

PROJECT BULLETIN

PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE

Issue №3 (January – March 2015)

This bulletin is also available in [Ukrainian](#).

JANUARY TO MARCH 2015

During the period of January-March the project legal experts finalised the **review of the Ukrainian legislation in terms of its compliance with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention**. By the end of this period all the relevant domestic legal acts were analysed in detail, and the existing gaps and shortcomings that need to be remedied to enable Ukraine to bring its legal framework in line with the treaty and to prepare its subsequent effective implementation were identified. Having received from the project partners their comments on the interim findings and recommendations, the experts will finish shortly a consolidated report with Ukraine-tailored recommendations on the basis of the discussions held.



Strategic discussions with stakeholders on comprehensive policies on violence against women in Ukraine were held on 24 and 25 February in Kyiv. In the course of these two days the project law experts met with civil society representatives, as well as with representatives of the Ministries of Social Policy, Foreign Affairs, Interior, Justice and Health, the Supreme Court, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Verkhovna Rada, the Ombudperson's Office, Kirovohrad regional authorities and international organisations.

The discussions focused on the best way for Ukraine to implement certain key provisions of the Istanbul Convention. The participants had a fruitful discussion on the most appropriate legal and institutional framework, the basis for an integrated and coordinated approach to preventing and combating violence against women

and domestic violence. They also discussed how to best allocate responsibilities within the executive and the designation of one or several coordination bodies to watch over the national policies in this field.

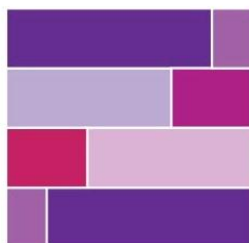


A conference on combating violence against women and gender stereotypes in mass media was organized in Kyiv on 4 March ahead of the International Women's Day. It gathered over 60 journalists, civil society representatives and experts on women's human rights who called on the media of Ukraine to bring to citizens a non-stereotyped image, role and visibility of both women and men, to avoid sexist advertising, language and content which leads to discrimination on grounds of sex, incitement to hatred and gender-based violence. They also discussed the relevant international standards, including those of the Council of Europe.

Practical recommendations developed by the participants of the conference highlighted, among other, the need for journalists when preparing publications to avoid portraying women only as victims of violence or sexualised objects, advice to adopt self-regulatory measures for the media, such as internal codes of conduct/ethics, and to develop standards in media coverage that promote gender equality, both in the content and internally.

The third project Steering Committee meeting was held on 19 March in Kyiv. It was chaired by Mr Sergiy Ustimenko, Vice Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine and attended by representatives of the main project partners.

The Council of Europe presented updated information on the implementation of the project since November 2014.



<http://www.coe.int/web/stop-violence-against-women-ukraine>

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The members of the Steering Committee approved a workplan until the end of the project and discussed the immediate next steps, in particular the work to be undertaken to prepare the Verkhovna Rada for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.



All stakeholders discussion on the draft Law of Ukraine on Domestic Violence on 24 March in Kyiv. The event was organised in close cooperation with the main project partner, Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and attended by over 40 representatives of key stakeholders including the Ministries of Interior, Justice and Health, General Prosecutor's Office, Supreme Court of Ukraine, Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, State Court Administration, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, civil society and international organisations.

In the course of the event this important draft law was reviewed article by article in light of the Istanbul Convention requirements and the experts' recommendations. Participants encouraged its finalisation and submission to policy makers by the Ministry of Social Policy as soon as possible.

A half-day **Workshop on the Istanbul Convention** was organised for civil society representatives and civil servants from various ministries and other partner organisations of the project on 25 March 2015 in Kyiv.



Mr Javier Truchero, the project international expert, delivered an informative and comprehensive presentation on the Istanbul

Convention. He provided participants with a detailed explanation of the role that this treaty plays in eradicating violence against women and domestic violence in Europe, and explained the specific obligations that the countries ratifying it need to meet. The presentation was followed by a "question-answer" session, centred on the added value of the IC, its structure, principles and requirements. The participants were also interested in learning about comprehensive policies in preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and about the best international practices on access to support services for victims.

The expert's presentation in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#) is available for downloading from the Project website.

RESOURCES

The Project is in the process of translating into Ukrainian language three more Council of Europe **studies on particular provisions of the Istanbul Convention**:

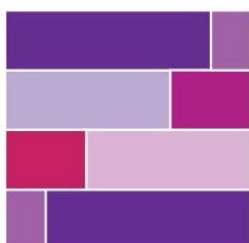
- ✚ Prevention of violence against women: Article 12 of the Istanbul Convention;
- ✚ Raising awareness of violence against women: Article 13 of the Istanbul Convention;
- ✚ Domestic and sexual violence perpetrator programmes: Article 16 of the Istanbul Convention.

Contact details:

Office of the Council of Europe in Ukraine
Kyiv 04070, Illinska Street 8, Entrance 7, 6th Floor
Tel. +380.443.039.914 (int.124/126/127)
Fax. +380.444.256.001

Council of Europe Project "Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine" team:

Ana Urrutia-Enciso, Project Manager
Iryna Svavolya, Project Officer
Oksana Nechyporuk, Project Assistant
Maria Oreshkina, Project Officer in Strasbourg



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