

## THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECT “PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE”

### JOURNALIST AWARD FOR THE BEST MEDIA WRITTEN MATERIAL ON THE TOPIC OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE

[The Council of Europe Project “Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine”](#) (funded by the Government of Sweden) is launching a Journalist Award for the best published article on the topic of violence against women and domestic violence.

Across member states of the Council of Europe, 20-25% of all women have experienced physical violence at least once during their adult lives and more than 10% have suffered sexual violence involving the use of force. One in five women in Europe is a past, present or potential victim of violence<sup>1</sup>. Violence against women is rooted in a global culture of discrimination which denies women equal rights with men. Violence against women is a form of gender-based violence that is committed against women because they are women, its examples are endless and victims are countless.

Domestic violence is understood as a form of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occurs within the family or domestic unit, or between former or current spouses or partners. Domestic violence is far too common and affects women, men, children and elderly. However, the overwhelming majority of victims of domestic violence are women. 12-15% of European women over 16 suffer domestic abuse in a relationship during their life.

[The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence \(Istanbul Convention\)](#) frames the eradication of all types of violence against women and domestic violence in a context of achieving de jure and de facto gender equality. The Convention entered into force on 1 August 2014, and it is the most far-reaching legally binding instrument with specific focus on prevention and protection against violence against women and domestic violence. It was opened for signature in May 2011 and Ukraine was the 17<sup>th</sup> country to sign it in November 2011, but has yet to ratify it. The total number of signatures not followed by ratifications is 19, while the total number of ratifications is 20<sup>2</sup>.

The Istanbul Convention requires State parties to prevent violence against women, protect its victims and prosecute the perpetrators. The Convention also aims at changing attitudes and eliminating gender stereotypes. Very often public views and opinions are inevitably influenced by the way in which the media present the facts. By fuelling or accentuating certain gender stereotypes, the media contribute to the perpetuation of roles assigned by society to women and men, which are not based on any actual gender difference.

In news programmes, television series, newspaper articles and video games, the use of stereotypes to characterise women and men is widespread. There is a significant number of examples of infringements of the dignity of women through the inappropriate use of images of nudity associated with certain products. The role of media should not be underestimated, that is why the Convention addresses the responsibility of the private sector, in particular the media to contribute to gender equality, women’s empowerment and as a consequence to the prevention of violence against women and domestic violence in and through media of all forms, irrespective of the technology used ([Article 17](#)).

[The Council of Europe Project “Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine”](#) calls all professional journalists and freelancers of local, regional and national media to participate in

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<sup>1</sup> Council of Europe Study, Combating violence against women, 2006, page 7.

<sup>2</sup> Chart of signatures and ratifications of Treaty 210 (Istanbul Convention); status as of 01/02/2016  
<http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210/signatures>

the journalist award for the best media written material on the topic of violence against women and domestic violence.

## REGULATIONS

### I. STEPS OF THE COMPETITION:

**STEP 1:** Competition online registration form has to be completed via the Project website: [link](#).

After completing the form, a thank you message will be displayed.

**STEP 2:** Media written material shall then be submitted to the following e-mail: [vaw.ukraine@coe.int](mailto:vaw.ukraine@coe.int) by May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the latest.

**STEP 3:** Results of the competition (winners' names) will be published on the Project website by the end of May 2016.

Winners will receive the following awards:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – 500 EUR
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 300 EUR
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 150 EUR
- Other most deserving among the eligible participants will receive honorary awards (certificates) from the Council of Europe.

### II. ELIGIBILITY:

1. The article must be related to violence against women and/or domestic violence issues and fully name of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).
2. The article must be written in line with basic journalist requirements and to describe socio-political importance of the topic;
3. The length of each article must be no less than 750 words and a maximum of 4 500 words, and to be published in the national /regional/ local printed or Internet-online edition in Ukrainian, Russian and/or English.
4. The article has to be published on any Ukrainian media (national, regional or local) between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

### III. SELECTION PROCEDURE

1. The Secretariat of the Project "Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine" will transmit to the members of the jury eligible articles received by the deadline set above.
2. The Jury Board will be composed of:
  - Iryna Lutsenko, MP of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;
  - Sergiy Ustyomenko, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine;
  - Sergiy Shturhetski, Member of the Commission of Journalistic ethics, Head of Ukrainian Media Union

- Ana Urrutia, Council of Europe Project Manager “Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine.

3. The members of the jury will meet to select the winning articles.
4. Each member of the jury will then select by secret ballot, from the list established, the three best articles, and award 3 points to the favourite, 2 to the second and 1 to the third.
5. The article which has received the highest number of points will win the 1<sup>st</sup> prize of the Journalist award for the best media written material on the topic of violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine. In the event of a tie, a vote by simple majority will be taken in order to decide between the articles with the highest number of points.

**CANCELLATION OF THE PRIZE:** Subject to availability of funds and extension of the Project initial duration, the Council of Europe reserves the right to suspend the award of the prize or to cancel the prize at any time.

#### **References:**

■ [The Council of Europe Project “Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine”](#)

■ [The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence \(Istanbul Convention\)](#) is the most comprehensive legally binding treaty addressing the root causes of violence against women and promoting greater equality between women and men. The Convention explicitly states that it shall apply in times of peace and in situations of armed conflict.

■ [The Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec\(2013\)1 on gender equality and media](#) that provides specific guidelines and suggests action to ensure gender equality and to combat gender stereotyping. The recommendation is addressed to member states and media organisations, and contains 16 implementation measures in the following six categories: 1. review and evaluation of gender equality policy and legislation; 2. adoption and implementation of national indicators for gender equality in the media; 3. provision of information and promotion of good practices; 4. accountability channels; 5. research and publication; and 6. media literacy and active citizenship.

#### **CONTACTS:**

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