



**Addendum to the report  
submitted by Ukraine on 3 July 2023  
pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1,  
of the Council of Europe Convention  
on preventing and combating violence  
against women and domestic violence  
(Baseline Report)**

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**Report**  
**on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention**  
**on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**

**II. Comprehensive policy and data collection**

C. The free legal aid system (hereinafter referred to as the FLA system), at the level of all its territorial units, has concluded memorandums of cooperation with NGOs existing in the respective area and region that are engaged in protecting the rights and interests of victims of violence. In particular, these are the NGOs Eleos-Ukraine, Volunteer Platform, Pravo Plus, Strong, Dobrobut Ukrainy, Docudays UA, SEMA Ukraine, Women's Space, Regional Center for Human Rights, All-Ukrainian Charitable Foundation GORENIE, etc.

The areas of cooperation with such non-governmental organizations include informing victims about their right to free legal aid, the available mechanisms for protecting and restoring their violated rights, and referring them to free legal aid centers for appropriate legal services.

In the course of performing its tasks, the probation body (hereinafter referred to as probation bodies) interacts with state bodies, local self-government bodies, enterprises, institutions and organizations (Article 21 of the Law of Ukraine “On Probation”).

As part of the implementation of social and educational work with probationers, the State Institution “Probation Center” has created a network of partner organizations (Resource Bank) that provide assistance or services to probationers.

As of 01.01.2025, the Resource Bank includes 2685 organizations, of which 494 are public organizations at the national, regional and local levels.

In accordance with the Law of Ukraine “On Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence” (hereinafter - the Law), employees of authorized probation bodies implement measures provided for in the probation program, which is appointed by the court as a duty, in relation to 2 categories of probationers who have committed domestic violence (hereinafter - offenders): persons sentenced to probation supervision or released from serving a sentence with probation.

According to the Law, work with women and girls who have experienced violence is carried out by institutions that provide support to victims, including: social service centers, shelters for children, centers for social and psychological rehabilitation of children, social rehabilitation centers (children's towns), centers for social and psychological assistance, territorial centers for social services (provision of social services), etc.

D. In order to strengthen the measures of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine aimed at protecting the guaranteed rights of servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (hereinafter - the AFU), a joint directive of the Minister of Defence of Ukraine and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine established the Central Department for the Protection of Servicemen's Rights, which is directly subordinate to the Minister of Defence of Ukraine and whose activities are directed and coordinated by the Deputy Minister of Defence of Ukraine.

The Central Directorate for the Protection of Servicemen's Rights is, in particular, tasked with implementing measures aimed at ensuring gender equality, equal rights and

opportunities for women and men, and preventing violence and discrimination based on gender or other reasons during military service in the Armed Forces. A gender equality department has been established within the structure of the Central Directorate

Also, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine actively cooperates with international organizations to increase the level of literacy among military personnel in terms of observing the principle of gender equality, preventing and combating gender-based discrimination and violence.

For example, in cooperation with the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine, within the framework of the project “Rights of Veterans and Personnel of the Armed Forces in Ukraine”, training courses for military personnel on gender equality and the prevention and counteraction of gender-based violence have been developed and are being conducted.

In cooperation with the Canadian government's PROTECT2 project, a free certified course “Equality of Women and Men in the Armed Forces: Policy and Practice” was launched on the Prometheus online platform, developed with the participation of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

The course aims to provide students with the knowledge and practical tools to implement a policy of equality between women and men in the Armed Forces in accordance with international standards, including NATO, as well as best practices of the UN and partner countries.

In addition, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine actively cooperates with representatives of the public sector. Thus, the Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine approved the composition of the working group on ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men, combating violence and discrimination on the basis of gender in the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the intelligence agency of the Ministry of Defense and the State Special Transport Service. The working group is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine. The working group includes representatives of specialized units of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, military personnel, employees of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and representatives of public organizations.

**E.** The State Judicial Administration of Ukraine is a state body in the justice system that, within its powers, provides organizational and financial support for the activities of the judiciary, organizes the work on keeping court statistics, develops and approves reporting forms on the conduct of court proceedings in accordance with the law.

Reporting forms on the status of consideration of court cases and materials by local and appellate courts are approved by orders of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, which are duly approved by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine.

Reporting for domestic violence, gender-based violence, failure to comply with an urgent restraining order or failure to report the place of temporary residence (Article 173-2 of the Code of Administrative Offenses; Articles 126-1, 390-1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine) is carried out in relation to

- consideration of cases of administrative offenses (number of cases under consideration; number of cases returned/reviewed/not reviewed; number of persons against whom cases were reviewed; number of administrative penalties)

- the composition of persons brought to administrative responsibility (number of persons brought to administrative responsibility; number of persons referred to a program for offenders);
- consideration of cases of special proceedings (cases on issuance and extension of restrictive orders);
- consideration of criminal proceedings (failure to comply with restrictive measures, restrictive orders or failure to complete a program for offenders);
- information about victims (number and age of victims);
- criminal record (number of persons whose criminal proceedings have been closed; sentence imposed; number of convicted persons released from punishment);
- composition of convicts (number, age, education of convicted persons at the time of the crime).

Every reporting period, the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine publishes reports on the status of court cases on the official web portal “Judiciary of Ukraine” ([www.court.gov.ua](http://www.court.gov.ua)) in the “Judicial Statistics” section of the “Other” section.

The Prosecutor General's Order approved reporting in the form of No. 1-DN “Report on the Results of Law Enforcement Activities on Preventing and Combating Criminal Offenses Related to Domestic Violence”, which contains disaggregated data on victims, perpetrators of criminal offenses related to domestic violence, including children, including by type of violence, gender, age, degree of kinship, etc., as well as the number of child witnesses, and restrictive measures applied to the perpetrator.

The Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision collects statistical data on cases of all forms of violence using special software called the Integrated Information and Analytical System, which contains a database of all persons applying for free legal aid (hereinafter referred to as FLA), including children:

- information about clients' appeals received by the centers for free secondary legal aid and the unified telephone number of the FLA system 0 800 213 103;
- information on clients' applications for free secondary legal aid.

The database, in particular, contains information on the gender and age of the person, the region in which the person applies for FLA, the type of legal aid provided, the category of subjects entitled to free secondary legal aid, and the category of issues (type of law).

According to clause 53 of the Procedure for Interaction of Entities Implementing Measures to Prevent and Combat Domestic Violence and Gender-based Violence, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 22.08. 2018 No. 658, the Coordination Center reports quarterly to the National Service of Ukraine (hereinafter - the National Social Service) on the results of the exercise by the centers for the provision of free secondary legal aid of powers in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence and gender-based violence in the manner prescribed by the Ministry of Social Policy.

The State Institution “Probation Center” ensures collection and analysis of information provided by the authorized probation authorities on

- the state of implementation of probation programs (by type of program);
- the number of probation staff who have been trained in the skills of implementing probation programs, provided by the authorized probation authorities.

### III. Prevention

A. In accordance with the requirements of Articles 72, 73 and 75 of the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police”, initial professional training of police officers is organized annually on the basis of higher education institutions with specific conditions of training that provide police training and in state institutions of vocational education that belong to the management of the National Police of Ukraine (hereinafter - NPU), according to curricula developed in accordance with the requirements of the standard of professional (vocational) education in the working profession “Police Officer (by specialty)”.

In addition, police officers of the central police administration, interregional territorial police bodies and territorial police bodies study topics related to preventing and combating domestic violence as part of their in-service training using the information and communication system “Information Portal of the National Police of Ukraine”.

With the assistance of international partners, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the MoIA), the Office of the Prosecutor General, and NGOs, specialized trainings, courses and seminars were held to develop the relevant skills of police officers in the field of preventing and combating domestic and gender-based violence, including on documenting and investigating domestic violence.

In order to introduce modern experience in responding to domestic violence and ensure the protection of victims, 58 full-time sectors for combating domestic violence were established in the territorial (separate) units of the NPU. Currently, there are 63 mobile response teams for domestic violence.

In November 2023, a conference on “Justice for Victims of Gender-Based Violence” was held in Kyiv, with representatives of the Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the NPU, other state and local authorities, and NGOs.

The conference discussed mechanisms for strengthening cooperation between actors involved in combating domestic and gender-based violence. As a result of the conference, the process of developing standards for pre-trial investigation of criminal offenses related to domestic violence was launched.

In November 2024, in cooperation with the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the NPU, and with the support of the humanitarian organization CARE.Ukraine, the Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association “JurFem” held the Second Conference “Justice for Victims of Gender-Based Violence”, which was attended by more than 250 prosecutors, investigators, inquirers, judges, lawyers, forensic experts, international experts, and representatives of NGOs.

The conference featured panel discussions and workshops on problematic issues, including:

- appointment of forensic medical examinations in cases of gender-based violence;
- cyberviolence as a tool for studying domestic violence;
- improvement of mechanisms for ensuring the right to free legal aid for victims of domestic violence;
- needs assessment and risk management when working with victims;
- peculiarities of pre-trial investigation through.

Given the special status of war veterans and their family members, who may be more vulnerable and in need of additional support and protection from all forms of violence as a result of traumatic events, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry of Veterans) pays special attention to this issue and implements a comprehensive approach that includes the following main activities:

Ensuring equal rights and opportunities for war veterans and family members of deceased (killed) war veterans: The Ministry of Veterans' Affairs develops and implements targeted support programs aimed at eliminating any form of discrimination and fully ensuring their rights in key areas such as social protection, employment, access to quality medical care and psychological support;

gender mainstreaming in the policy of supporting war veterans and their families: The Ministry of Veterans emphasizes the need to take into account the special needs of war veterans and their families, who may face various manifestations of violence, including psychological and economic pressure. The Ministry of Veterans' policy is aimed at identifying and eliminating these risks;

Raising awareness among war veterans and their family members on the issues of preventing and combating violence: The Ministry of Veterans' Affairs initiates and conducts large-scale information campaigns and educational events aimed at raising awareness among war veterans and their families on recognizing different forms of violence, understanding existing protection mechanisms and informing them about available support services. It is worth noting that the Ministry of Veterans is a member of the interagency working group on combating sexual violence related to Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine and providing assistance to victims;

ensuring guaranteed access to qualified psychological support for war veterans and their family members who have suffered from violence: The Ministry of Veterans considers psychological rehabilitation to be an integral element of comprehensive support for survivors of traumatic experiences of violence and pays considerable attention to expanding and improving the quality of relevant programs.

In addition, the Ministry of Veterans maintains close cooperation with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine (hereinafter - the Ministry of Social Policy), other relevant ministries and agencies, as well as with reputable NGOs specializing in the prevention and counteraction to violence. This cooperation is key to sharing experience, coordinating efforts and increasing the effectiveness of joint initiatives.

In order to raise legal awareness and public awareness of various forms and manifestations of domestic and gender-based violence, existing mechanisms of protection against such phenomenon, as well as to increase the activity of victims in exercising their rights, employees of free legal aid centers organize and conduct various types of legal education activities in offline (seminars, trainings, round tables, open classes, street actions) and online (webinars, presentations, flash mobs, podcasts, videos, live broadcasts on social networks, video consultations) formats.

In 2020-2022, the FLA system organized and conducted 2686 legal awareness activities to prevent and combat domestic violence and gender-based violence, reaching more than 44,500 people. In 2023, the FLA system conducted 720 legal awareness activities to prevent and combat domestic violence, reaching more than 13,100 people.

Legal awareness activities were conducted on the following topics: “The right to free legal aid”, “Preventing and combating domestic violence”, “Combating gender-

based violence”, “Ways to protect yourself from domestic violence”, “Responsibility for domestic violence”, “Procedure and grounds for applying an urgent restraining order against the abuser”, “Grounds and Procedure for Applying for a Restraining Order”, “Algorithm of Actions for a Victim of Domestic Violence”, “Algorithm of Actions in Case of Detection of Signs or Facts that May Indicate the Commitment of Domestic Violence”.

In 2023, the FLA system conducted an awareness-raising campaign within the framework of the All-Ukrainian campaign “16 Days Against Violence” to draw attention to the problem of domestic violence and gender-based violence. Information materials (cards for social networks, successful practices, consultations) on domestic violence were published on the pages of the FLA system (Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/legalaid.ukraine> and the official telegram page of the FLA system “Free Legal Aid”), which reached more than 70,000 people.

The FLA system also conducted an information campaign to highlight the topic of domestic violence and conflict-related sexual violence (hereinafter referred to as CRSV). As part of the campaign, a series of infographics and 5 videos were developed, and a number of text materials were prepared (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95bBQjuPAfc&list=PLWwJzoiHnWY1XgEQwX24v9qmM69asbeL>).

The infographics were distributed, in particular, on social media, and the videos were broadcast on the air of the United News telethon, on Intercity trains, etc.

The campaign's reach is estimated at about 13 million. In 2024-2025, 16 posts were prepared and published, reaching 28,927 people. Topics of information materials: “Equal access to legal aid without gender discrimination”; “How gender discrimination can manifest itself”; “The FLA system guarantees non-discrimination in access to legal aid”; “Gender-based violence: what it is and who most often applies to the FLA system”; “What to do for victims of gender discrimination” and others.

During this period, the FLA system conducted information campaigns on the availability of legal aid for victims of sexual violence in the conflict.

Within the framework of the campaigns, 17 messages were developed and disseminated, reaching 30,162 people. The information materials were prepared on the following topics: “What help can victims of CRSV receive”; “Sexual violence in war: What everyone needs to know”; “Psychologists are involved in criminal proceedings involving children, including CRSV”; “Children who are victims of conflict-related sexual violence have a special status”; “The FLA system provides legal support to victims of conflict-related sexual violence”; “Conflict-related sexual violence is not only rape”, etc.

**D.** In 2023, the National Agency for Civil Service (hereinafter referred to as the NAUCS), within its authority, ensured the development of a standard general short-term training program “Prevention and Counteraction to Gender-Based Violence, in particular Domestic Violence”, which was approved by an order of the NAUCS and published on the official website and the Knowledge Management Portal.

In June 2023, the National Training Center for Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence was established on the basis of the Higher School of Public

Administration and with the support of the United Nations Population Fund in Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the UNFPA).

In 2024, the NAUCS ensured that educational service providers developed and agreed on two general training programs in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence and/or gender-based violence, in particular:

general professional program “Development of the National System for Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence and/or Gender-Based Violence”;

general short-term program “Implementation of the State Family, Gender Policy, Combating Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence and Discrimination”.

In 2024, 5618 people were trained at the Higher School of Public Administration and regional training centers in the field of preventing and combating domestic and gender-based violence, including: 3154 civil servants, 2464 local government officials.

The NAUCS also provided training on preventing and responding to gender-based discrimination at the Higher School of Public Administration and regional training centers, which was attended by 7385 people, including: 4389 civil servants, 2996 local government officials.

During 2023-2024, the National Training Center developed 12 advanced training programs and 5 trainings on preventing and combating domestic and gender-based violence, implementing European standards for the prevention of gender-based violence, developing a national system at the local level, organizing the activities of general and specialized support services, developing a national system and interagency cooperation, etc.

As a result of the training sessions, 138 trainers were trained.

In 2020, 53 civil servants of the Ministry of Justice received advanced training on equal rights and opportunities for women and men; in 2021 - 74; in 2022 - 32; in 2023 - 151.

Professional training of rank-and-file and senior staff of the State Criminal Executive Service of Ukraine (hereinafter - SESU) consists of training in higher education institutions with specific conditions of study; initial professional training; advanced training; and service training.

Separate training programs on combating violence against women have not been developed for SES personnel. At the same time, the issues of equal rights and opportunities for women and men, and protection against discrimination against women on the basis of gender are part of the mandatory gender training.

**F.** The Office of the Prosecutor General, in cooperation with the Association of Women Lawyers “JurFem”, UNICEF Ukraine, the National Training Center for Prevention and Combating Gender-Based Violence, and the Training Center for Prosecutors of Ukraine, conducted trainings for investigators, inquirers and prosecutors on the peculiarities of pre-trial investigation of criminal proceedings related to domestic violence, establishing interagency cooperation for effective referral of victims for comprehensive assistance and support.

The Prosecutor General's Office, together with the Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association “YurFem”, with the support of UN Women, has also developed a distance learning video course for prosecutors, investigators and inquirers on the peculiarities of pre-trial investigation of criminal proceedings to acquire practical skills with a victim-



centered approach. This video course has been available on the platforms of the Training Center of Prosecutors of Ukraine and the State Bureau of Investigation since May 2024.

As of 01.04.2025, 1106 persons convicted under Article 126-1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (domestic violence) were registered with the authorized probation authorities, in 2020 - 253 persons, in 2021 - 467 persons, in 2022 - 480 persons, in 2023 - 741 persons, in 2024 - 1069 persons. Out of the total number of persons convicted under Article 126-1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, as of January 1, 2024, 33 persons were registered with probation authorities and were ordered by the court to fulfill the measures provided for in the probation program.

As part of the execution of a court decision by which a person is sentenced for domestic violence to probationary supervision or released from serving a sentence with probation and the court imposes an obligation to comply with the measures provided for in the probation program, the probation authority ensures the implementation of the probation program.

To work with perpetrators, probation officers use the probation program “Overcoming Domestic Violence”, which was implemented and approved by the order of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine of 27.06. 2023 No. 2362/5 “On Approval of Probation Programs to Overcome Domestic Violence” and updated in May 2024 (“On Approval of Probation Programs ”Overcoming Domestic Violence“ for Minors and Adult Probationers”) in connection with amendments to the Criminal Code of Ukraine (a new type of punishment - probation supervision - was introduced) and designed to correct the behavior of offenders, that contradicts the norms accepted in the society (community) and the formation of socially favorable personality changes, including in relation to domestic and gender-based violence.

After the probationer has fully completed the measures of the probation program, an assessment of the results of the probation program and a conclusion on the implementation of the measures provided for in the probation program shall be drawn up. The conclusion on the implementation of the measures provided for in the probation program and the assessment of the results of the probation program shall be attached to the materials of the probation authority, which are submitted to the court in relation to the probationer in cases provided for by law.

#### **IV. Protection and support**

**A.** In 2020-2022, the FLA system annually joined the “16 Days Against Violence” campaign, and regularly prepares and disseminates materials on combating domestic violence and information about the right of victims of domestic violence to receive FLA in the media, on partner websites and in social networks.

Relevant information (news, legal advice, successful cases, radio and television appearances, advertising) was disseminated in regional media and on partner websites. In 2021, these materials were published 4,297 times, and in 2022 - 609 times. This information was disseminated in thematic communities and partner pages on Facebook, in particular, 36 thematic posts were published on the Coordination Center's page.

In 2021, 10 billboards and 18 citylights were placed across Ukraine on “Counteracting Domestic Violence”, 2460 posters on “Counteracting Domestic

Violence” and 50,000 booklets on “Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence” were produced.

In 2022, 17 billboards and 15 citylights were placed across Ukraine and 4000 printed leaflets “Let's Help Stop Domestic Violence” were produced.

**B.** In February 2023, a specialized unit was established in the Office of the Prosecutor General - the Department for the Organization of Procedural Management of Pre-trial Investigation and Support of Public Prosecution in Criminal Proceedings Related to Domestic Violence of the Department for Protection of Children's Interests and Combating Domestic Violence, whose main activities are to improve the victim protection mechanism, coordinate the actions of law enforcement agencies to prevent and combat domestic violence, effectively identify and implement unified

In order to ensure victim-oriented approaches in the work of regional and district prosecutor's offices, specialization of prosecutors in pre-trial investigation and procedural management of criminal proceedings on domestic violence-related offenses was introduced.

**C.** In accordance with Article 8 of the Law of Ukraine “On Free Legal Aid” (hereinafter - the Law), all persons under the jurisdiction of Ukraine have the right to free primary legal aid, which includes such types of legal services as providing legal information, consultations and explanations on legal issues; drafting applications, complaints and other legal documents (except for documents of a procedural nature), assistance in ensuring access to secondary legal aid and mediation, in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine and the Law.

The FLA system provides legal information, consultations and explanations on legal issues, drafting of applications, complaints and other legal documents to victims of domestic violence or gender-based violence, and assists in ensuring access to free secondary legal aid and mediation.

In particular, the Law guarantees the right to free secondary legal aid (paragraphs 22, 23 of part one of Article 14 of the Law) and to receive representation services in courts and other state bodies:

- victims of domestic and gender-based violence;
- victims of criminal offenses against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability, torture or ill-treatment during military operations or armed conflict (in criminal proceedings initiated upon the commission of such criminal offenses).

According to the Law of Ukraine “On Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence”, part one of Art. 14 of the Law of Ukraine “On Free Legal Aid” was supplemented by clause 13, according to which persons who have suffered from domestic violence or gender-based violence are entitled to free secondary legal aid for all types of legal services (protection, representation of the interests of persons entitled to free secondary legal aid in courts, other state bodies, local self-government bodies, before other persons, drafting of procedural documents).

**E.** The FLA system ensures the operation of the contact center. Receiving and processing of telephone calls received on the single telephone number of the FLA system 0 800 213 103 (hereinafter - the single number) is carried out daily (except for

holidays). Incoming calls to the unified number within Ukraine are free of charge, calls from abroad are accepted at +380 (044) 363 10 41 - the cost of the call is at the rates of the mobile operator.

According to statistics, in the period from 01.06.2020 to 30.12.2022, the contact center received 1,861 telephone calls on combating and preventing domestic violence (including 1,619 calls from women, 236 from men, 6 from children (5 from girls, 1 from a boy)), including 659 telephone calls in 2020, 620 telephone calls in 2021, and 582 telephone calls in 2022.

1,547 calls concerned the provision of legal information, consultations and clarifications on legal issues; 842 - the provision of contact information of centers; 520 - messages from the contacts of hotlines of law enforcement agencies, public authorities, mobile teams of social and psychological assistance and centers of social and psychological assistance in the relevant region, public (volunteer) organizations, including those involved in the protection of the rights of victims of domestic violence.

Between January 01, 2023 and March 31, 2025, the unified number received 1,065 telephone calls on combating and preventing domestic violence (including 863 calls from women, 200 from men, 2 from children (2 from girls)), including 612 calls in 2023, 373 calls in 2024, and 80 calls in the first quarter of 2025. 1,547 calls concerned the provision of legal information, consultations and clarifications on legal issues; 916 provided contact information of the centers; 97 were messages from the contacts of hotlines of law enforcement agencies, public authorities, mobile social and psychological assistance teams and social and psychological assistance centers in the respective region, public (volunteer) organizations, including those involved in the protection of the rights of victims of domestic violence.

Most of the issues raised by callers concerned the procedure for bringing the offender to justice, obtaining free legal aid, the procedure for applying to law enforcement agencies in connection with domestic violence, issuing a restraining order, issuing an urgent restraining order, obtaining psychological support, divorce, deprivation of parental rights and recovery of alimony.

On 21.11.2022, the Government Contact Center “Hotline” 1547 on combating human trafficking and domestic violence conducted training for the operators of the contact center of the free legal aid system on developing communication skills and providing assistance, in particular to victims of domestic and gender-based violence.

**F.** In order to ensure that the rights and needs of child witnesses of all forms of violence against women are respected by the FLA system, in 2020-2022, 7 training events were held for lawyers providing free secondary legal aid and employees of free secondary legal aid centers, attended by 607 participants, including

- in 2020, an online lecture "Peculiarities of providing legal aid to minors in criminal proceedings. Main Accents", which was attended by 116 participants. Online lecture “Application of international standards in the field of child protection in national judicial practice”, which was attended by 104 participants. WEB.LAW.TALK webinar “Practical advice in resolving family disputes”, which, in particular, considered the institution of interim relief in the context of child protection, attended by 28 employees of the FLA system. Online lecture for employees of the FLA system “Providing legal aid to children affected by domestic violence”, attended by 108 employees;

- in 2021, a webinar for FLA system employees "Parental Alienation - Psychological Violence Against Children. How to overcome the conflict between parents during divorce?", which was attended by 61 employees;

- in 2022, a webinar for the FLA system employees "Protection from Psychological and Economic Violence in the Family", which was attended by 35 employees.

A distance learning course on a related topic: "Peculiarities of family legal relations during the war" was developed and made freely available on the FLA system's distance learning platform.

In 2023, the FLA system held 16 training events (trainings) for lawyers, including those dedicated to the protection of victims of sexual and domestic violence, attended by 246 lawyers cooperating with the FLA system: "Providing legal aid to victims of conflict-related sexual violence", "People who suffered from domestic violence in the focus of legal aid: needs, specifics, challenges, ethics", "Types of CRSV: corpus delicti and qualification under national and international law", "Protection of the rights of victims of CRSV: peculiarities of pre-trial investigation and court proceedings", "Identification and assistance to victims of war crimes on the example of CRSV cases".

In 2024, 29 trainings were held in the FLA system on "Zero Tolerance to Gender-Based Violence: Effective assistance to victims", "Providing child-friendly legal aid", "Comprehensive assistance to victims of CRV" and "Development of communication competencies with vulnerable categories of clients". More than 150 lawyers of the FLA system took part in the events.

The FLA system's Distance Learning Platform contains distance courses related to the prevention and response to gender-based violence and CRSV. In particular, the distance learning course "Prohibition of Discrimination" was taken by 481 people; "Preventing and Combating Domestic and Gender-Based Violence" was taken by 258 people; "Legal Aid to Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence" was taken by 434 people; "Documentation of war crimes" was attended by 128 people; "Protection of the rights of internally displaced persons affected by the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine" was attended by 128 people; "Protection of the rights of internally displaced persons affected by the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine" was attended by 78 people; "Protection of the rights of the child under martial law" was attended by 154 people.

**G. The Strategy for the Development of the Justice System and Constitutional Justice for 2021-2023, approved by the Decree of the President of Ukraine**

dated 11.06.2021 No. 231/2021, in particular, defines special measures for information and psychological support of participants in the trial, one of which is the establishment of a volunteer service to provide information support to victims and witnesses.

The implemented activity of the volunteer service in Ukrainian courts helps to ensure a comfortable stay in court and to realize their right to access to justice.

In addition, the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, in cooperation with the EU PRAVO-JUSTICE Project, is implementing the Model Courts Initiative, which aims to improve the efficiency of justice, the quality of customer service, communication, security and support for vulnerable people in Ukrainian courts.

Taking into account Ukraine's accession to international commitments to establish a child-friendly justice system and in order to implement the best international practices of investigative and procedural actions involving children, the Prosecutor General's Office, together with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Policy and non-governmental organizations, continues to work on the establishment of Bernachaus centers and the spread of the practice of interrogating children using the Green Room methodology.

To date, with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 14 such centers have been established in Ukraine in cities of regional significance (Vinnytsia, Volyn, Dnipro, Zhytomyr, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Poltava, Rivne, Sumy, Ternopil, Cherkasy, Chernivtsi, and Kyiv).

In 2022, the Coordination Center conducted an analysis of the state of cooperation between local centers for free secondary legal aid (hereinafter referred to as local centers) and specialized support services for victims.

As of 01.08.2022, local centers have established cooperation with 549 specialized support services for victims of domestic violence or gender-based violence, which is 80% of the total number of such services.

According to information provided by local centers:

- in 22% of cases, cooperation with specialized support services for victims of domestic violence or gender-based violence is established by signing a memorandum and in 88% of cases - on the basis of verbal agreements;
- 89% of the premises of specialized support services for victims, with which local centers have established cooperation, have information (posters) on the system of free legal aid and the procedure for obtaining such assistance;
- 87% of specialized support services for victims refer victims to free secondary legal aid centers for relevant services;
- 39% of the specialized support services for victims with whom cooperation has been established provide access to free legal aid in the premises of 39% of the specialized support services.

## **V. Substantive law**

**A.** In order to implement the provisions of the Istanbul Convention into Ukrainian legislation, the MIA, together with representatives of the NPU and the deputy corps, developed a draft law “On Amendments to the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses and Other Laws of Ukraine in connection with the Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence”, which was signed by the President of Ukraine on 22.05.2024 and became Law of Ukraine No. 3733-IX.

The said Law regulates and implements the provisions of the Istanbul Convention into the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses (hereinafter referred to as the CAO), in particular:

- the issue of sexual harassment was regulated and administrative liability was provided for (Article 173-7 Sexual Harassment);
- the issue of protecting the rights of children who witnessed or suffered from domestic violence was regulated (Article 269 Victim);

- the issue of a differentiated approach to statistical data was regulated, in particular, gender-based violence was singled out in a separate provision of the Code of Administrative Offenses (Article 173-6 Committing Violence Based on Gender);
- the issue of referral to a program for perpetrators of domestic violence was regulated (Article 39-1 Referral to a program for a perpetrator of domestic violence based on gender);
- the issue of failure to comply with an urgent restraining order or failure to report the place of temporary residence in the presence of such an order has been regulated (Article 173-8 Failure to comply with an urgent restraining order or failure to report the place of temporary residence in the presence of such an order).

To implement the provisions of this Law, the Ministry of Internal Affairs issued Orders “On Amendments to the Procedure for Issuing an Urgent Restraining Order against an Abuser by Authorized Units of the National Police of Ukraine” of 09.12.2024 No. 817, “On Amendments to the Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine of November 06, 2015 No. 1376” of 09.12.2024 No. 818, and “On Amendments to the Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine of February 25, 2019 No. 124” of 23.12.2024 No. 852.

In addition, in order to acquire knowledge and skills of police officers on prevention, response, qualification and proof of sexual harassment as an administrative offense under Article 173-7 of the Code of Administrative Offenses, offline trainings for police officers on “Sexual Harassment as an Administrative Offense: Response, Evidence and Prevention” were organized and conducted at the initiative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and with the support of UN Women in Ukraine. In 2024-2025, trainings were held for 200 police officers of the NPU.

The NPU has developed Methodological Recommendations on Documentation of Administrative Offenses under Article 173-7 of the Code of Administrative Offenses, which were sent to the NPU bodies and units for practical application.

In order to bring the criminal and criminal procedure legislation of Ukraine in line with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention and Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of 14.05.2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, together with representatives of the deputy corps, the NPU, the Office of the Prosecutor General and NGOs, developed a draft law “On Amendments to the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes of Ukraine to Ensure Full Implementation of International Law on Combating Domestic Violence”.

The draft law provides for the implementation of 11 articles of the Istanbul Convention and 5 articles of Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of 14.05.2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence, which should be criminalized by amending the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes of Ukraine.

The draft law also provides for the establishment of liability for stalking (Article 34 of the Istanbul Convention), female genital mutilation, coercion or inducement to such actions (Article 38 of the Istanbul Convention) and improvement of the mechanism of criminal liability for domestic violence.

The NPU, together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and representatives of the deputy corps, the Prosecutor General's Office, and civil society organizations, developed a draft law “On Amendments to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine to Ensure Full Implementation of International

Law on Combating Domestic and Other Forms of Violence, including Against Children”, which was submitted to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

This draft law proposes to define the term “criminal offense related to domestic violence”, to improve the provisions of Article 126-1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine by adding qualifying features of domestic violence as "committed by a person previously convicted of a criminal offense related to domestic violence“, ”committed against a minor“, ”committed against a minor", as well as providing a legislative definition of the concept of systematic domestic violence that is consistent with the case law and legal position of the Supreme Court.

Together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and representatives of the deputy corps, the NPU developed a draft law “On Amendments to the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses and Other Laws of Ukraine in connection with the Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence”, which, after being signed by the President of Ukraine on May 22, 2024, became the Law of Ukraine (No. 3733-IX).

In order to bring its regulations in line with the Law of Ukraine, the NPU developed:

Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of 09.12.2024 No. 817 “On Amendments to the Procedure for Issuing an Urgent Restraining Order against an Offender by Authorized Units of the National Police of Ukraine”;

Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of 09. 12.2024 No. 818 “On Amendments to the Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine No. 1376 of November 06, 2015”;

Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine No. 852 “On Amendments to the Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine No. 124 of February 25, 2019”.

Also, the relevant amendments were made to the Report on the results of the work of the NPU bodies on preventing and combating domestic violence and gender-based violence, approved by the Order of the NPU of December 30, 2024 No. 1389.

In addition, the following have been developed:

In addition, the following were developed:

methodological recommendations for documenting administrative offenses under Article 173-7 (Sexual Harassment) of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses (2024);

together with the Lviv State University of Internal Affairs, methodological recommendations on “Pre-trial investigation of criminal offenses related to domestic violence in order to use the best international practices, ensure victim-oriented approaches, including the right to representation and free secondary legal aid” (2024);

jointly with Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs, a practical guide “Peculiarities of choosing a preventive measure during the investigation of criminal offenses in the field of domestic violence” (2021);

jointly with Donetsk State University of Internal Affairs, a practical guide “Peculiarities of pre-trial investigation of criminal offenses related to domestic violence” (2022);

jointly with the State Research Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, methodological recommendations “Actions of Police Officers to Prevent, Detect and Document Offenses Related to Domestic Violence” (2022);

jointly with the National Academy of Internal Affairs, methodological recommendations “Organizational and Legal Framework for Combating Domestic Violence in Ukraine” (2022) and a practical guide “Circumstances to be proved in the investigation of domestic violence” (2023).

In addition, the Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Ensuring the Rights of Servicemen and Police Officers to Social Protection” of 21.03.2024 No. 3621-IX amended the Statute of the Internal Service of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the Disciplinary Statute of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in terms of strengthening mechanisms for preventing and responding appropriately to violations related to gender discrimination and sexual harassment in military units.

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1234 of 29.10.2024 approved the Procedure for the material, medical, psychological and social support of servicemen, taking into account the needs of women and men, which establishes the principles and guarantees of material, medical, psychological and social support for servicemen of the security and defense forces, taking into account the needs of women and men.

The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 948 of 20.08.2024 introduced the activities of support services for military personnel, privates and officers of the civil protection service, police officers and their family members, which, in particular, are tasked with implementing measures aimed at ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men, measures to prevent and combat gender-based violence.

In pursuance of this resolution, the Regulation on the Service of Support for Servicemen and Members of Their Families in the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine was approved by Order of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine No. 59 of January 29, 2025. Military escort services in the Armed Forces of Ukraine are established within the structure of civil-military cooperation units.

The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine is working to develop a draft Model Regulation on Authorized Persons for Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men, Preventing and Combating Gender Discrimination, Instructions for Reporting and Reviewing Violations Related to Gender Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Gender-Based Violence, Offenses Against Sexual Freedom and Sexual Inviolability, and Recording Them.

Together with MPs, we are working on a draft law on amendments to the Disciplinary Statute of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the Statute of the Internal Service of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to improve mechanisms for ensuring military discipline, preventing and combating discrimination and sexual harassment. The draft law has been registered in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

D. Pursuant to Article 127 of the CPC, a suspect, accused, as well as any other individual or legal entity with his or her consent, has the right to compensate for damage caused to the victim, territorial community, or the state as a result of a criminal offense at any stage of criminal proceedings.

The damage caused by a criminal offense or other socially dangerous act may be recovered by a court decision based on the results of consideration of a civil claim in criminal proceedings.



The damage caused to the victim as a result of a criminal offense shall be compensated at the expense of the State Budget of Ukraine in cases and in the manner prescribed by law.

F. Pursuant to Article 126-1 “Domestic Violence” of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (hereinafter - the CC), domestic violence, i.e. intentional systematic commission of physical, psychological or economic violence against a spouse or former spouse or another person with whom the perpetrator is (was) in a family or close relationship that leads to physical or psychological suffering, health disorders, disability, emotional dependence or deterioration of the victim's quality of life, is punishable by community service for a term of 150 to 240 hours, or arrest for a term of up to 6 months, or restraint of liberty for a term of up to 5 years, or imprisonment for a term of up to 2 years.

Article 182 “Violation of privacy” of the CC provides that:

1. The unlawful collection, storage, use, destruction, dissemination of confidential information about a person or unlawful alteration of such information, except as provided for in other articles of the CC, is punishable by a fine of 500 to 1,000 tax-free minimum incomes, or correctional labor for up to 2 years, or arrest for up to 6 months, or restraint of liberty for up to 3 years.

2. The same actions committed repeatedly, or if they caused substantial damage to the rights, freedoms and interests of a person protected by law, shall be punishable by arrest for a term of 3 to 6 months or restriction of liberty for a term of 3 to 5 years, or imprisonment for the same term.

Note. For the purposes of this Article, material damage, if it consists in causing material losses, is considered to be damage that is one hundred times or more than the tax-free minimum income of citizens.

Public disclosure by a person, including through mass media, journalists, public associations, trade unions, of information about a criminal or other offense committed in compliance with the requirements of the law, shall not be considered actions under this Article and shall not entail criminal liability.

Article 152 “Rape” of the CC stipulates that:

1. Committing acts of a sexual nature involving vaginal, anal or oral penetration of another person's body using genitals or any other object without the victim's voluntary consent (rape) is punishable by imprisonment for a term of 3 to 5 years.

2. Rape committed repeatedly or by a person who has previously committed any of the criminal offenses under Articles 153-155 of the CC, or the commission of such acts against a spouse or former spouse or other person with whom the perpetrator is (was) in family or close relations, or against a person in connection with the performance of that person's official, professional or public duty, or against a woman who was pregnant, knowing the perpetrator to be pregnant, shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of 5 to 10 years.

3. Rape committed by a group of persons or rape of a minor shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of 7 to 12 years.

4. Acts envisaged by part one of this Article committed against a person under fourteen years of age, regardless of his/her voluntary consent, shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of 10 to 15 years.

5. Actions envisaged by parts one, two or three of this Article that have caused grave consequences shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of 10 to 15 years.

6. The actions provided for in part four of this Article, committed repeatedly or by a person who has previously committed any of the crimes provided for in parts four or five of Article 153, Article 155 or part two of Article 156 of the CC, shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of 15 years or life imprisonment.

Note: Consent is deemed voluntary if it is the result of a person's free will, taking into account the surrounding circumstances.

Article 153 “Sexual Violence” of the CC stipulates that:

1. Committing any violent acts of a sexual nature, not involving penetration of the body of another person, without the voluntary consent of the victim (sexual violence) is punishable by imprisonment for up to 50 years.

2. Sexual violence committed repeatedly or by a person who has previously committed any of the criminal offenses under Articles 152, 154, 155 of the CC, or the commission of such acts against a spouse or former spouse or other person with whom the perpetrator is (was) in a family or close relationship, or against a person in connection with the performance of that person's official, professional or public duty, or against a woman who was pregnant, knowing to the perpetrator, shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of 3 to 7 years.

3. Sexual violence committed by a group of persons or sexual violence against a minor shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of 5 to 7 years.

4. Acts envisaged by part one of this Article committed against a person under 14 years of age, regardless of his/her voluntary consent, shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of 5 to 10 years.

5. Actions envisaged by parts one, two, three or four of this Article that have caused grave consequences shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of 10 to 15 years.

6. The actions envisaged by part four of this Article, committed repeatedly or by a person who has previously committed any of the criminal offenses envisaged by part four of Article 152, Article 155 or part two of Article 156 of the CC, shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of 15 years or life imprisonment.

Based on the provisions of the Criminal Code, in particular Article 155, the age at which a person is considered legally competent to consent to sexual intercourse is 16 years.

Article 121 “Intentional grievous bodily harm” of the CC provides that:

1. Intentional grievous bodily harm, i.e. intentional bodily harm that is life-threatening at the time of infliction, or that caused the loss of any organ or its functions, genital mutilation, mental illness or other health disorder combined with a permanent disability of at least one third, or termination of pregnancy or irreparable disfigurement of the face, is punishable by imprisonment for a term of 5 to 8 years.

2. Intentional grievous bodily harm committed in a manner that is particularly torturous, or committed by a group of persons, or with the intent to intimidate the victim or other persons, or for reasons of racial, national or religious intolerance, or committed on commission, or which caused the victim's death, shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of 7 to 10 years.

Article 134 “Illegal abortion or sterilization” of the CC states that:

1. An abortion by a person who does not have a special medical education is punishable by a fine of 50 to 100 tax-free minimum incomes, or community service for a term of 100 to 240 hours, or correctional labor for a term of up to 2 years, or restraint of liberty for a term of up to 2 years, or imprisonment for the same term.

2. Coercion to abortion without the voluntary consent of the victim is punishable by restraint of liberty for up to 5 years or imprisonment for up to 3 years, with or without disqualification to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities for up to 3 years.

3. Illegal abortion, which caused long-term health disorders, infertility or death of the victim, shall be punishable by restraint of liberty for up to 5 years or imprisonment for the same term, with or without deprivation of the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities for up to 3 years.

4. Coercion to sterilization without the voluntary consent of the victim shall be punishable by restraint of liberty for a term of up to 5 years with or without deprivation of the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities for a term of up to 3 years.

5. The action envisaged by part four of this Article, if it caused the death of the victim or other serious consequences, shall be punishable by restraint of liberty for a term of up to 5 years or imprisonment for the same term, with or without deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities for a term of up to 3 years.

**H.** Pursuant to Article 27(1) of the Criminal Code, the organizer, instigator and aider and abettor are considered to be accomplices to a criminal offense, along with the perpetrator.

Pursuant to Article 29(1) and (2) of the CC, the perpetrator (co-perpetrator) shall be subject to criminal liability under the article of the Special Part of the CC that provides for the criminal offense committed by him/her.

The organizer, instigator and abettor are subject to criminal liability under the relevant part of Article 27 and the article (part of the article) of the Special Part of the CC that provides for the criminal offense committed by the executor.

**I.** Article 16 of the CC establishes that criminal liability for preparation for a criminal offense and attempted criminal offense is incurred under Article 14 or 15 and under the article of the Special Part of the CC that provides for liability for a completed criminal offense.

**K.** Article 10 of the Criminal Procedure Code (hereinafter - the CPC) stipulates that there can be no privileges or restrictions in the procedural rights provided for by the CPC on the grounds of race, skin color, political, religious or other beliefs, gender, ethnic and social origin, property status, place of residence, citizenship, education, occupation, as well as on language or other grounds.

In cases and in accordance with the procedure stipulated by the CPC, certain categories of persons (minors, foreigners, persons with mental and physical disabilities, etc.) enjoy additional guarantees during criminal proceedings.

**L.** Pursuant to Article 164 of the Family Code of Ukraine, a mother or father may be deprived of parental rights by a court if they are convicted of an intentional criminal offense against a child.

**M.** Article 67 of the Criminal Code stipulates that the following circumstances shall be recognized as aggravating circumstances when imposing punishment:

- a criminal offense committed by a group of persons by prior conspiracy; on the grounds of racial, national, religious hatred or discord or on the grounds of gender in connection with the performance of official or public duty by the victim; against an elderly person, a person with a disability or a person in a helpless state, or a person suffering from a mental disorder, in particular dementia, or mental retardation, as well as the commission of a criminal offense against a minor child or in the presence of a child; against a spouse or former spouse or other person with whom the perpetrator is (was) in a family or close relationship; against a woman who was pregnant, knowingly to the perpetrator; against a person who is materially, officially or otherwise dependent on the perpetrator; using a minor or a person suffering from mental illness or dementia; by a person who is intoxicated or in a state caused by the use of narcotic or other intoxicating drugs.

- a crime with particular cruelty; using the conditions of martial law or a state of emergency, other emergency events; - a person repeatedly committing and recidivizing crimes; in a generally dangerous manner; and grave consequences caused by the crime.

The court has the right, depending on the nature of the criminal offense committed, not to recognize any of the circumstances specified in part one of this Article, except for the circumstances specified in paragraphs 2, 6, 6-1, 7, 9, 10, 12 as aggravating, and to give reasons for its decision in the verdict.

When imposing punishment, the court may not recognize as aggravating circumstances not specified in part one of this Article.

If any of the aggravating circumstances is provided for in an article of the Special Part of the CC as a sign of a criminal offense that affects its qualification, the court may not take it into account again when imposing a sentence as an aggravating circumstance.

**N.** The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine is currently considering the draft law “On Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine on Conclusion of Reconciliation Agreements and Criminal Proceedings in the Form of Private Prosecution in Connection with the Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)”.

The draft law was developed in view of the fact that Ukraine has undertaken to ensure that the investigation or prosecution of offenses established in accordance with Articles 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 of the Convention does not depend entirely on a report or complaint filed by the victim and that the proceedings may continue even if the victim withdraws his or her report or complaint.

The draft law provides for amendments to Articles 469 and 477 of the CPC, which:

- the list of categories of cases in which a reconciliation agreement can be concluded only at the initiative of the victim, his/her representative or legal representative is expanded to include cases concerning: 1) a criminal offense against sexual freedom and

sexual inviolability of a person (in compliance with the requirements stipulated in part three of Article 469 of the CPC)

- a criminal offense under Article 134(2) of the CCU (coercion to abortion), Article 134(4) of the CCU (coercion to sterilization), Article 134(5) of the CCU (coercion to sterilization if it caused grave consequences), and Article 151-2 of the CCU (coercion to marriage);

- excluded from the list of articles subject to private prosecution: Article 126-1 of the CC (domestic violence); parts two, four and five of Article 134 of the CC (relating to coercion to abortion and sterilization); Article 151-2 of the CC (coercion to marriage); part one of Article 152 of the CC (rape without aggravating circumstances); part one of Article 153 of the CC (sexual violence); and Article 154 of the CC (coercion to sexual intercourse).

**O.** Information on administrative data on the provision of free secondary legal aid to victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence is set out in the attached Table.

**P.** According to statistics, in 2023, free legal aid centers made 1779 decisions to provide free secondary legal aid to victims of domestic violence or gender-based violence (in 1637 cases - women, in 142 - men).

Most often, people applied for legal aid to establish facts of legal significance; applying to the court in a lawsuit; collecting alimony/maintenance; entering into and dissolving a marriage; and issuing a restraining order.

In 2024, free legal aid centers made 2,071 decisions to provide free secondary legal aid to victims of domestic or gender-based violence (in 1,932 cases, women, and in 139 cases, men).

Most often, people applied for legal aid on the following issues: algorithm of actions in case of domestic violence; issuance of a restraining order; divorce; recovery of alimony/maintenance; engagement of a defense counsel/representative in criminal proceedings; division of marital property; and deprivation of parental rights.

In the first quarter of 2025, free legal aid centers made 502 decisions to provide free secondary legal aid to victims of domestic violence or gender-based violence (in 459 cases, women, and in 43 cases, men).

Most often, people applied for the following issues: issuance of a restraining order; engagement of a defense counsel/representative in criminal proceedings; division of marital property.

## **VI. Investigation, prosecution, procedural law and protective measures**

**A.** Pursuant to the requirements of Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on minimum standards on the rights of support and protection of victims of crime and Directive (EU) 2024/1385

of May 14, 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence, the Office of the Prosecutor General, together with the National Police of Ukraine, the State Bureau of Investigation and with the involvement of experts, has developed standards for pre-trial investigation in criminal proceedings for criminal offenses related to domestic violence, which are currently being approved.

These standards contain recommendations for investigators, inquirers and prosecutors on the methodology of pre-trial investigation of criminal offenses related to domestic violence; peculiarities of qualification of domestic violence and criminal offenses related to domestic violence; evidence in criminal proceedings of this category; victim-oriented approaches in criminal proceedings; ensuring the right of victims to free secondary legal aid; application of restrictive measures; algorithm and

**G.** The criminal procedure of Ukraine distinguishes between public and private prosecution.

According to part four of Article 26 of the CPC, criminal proceedings in the form of private prosecution are initiated only on the basis of a victim's application.

The list of criminal proceedings in the form of private prosecution, which may be initiated by an investigator, detective, or prosecutor only on the basis of a victim's application, is provided for in Article 477 of the CPC.

Appendix: Advanced training

	NUMBER OF TRAINED PROFESSIONALS	MANDATORY	AVERAGE DURATION OF THE CURRICULUM	PERIODICITY	SOURCES OF FINANCING	BODY AUTHORIZED TO IMPLEMENT/CERTIFY TRAINING PROGRAMS	TRAINING ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PROTOCOLS
Police and other law enforcement officers (State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine)	<b>15102</b>  The following persons completed training under the educational programs of initial professional training and advanced training of personnel of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine: in 2020 – 3943 persons; in 2021 – 4332 persons; in 2022 – 4068 persons; in 2023 – 2759 persons	<b>It is mandatory</b> In accordance with Part 5 of Article 23 of the Law of Ukraine "On the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine", the procedure and conditions of service provided for police officers apply to ordinary and commanding personnel of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine. Thus, the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" stipulates that the professional training of police officers consists of: 1) initial professional training; 2) training in higher educational institutions with specific training conditions; 3) postgraduate education; 4) in-service training – a system of measures aimed at consolidating and updating the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities of a police officer, taking into account the operational situation, specifics and profile of his operational and service activities. Advanced training is a component of postgraduate education and is carried out at least once every three years, as well as before appointment to a management position, including a higher	The duration of training under educational programs for various categories of ordinary and commanding personnel of the State Security Service of Ukraine ranges from 12 days (80 academic hours - 2.7 ECTS credits) to 90 days (600 academic hours - 20 ECTS credits). The duration of initial professional training and advanced training is determined by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, taking into account the specifics of the category of personnel who will undergo initial professional training or advanced training, by approving (coordinating) educational programs.	<b>1. first hired before appointment to a management position</b> <b>3. at least once every three years</b> Advanced training is a component of postgraduate education and is carried out at least once every three years, as well as before appointment to a management position, including a higher management position than the one currently held (Article 75 of the Law "On the National Police"). Police officers who are first recruited to the police force are required to undergo initial professional training in order to acquire the special skills necessary to perform police duties (Article 73 of the Law "On the National Police"). In accordance with the Regulations on the Organization of Service Training of Private and Commanding Personnel of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine, approved by Order of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine dated March 17, 2023 No. 1000/5, registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on March 20, 2023 under No. 466/39522, in-service training classes are conducted, as a rule, at the place of service of rank-and-file and command personnel in training groups taking into account the specifics of service activities or in a structural unit. Service training classes are planned and conducted during the academic year from September 1 to May 31 for four academic hours each month (excluding time for conducting classes on fire, drill, and physical training) at the rate of: 1 academic hour - general training class; 1 academic hour - professional training class; 1 academic hour - psychological training class; 1 academic hour - life safety class. The duration of one academic hour is 45 minutes.	<b>2.</b> Financing of initial vocational training and advanced training is carried out in accordance with the state order from the state budget.	<b>Ministry of Justice of Ukraine</b>  In accordance with the Regulations on initial professional training and advanced training for rank-and-file and senior officers of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine, approved by order of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine dated 26.12.2018 No. 4091/5, registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 27.12.2018 under No. 1496/32948, educational programs for initial professional training and advanced training of rank and file and command staff of the State Committee for Internal Affairs of Ukraine are approved/coordinated by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine	The study of gender issues is determined by the State Strategy for Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities of Women and Men for the Period Until 2030 and the Operational Plan for its Implementation for 2022–2024, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated August 12, 2022 No. 752-r.