

## PROJECT BULLETIN

# PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE

Issue № 5 (September – December 2015)

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

### SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2015

The International conference “Data collection on violence against women and domestic violence: moving towards the requirements of the Istanbul Convention” took place in Kyiv on 3 and 4 September. For the first time, 110 representatives of all the regional branches of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Social Policy as well as professionals from the local Centres for social services for families and children and youth took part in an event on the Istanbul Convention. Academic experts, members of International organizations and NGO activists also participated. The first day of the conference was dedicated to experts' presentations on international standards and good European practices in the field of data collection. In particular, Iryna Kalachova, Council of Europe's national expert, presented the results of her research on the current Ukrainian system for data collection. On the second day, three group discussions on ways to bring the Ukrainian data collection system in line with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention were organised. The working group on data collection will follow up on the conclusions of the conference.



The Fourth Steering Committee of the project was held in Kyiv on 29 October. The meeting gathered representatives from the main beneficiaries and partners of the project, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the General Prosecutor Office, the State Court Administration, and the State Statistic Service. Representatives from the Supreme Court of Ukraine and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) also attended. Following the discussion on the activities carried out during the period March - October 2015, the Project Manager presented the Action Plan for the project no-cost extension covering the period March - August 2016, which was

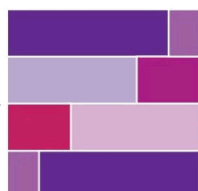
approved by the Steering Committee members. In the forthcoming months, the project will continue to accompany the process of ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Ukraine, in light of the commitments officially declared by Ukrainian authorities: Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Plan of Legislative reform of the Verkhovna Rada .



Ganna Khrystova, the Legal adviser of the project presented the key recommendations of the project legislative assessment report of selected Ukrainian laws with the Istanbul Convention during the Seminar for lawyers on “Sharing best practices”. The seminar was organised by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and took place in Kyiv on 16-17 November 2015. This activity served to raise awareness about the added value of the Istanbul Convention and the perspective of its ratification by Ukraine in 2016.



On 18 November, the members of the Working group on Data collection met to discuss the next steps to be taken to improve the Ukrainian data collection system in view of the requirements of the Istanbul Convention. Following up on the discussion held at the international conference in September, the working group discussed the written draft conclusions of a long-standing



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analysis in the presence of the national expert, Iryna Kalachova. The conclusions were circulated among stakeholders for their final approval and they will soon be distributed to all relevant authorities and institutions. This will also end the project's contribution to data collection on VAW/DV until an appropriate legal framework is in place.

On 25 November, the [reading of play "Seven" was hosted in the Plenary hall of the Verkhovna Rada](#) to mark the International Day for the Elimination of All Violence against Women. "Seven" is a documentary play based on seven women's rights activists from around the world.



The successful event was organised in co-operation with the Verkhovna Rada Chairperson, the Embassy of Sweden, the Council of Europe and the International Charitable Foundation "Ukrainian Women's Fund". Wide coverage was ensured by national TV channels, radio and on-line media. The Istanbul Convention was quoted by MPs in several interviews, as the most far-reaching international treaty to tackle violence against women. The initiative was deemed crucial with a view to the fact that the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine will soon review the package of amendments drafted by the Government of Ukraine to bring the national legislation in line with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention.

The [Working group on interagency co-operation for an integrated response to violence against women and domestic violence](#) met in Kyiv on 16 December for the first time.



The meeting gathered representatives of local authorities (Oblast, district and city levels), local representatives of the prosecutor's office, of the police, administrative courts, free legal aid, social centers and local NGOs from two project pilot regions, Kirovograd and Lviv. Representatives of partners at the national level, such as the Ministry of Interior, the General Prosecutor Office, Free Legal

Aid, Ombudsperson Office and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine also participated. The event was opened by Sergiy Ustyomenko, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine, and was attended by several international experts. Among them, Ms Genoveva Tisheva presented the analysis of the regional and local shortcomings for multiagency co-operation in Ukraine while Ms Marta Torres presented the co-operation experience in the town of Pozuelo de Alarcon, Spain. A lively discussion followed in which participants posed questions and expressed some of their challenges and frustrations. The meeting was the first of several meetings aimed at identifying a mechanism for interagency co-operation for an integrated response to violence against women and domestic violence at the local level in the context of the on-going decentralisation reform.

### Resources

More information on the project activities as well as all project publications are available at the [Project website](#) in both English and Ukrainian.

Also, three types of info cards were developed together with La Strada, and have been widely distributed among police officers, and social services:

- ✚ One targeted at victims of VAW&DV (3 000 copies) with actions to be taken and with La Strada hotline;
- ✚ One targeted at district police officers (5 000 copies) with their duties and the rights of victims;
- ✚ One targeted at social services with their duties and the rights of victims (5 000 copies).

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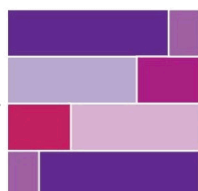
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