish-Ukrainian project aimed at eliminating gender stereotypes in education, at work, at home, in community life, and at creating an enabling environment, as well as at growing public demand for equal rights and opportunities for women and men in Ukraine. For more details about the project, please follow [the link](#).

## SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



### IN ZAPORIZHIA AND POLTAVA, WOMEN AFFECTED BY THE ARMED HOSTILITIES RECEIVED HYGIENIC KITS AND ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS PROVIDED BY THE UNFPA

In **March 2022**, UNFPA delivered humanitarian hygiene kits to mothers and children who currently undergo health rehabilitation at the Department for Pathologies of New-born and Premature Infants of the Zaporizhia Oblast Children's Clinical Hospital, and provided assistance to women accommodated in a shelter and day care centre, equipped with crisis rooms, for survivors of violence in Poltava. The vital goods were given to mothers who have many children, children with disabilities, as well as those who suffered of hostilities in Mariupol and in cities and villages in Zaporizhia Oblast. The shelter in Poltava mainly hosts women evacuated from Kharkiv. The humanitarian aid was provided to the total of 160 women and 50 children aged 4 months to 10 years.

*"The United Nations Population Fund aid was very timely, since we provide treatment to new-borns from large families, as well as children and mothers from Mariupol and Zaporizhia Oblast", says Yulia Tokareva, head of the Department for Pathologies of New-born and Premature Infants. "The number of IDPs arriving in Zaporizhia grows every day, which produces a noticeable impact on the way our department operates".*

The delivery was made in partnership with the "Posmishka (Smile) UA" Charitable Foundation and the Zaporizhia City Council within the framework of the TatoHub. Zaporizhzhya project and the "Centre for Modern Development and Innovation" NGO, within the framework of the TatoHub. Poltava project. [Learn more](#)



## UKRAINIAN WOMEN AFFECTED BY THE WAR FIND REFUGE IN CRISIS ROOMS OPENED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE UNFPA AND SWEDISH GOVERNMENT



Over the past month and a half, millions of Ukrainian women with children have been forced to leave their homes fleeing from the war. They fled without knowing any definite destination, without luggage or any plans for the future, without money – just going to some place that was safe. Among them were the most vulnerable categories – single mothers, women with babies, women with disabilities, senior citizens.

Those women have found shelter in the crisis rooms in Lutsk, Ternopil and Chernivtsi, supported by the UNFPA project "Equality Springboard" and funded by the Swedish government, and are now able to live with dignity and care for their children. Crisis rooms are, in essence, a place for temporary stay, equipped with everything one might need – a kitchen, furniture, utensils, food – operating within the structure of local social assistance centres. They were created for women who were survivors of domestic violence and needed a safe shelter. Every woman's story is a broken family life, pain, suffering, but also hope. Hope for a better future both for herself and for her children.



### CHERNIVTSI

**Olena, 39,** ended up in a crisis room in Chernivtsi quite unexpectedly for herself. A single mother with a baby in her arms, she fled from Severodonetsk when it suffered heavy "Grad" shelling. Olena is a native of the city of Rubizhne in Luhansk Oblast, but for the last six months she lived in Severodonetsk, in a mother-and-child home. On March 12, a friend helped Olena get on an evacuation bus heading for Slovyansk. While on the way, the

bus broke down and the women riding in it had to push it along the road. Elena says it was a turning point. But everyone believed they would be able to escape. From Slovyansk, the mother and her child took an evacuation train to Lviv; the trip took a day and a half. Olena admits that she is going to return home only if she is 100% sure that the war is over. Meanwhile, the city Chernivtsi has become a home for her and her son.

For **Valentyna**, this is the second time that she has to live through the horrors of war. The girl was only 13 in 2014, when she was forced to flee from her native Luhansk to Severodonetsk and learn how to live independently staying in a boarding school. Now, the 20-year-old girl had to flee the war in Ukraine with her one-month-old baby in her arms. Eventually, the absence of electricity, water and gas forced the local residents to call the authorities and volunteers and look for ways to evacuate. On March 12, a green corridor was opened and Valentyna and her child managed to leave for Slovyansk, and after that, they took a 36-hour-long train trip to Lviv.

"When our train was finally given a corridor to Lviv, it was a victory," she said. "We spent one night in Lviv, and then arrived here in Chernivtsi, where I settled in a crisis room. For me and for my little baby it is real happiness."





**Halyna, 63**, her husband, two adult daughters and granddaughters left Hostomel several hours after the first missile had hit the Hostomel Airport on February 24.

*"Looking out of the window, we very clearly saw how Hostomel, Bucha and Irpin were bombed."* says Halyna.

*"And every time we understood that to leave in good time was the right thing to do. My younger daughter, Lilya, has cerebral palsy. She needs my constant care. We would simply not be able to leave after the fighting has intensified."*

After the fighter jets began flying over the city, Halyna and her family urgently left for Lviv, helped by the concerned parishioners of the local church. Now, she rather likes the crisis room in Chernivtsi, where they found shelter: *"We have everything; people bring food. The living conditions here are excellent. We are happy that our entire family was saved and arrived here."*

## LUTSK



**Olha, 26**, is a single mother of two little boys: one is seven months, the other is four years old. Together with her family and children, she lived in a private house in the village of Mykulychi in Kyiv Oblast; located very close to the border with Belarus, the village fell under

Russian occupation since the first days of the war. A few days after the invasion, Olha was visited by her sister and her family, and the ten of them hid in the cellar. Together with other women, Olha was helped to escape to the city of Vysheve, and af-

ter that, together with the children and her sister-in-law, she went to Lutsk, to a temporary shelter where she and her children had to sleep on the floor. A priest from the local church introduced Olha to an employee of the local Centre for social assistance, which gave her accommodation in a crisis room.

*"Now we enjoy great help here, we get everything we need and food, too. The place where we stay has a kitchen and utensils. At last, I feel safe with my children."* said Olha, who has stayed in the crisis room for three weeks.

## TERNOPIL



**Iryna** (name changed at her request) was born in Russia, but relocated to Kyiv 13 years ago. She got married here, started a family and had two children. Now she is a Ukrainian

citizen who, along with hundreds of thousands of other Ukrainian women, had to flee Kyiv. Having spent three nights in the basement of her home, when air raid alarm sounded, Iryna developed a severe allergy to dust, and she could no longer stay there. Iryna's son, suffering from a severe stress, could not sleep in the basement either. According to Iryna, the situation grew totally unbearable on March 13, when frequent explosions were heard in Kyiv. Iryna was worried about her children, and she and her husband decided that, for their safety, she should leave immediately. Iryna's husband was able to take several days off at work and accompany his family to Ternopil. There, Iryna found shelter in a crisis room supported by the UNFPA's "Springboard to Equality" project.

*"I am happy that my children can be safe and live in excellent conditions."* Iryna shared. *"The apartment where we live has everything, including dishes and food, and my children and I feel very comfortable here."*



## WOMEN AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO CONTINUE LEARNING NEW IT PROFESSIONS

Almost a year ago, in **May 2021**, UNFPA Ukraine announced IT courses for women in difficult life circumstances and who suffered of domestic violence. While gaining new competitive professions, dozens of participants were also consulted by career counsellors and psychologists. 61 women have already mastered a new profession and found employment opportunities. At this time, another 161 participants continue learning how to programme in Java, JavaScript, PHP, testing, UI/UX web design, project management, HR in IT and digital marketing. In May, another 240 women affected by violence and armed hostilities will join the course. The project is implemented in partnership with such IT schools as Beetroot Academy (Kyiv) and Logos IT Academy (Lviv). [More information](#)

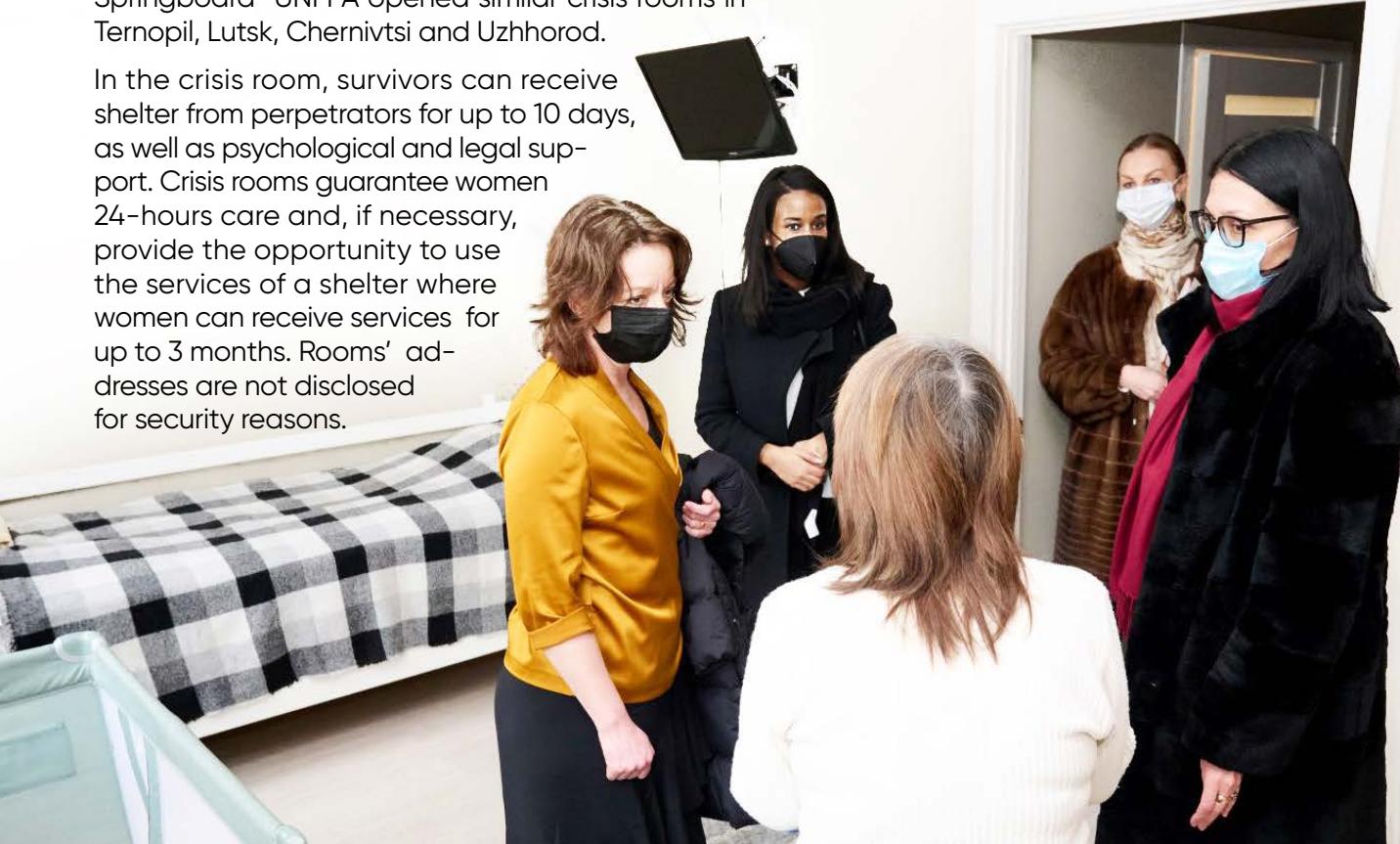
## MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OF SWEDEN AND THE AMBASSADOR OF SWEDEN TO UKRAINE TOGETHER WITH UNFPA UKRAINE MET GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

On **11 February 2022**, Matilda Ernkrans, the Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden, and Tobias Thyberg, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sweden to Ukraine, visited the Crisis Room for Domestic Violence Survivors in Kyiv funded by UNFPA with support of the British Embassy. In 2021 with financial support from Sweden within the three-year project "Equality Springboard" UNFPA opened similar crisis rooms in Ternopil, Lutsk, Chernivtsi and Uzhhorod.

In the crisis room, survivors can receive shelter from perpetrators for up to 10 days, as well as psychological and legal support. Crisis rooms guarantee women 24-hours care and, if necessary, provide the opportunity to use the services of a shelter where women can receive services for up to 3 months. Rooms' addresses are not disclosed for security reasons.

Also, during the visit, Matilda Ernkrans and Tobias Thyberg had the opportunity to talk to women who took courses and received a new specialty in IT. UNFPA implements this initiative in collaboration with the Beetroot Academy IT School as a part of the Springboard for Equality project.

[Read more](#)



## ENGAGING MEN IN THE EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD RESPONSIBILITIES AND CHILDCARE

### TATOHUBS SUPPORT COMMUNITIES AND CREATE SAFE FAMILY SPACE FOR WAR SURVIVORS



#### TATOhub Полтава

In **January**, TatoHub. Poltava and the Oblast Youth Centre jointly organized a series of meetings of TatoSchool, offering the participants an opportunity to discuss non-violent conflict resolution, and watch films in the TatoCinema.

Since the community is a psychologically safe space, the TatoHub participants readily shared their experiences and opinions on debunking gender stereotypes. In February, the TatoHub team held a "Child Safety – Simple Rules" seminar, dedicated to self-defence.

After the armed hostilities began, TatoHub. Poltava established cooperation with businesses to collect humanitarian aid for those who fled from Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Zaporizhia and Sumy Oblasts. The procurement, logistics and organization of events was jointly supported by the Poltava Volunteer Centre, the Women's Shelter of the "Svitlo Nadiyi" (Light of Hope) charity organization and the Oblast Youth Centre of the Poltava Oblast Council. Together with the Poltava City Centre for Social Services, TatoHub. Poltava launched psychological counselling to IDPs, who underwent initial stabilization after an acute stress, tested them for PTSD symptoms, provided with grief support, information exchange and life planning in new circumstances.



#### TATOhub Запоріжжя

In **February**, TatoHub. Zaporizhia, the Service for Children and the Department of Sports, Family and Youth of the Zaporizhia City Council, jointly organized 9 events for psychological support for dads, a "Daddy Quiz" team game for dads and children, and two online cinemas for students of the ZNU College of Economics and Law to watch a thematic film "Diaper Cake". In late February, the TatoHub. Zaporizhzhya psychologists, jointly with a local IT company, held a TatoHub training session on "How to Be a Dad", and also discussed the issue of stress in the course of child rearing and remote work. The meetings of TatoHub. Zaporizhzhya and matters of responsible fatherhood were covered by the TV5 local channel.



Since the beginning of the armed hostilities, TatoHub. Zaporizhia has provided active humanitarian and psychological support to families who were forced to leave their homes in Mariupol, and in Donetsk and Zaporizhia Oblasts.

## GENDER POLICY IN CORPORATE SECTOR

### UNFPA EXPERTISE AND RECOMMENDATIONS HELP Ukrzaliznytsia JSC MAKE ITS CORPORATE POLICIES MORE GENDER SENSITIVE

Gender equality is an important component of the country's social and economic development, encompassing the private and the state sectors. In February 2022, UNFPA Ukraine carried out a baseline study of Ukrzaliznytsia's corporate policies on the principles of gender equality, family-friendly approach, non-discrimination and zero tolerance for violence. The analysis included the best world practices of the European Transport Workers' Federation, the Canadian National Railway, the British Railways network, the Estonian Railways, the German Railways (Deutsche Bahn AG) and other global railway companies. Following the review and recommendations, Ukrzaliznytsia JSC aims at establishing standards and regulations that would integrate gender equality, formalise the principles of a family-friendly approaches and zero tolerance for violence at all levels, in order to support its employees. This is in line with the commitment made by Ukrzaliznytsia in late 2021 to join the UNFPA Declaration for gender equality and against domestic violence, which aims at improving the corporate culture of equal rights and opportunities for men and women and running advocacy campaigns and other corporate activities to counteract domestic violence and discrimination.

## COMBATING GENDER STEREOTYPES IN EDUCATION

### UNFPA, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE AND THE GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER FOR GENDER POLICY JOINTLY WORK ON APPROVING A GENDER STRATEGY IN EDUCATION

In **January and February 2022**, the United Nations Population Fund, together with the Government Commissioner for Gender Kateryna Levchenko and EdCamp, organized an expert evaluation of the "Strategy for Gender Equality in Education until 2030" prepared by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. The goal of the Strategy is to ensure the implementation and permanent observance of equal rights and opportunities for women and men; prevention of, and counteraction to any discrimination in education, for all parties in the educational process at all levels of education, through introducing changes in structural and organizational aspects. The Strategy is also aimed at implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, namely Goal 4 "Quality Education" and Goal 5 "Gender Equality", and other international commitments that Ukraine assumed (in order to implement the provisions of the Presidential Decree, dated September 30, 2019, № 722/2019 "On the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030"; reporting within the Biarritz Partnership framework, as well as ensuring compliance with the National Action Plan to implement the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women).





## UNFPA AND EDCAMP TRAIN EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS IN THE METHODOLOGY OF SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SEEL (Social, Emotional and Ethical Learning) is an educational program developed by specialists at Emory University, USA, based on the latest data about the nervous system. It teaches methods of coping with stress and emotions management, and helps students succeed in school, in their careers and life. The program is useful both for children and for teachers. In January and February 2022, EdCamp, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund in Ukraine, launched a two-stage process to select future trainers of this methodology, which was attended by 79 educators. As a result of the exercise, 23 representatives of the educational community were selected to continue studying at the course in social, emotional and ethical education. Once they complete the course, they can run training sessions for other teachers.

[More information about the method](#)



Photo for the quest course #education\_without\_discrimination, made by the NGO EdCamp Ukraine, with the participation of the Small Puppet Theater (Kharkiv). February 2022



## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF EVENTS TO BE HELD WITHIN THE “EQUALITY SPRINGBOARD” PROJECT IN MAY AND JUNE 2022:

### CHOOSE A STEREOTYPE-FREE CAREER TOGETHER WITH THE MAS

In May, the “CVIDOMI” National Career Choice Project will be launched, together with the Minor Academy of Sciences. It will include training sessions and webinars on choosing a career free from stereotypes, expert consultations, interviews on career opportunities with celebrities, and a video project about female researchers who continue their work even in the war conditions. Follow the announcements about the project on the [UNFPA](#) and [MAS](#) pages in social media.



### PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTATIONS FOR TEACHERS AFFECTED BY ARMED HOSTILITIES, TOGETHER WITH “SMART OSVITA”



In May, UNFPA will start nation-wide webinars and consultations for Ukrainian teachers on the theoretical background of trauma, formation of practical self-help skills and advice on how to organize the educational process, despite the wartime. Registration for the events will be available at UNFPA social media pages and on [the New Ukrainian School website](#).

### HUMANITARIAN AID FOR IDPS FROM THE SOUTH AND EAST OF UKRAINE

Together with the “Posmishka (Smile) UA” Charity Fund, we provide extensive psychological and humanitarian support to survivors of hostilities, who temporarily stay in Poltava and Zaporizhia. More information can be found [here](#).

