



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Information received from Ukraine on follow-up to the concluding observations on its ninth periodic report*

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* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



Information on the steps taken by state authorities to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the ninth periodic report of Ukraine on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, contained in paragraphs 12, 16 (c) (i) and 32 (b) of the concluding observations (CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/9)

A. Follow-up information relating to paragraph 12

As regards the recommendation on the prohibition of gender-based violence in all forms through the adoption of the relevant laws

1. The Law of Ukraine “On Amending 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” No. 3733 (2024) introduced a new provision to the Code on Administrative Offences (article 1737), which establishes responsibility for sexual harassment. Further, gender-based violence was separated as a violation under article 1736 of the Code on Administrative Offences, and amendments were introduced to the definition of “sexual harassment” and “gender-based violence” under the Law “On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men” as per the Istanbul Convention.

As regards the recommendation on developing gender-sensitive codes of conduct and rules for police officers and military personnel

2. Two relevant draft laws were submitted to the Parliament of Ukraine. Draft Law “On Amending the Law of Ukraine “On the Disciplinary Statute of the Civil Protection Service”“ No. 9099 (2023) was designed to ensure gender equality among the civil protection service personnel and counteract gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment. Draft Law “On Amending the Disciplinary Statute of the National Police of Ukraine” No. 9340 (2023) was designed to prevent the instances of gender-based discrimination and workplace sexual harassment.

3. Currently in force are the Rules of Ethical and Virtuous Behaviour for the Staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Order No. 230 (2024). The Order includes the principle of corporate culture, which prohibits sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination in any form.

4. The Ministry of Internal Affairs regulated the issue of official investigations in central executive bodies, the activities of which are directed and coordinated by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine through the Minister of internal affairs in terms of responding to cases of gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment in these bodies.

5. At the beginning of 2024, the Armed Forces Research centre for humanitarian problems conducted a military sociological survey with the purpose of clarifying the current state of gender problems in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The survey entitled “Satisfaction of the military personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (men and women) with the conditions of service” gathered data on the prevalence of gender-based discrimination in military environment, in particular, the prevalence of sexual harassment.

6. More than 900 law enforcement personnel received training on the prevention and counteraction of gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment at the workplace, ensuring gender equality in the work of law enforcement agencies, gender-sensitive communication, barrier-free public communication without discrimination of any kind, and application of a gender-oriented approach in decision-making at the managerial level. An information note on prevention of cases of discrimination, methods of prevention and countermeasures against gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment at the workplace in bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs was created and distributed.

As regards considering the possibility to appeal for international assistance, if necessary, to implement recommendations, including the Committee's technical assistance

7. Supported by the Prevention of Sexual Violence Initiative (UK), Synergy for Justice and Global Rights Compliance developed an educational course consisting of 14 modules for investigators and prosecutors. The course is aimed at enhancing knowledge relating to conflict-related sexual violence and counteracting it. New approaches to protection of interests of victims and witnesses were introduced based on the principles of adapting to personalities, priority to safety and security of victims, ensuring inclusiveness and non-discrimination, ensuring that victims can control the information that is being gathered, and prohibition of stigmatization.

8. International technical assistance projects are being implemented to prevent and counter conflict-related sexual violence, namely “Persevere Together: Improving the Support System for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence”, funded by the European Union, UN inter-agency project “Joint Actions to Strengthen the Capacities of CRSV Survivors”, international technical assistance project “Joint Program for Ukraine on CRSV” implemented by UNDP, UN Women, and UN Population Fund, supported by the UN Action Network against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action).

9. Equipment for 15 police departments and 160 police officers involved in combating gender-based violence in the Sumy and Dnipropetrovsk regions was transferred to the National Police of Ukraine from the French Government (office equipment, computer equipment, equipment for police officers, cars).

10. There is a pilot project on the payment of interim reparations for CRSV survivors, which is being implemented by the Global Survivors Fund for the implementation of the Framework Agreement between the Office of the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine and the Global Fund of those who survived violence (Global Survivors Fund), signed on December 21, 2023.

Implement General recommendation No. 32 on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women

11. To ensure access to free legal aid in Ukraine, an extensive system of free legal aid centres operates. Subjects of the right to free legal aid according to the Law of Ukraine “On free legal aid” can receive the following types of legal aid: provision of legal information; consultations and clarifications on legal issues; drawing up statements, complaints and other legal documents (except procedural documents); assistance in ensuring a person's access to secondary legal aid and mediation. According to the Constitution of Ukraine and the Law “On Free Legal Aid”, all persons under the jurisdiction of Ukraine, including foreigners, stateless persons, refugees and persons in need of additional protection, have these rights.

12. Free secondary legal aid includes protection; representation in courts and before other state institutions, local self-government bodies, before other persons; drawing up procedural documents.

13. Subjects entitled to free secondary legal aid include low-income persons; persons with disabilities (with income less than two subsistence minimums for able-bodied persons); all children; internally displaced persons; war veterans and family members of fallen (deceased) war veterans, family members of fallen (deceased) Defenders of Ukraine; persons affected by human trafficking; persons who were deprived of liberty as a result of armed aggression against Ukraine, and members of their families.

14. Due to the large number of people affected by the war, changes were made to the Law of Ukraine “On Free Legal Aid” in 2022-2023, which expanded the list of categories of persons entitled to legal aid.

15. According to the statistical data of the free legal aid system, the Ministry of Justice reported that 23 persons (22 women and 1 girl) who applied for the refugee status received free secondary legal aid.

B. Follow-up information relating to paragraph 16 (c) (i)

16. Since the beginning of the full-scale Russian military aggression against Ukraine, the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine recorded 321 instances of CRSV, among them 115 against men, 206 against women, 16 against children (15 girls and 1 boy). These instances include rape, genital mutilation, forced nudity, threats of rape. The cases were recorded in the Kherson region (99), Kyiv region (59), Donetsk region (77), Kharkiv region (36), Zaporizhzhia region (22), Chernihiv region (8), Luhansk region (6), Mykolaiv region (10), Sumy region (3), and Crimea (1). 54 Russian military personnel were notified of suspicion in CRSV cases. 25 cases involving 34 perpetrators were submitted to courts; 5 perpetrators were found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment between 3 and 12 years.

17. In 2023, Prosecutor General approved the Strategic plan “Implementation of Powers of the Prosecutor’s Office in the Field of Criminal Prosecution for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence” which established a specialized CRSV Division in the Office of the Prosecutor General. Further, CRSV working group was established. It comprises Ukrainian and international civil society experts, representatives of international organizations and other parties that protect the rights of survivors.

18. Information notes were prepared for investigators and prosecutors on identification and investigation of various forms of CRSV which were made part of prosecutors’ training. Specialized CRSV Division initiated cooperation for ethical exchange of information concerning the established facts of CRSV against minors, men and unlawfully detained civilians.

19. Taking into account the peculiarities of the approach to documenting the instances of sexual violence in the de-occupied territories, upon the initiative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, specialized police mobile groups were created. 8 mobile groups were created in 8 regions, whose activities are aimed at identifying and documenting sexual violence by the Russian military against the civilian population and providing assistance to survivors. As of 01.10.2024, mobile groups have worked in more than 550 settlements and documented 45 facts of CRSV.

20. The Ministry of Defence of Ukraine introduced changes to the Statute of internal service of the Armed Forces of Ukraine No 548-XIV (1999), and Disciplinary statute of the Armed forces of Ukraine No 551-XIV (1999), according to which prevention

of sexual harassment, gender-based violence and crimes against sexual inviolability was established as a common duty for all military personnel and means of achieving order. The amendments provided for an internal investigation process in cases of gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, gender-based violence, crimes against sexual inviolability. Such investigations, unlike other internal investigations, must be conducted by a commission comprised of men and women, military psychologist. At the central level and in the regions, inter agency response to CRSV subgroups “Tracking human trafficking with for the purpose of sexual exploitation”, “Strengthening capacity of the security and defence sector to prevent and combat CRSV” meet regularly.

21. 3 women and 3 girls received free secondary legal aid in CRSV cases according to the statistical data of free legal aid centres.

22. National Social Service trained 997 specialists to provide appropriate social and psychological assistance to persons who find themselves in difficult circumstances and to persons who have suffered from sexual violence committed by representatives of the aggressor state.

23. To raise awareness of the population that survived belligerent occupation, booklets were created by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Office of the Prosecutor General, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Free Legal Aid Coordination Centre. The booklets provide information on the measures available to those who witnessed war crimes, including contacts of organizations that provide assistance. The booklets were distributed through the regional police offices.

C. Follow-up information relating to paragraph 32 (b)

24. In June 2023, State Labor Service and National Police of Ukraine jointly conducted 313 operative missions which revealed 336 employees of 92 employers who performed labour without proper contracts, including 5 persons in relation to which the signs of trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour exploitation were identified, 10 minors in relation to which the signs of labour exploitation were identified and 15 persons who may have been subjected to forced labour. In September 2023, State Labor Service and National Police of Ukraine jointly conducted 303 operative missions in the agrarian sector. These missions revealed 609 employees of 166 employers who performed labour without proper contracts, including 12 persons where signs of labour exploitation were identified.

25. State Labor Inspection routinely checks anti-trafficking knowledge of labour inspectors when first appointed and during their work. Labor inspectors participate in training that includes practical exercises on strengthening cooperation of actors that counteract trafficking in persons, identification of victims, advancing victims' access to assistance, protection of victims' rights and preventing re-victimization.

26. An information portal of the State Labor Service was created (pratsia.in.ua), including a page addressing internally displaced persons on safe job search. The website of the State Labor Service includes a page addressing citizens who decided to work abroad. An information campaign is being conducted on forced labour and the risks of trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour exploitation. Since the beginning of 2024, the information campaign reached 1 141 343 internally displaced persons. The most risky industries are visited, such as agriculture, construction, and trade. The participation of labour inspectors is ensured in the implementation of the Operative Plan EMRAST on combatting human trafficking.

27. In advanced training courses for labour inspectors, simulation exercises were developed to strengthen the interaction of subjects in the field of countering human

trafficking, improving practical skills in identifying victims; expanding the victims' access to the necessary assistance; protection of victims' rights and prevention of their re-victimization, etc. In April 2024, 328 operative missions were conducted to identify 373 undeclared workers of 133 employers, including 8 workers (1 minor) who may have been subjected to labour exploitation.

28. According to the free legal aid system statistics, since 3 August 2022, 10 female victims of trafficking in persons received free secondary legal aid. On 3 August 2023, amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Free Legal Aid" entered into force, granting all victims of human trafficking the right to free secondary legal aid in relation to protection of their rights established under the Law "On Combatting Trafficking in Persons".

29. According to the free legal aid system statistics, since May 2022, 194 persons (192 women and 2 girls) received free secondary legal aid relating to IDs and citizenship documents, including 17 Roma women.

30. In 2023 and in the first half of 2024, the departments of state registration of civil status acts of the interregional offices of the Ministry of Justice conducted, respectively, 1,935 and 931 educational events on state registration of birth and receiving birth certificates, IDs, documents certifying Ukrainian citizenship, person's social status etc. In 2023 and in the first half of 2024, the departments of state registration of civil status acts registered, respectively, 2253 and 1106 births of Roma children, including, respectively, 91 and 59 that missed registration deadlines (data disaggregated by gender is missing).

31. In order to document the Roma and create legal mechanisms to simplify the procedure to receive passports by undocumented persons, in April 2023, the Ombudsman initiated a pilot project. The project entitled "Documentation of the Roma national minority and development of legal mechanisms to simplify this procedure" started in Mukachevo, Zakarpattia region. The Mukachevo departments of state registration of civil status acts studied the list of 302 Roma persons and identified 198 birth register entries which provides the basis to issue birth certificates. State authorities regularly visit the Roma in their communities to that the Roma benefit from human rights protection, receive passports and legal aid. Outgoing events of state authorities are carried out on a regular basis in places where Roma live compactly to determine the situation with respect to the rights of persons belonging to the Roma national minority (community) of Ukraine, their passporting, and the provision of legal assistance. In 2023, more than 200 Roma persons in the Mukachevo district received passports. In Mukachevo, a mediator supported by the Chirikli NGO works to assist the Roma women with submission of their documents for state services.

32. The Prosecutor General's Office, in order to ensure effective management of human trafficking investigations and control, created a department for the organization of procedural management of pre-trial investigations and maintenance of public prosecution in criminal proceedings of human trafficking. Also, a specialized prosecutor has been established in each regional prosecutor's office on the line of combating human trafficking by a corresponding decision.

33. Cooperation with Interpol continues. This year, Ukraine joined the I-Force project, which provides appropriate cooperation and training of Ukrainian law enforcement officers in modern investigation methods.

34. Law enforcement agencies of Ukraine gain experience in international human trafficking investigations by participating in joint investigative teams under the leadership of EUROJUST. A close dialogue was held with FRONTEX on countering cross-border crime during the visit of the leadership of the National Police to the

headquarters of this agency, as a result of which Ukrainian law enforcement officers joined the operational activities of FRONTEX.

35. At the same time, EUROPOL remains one of the strategic partners during interaction with analytical projects “Phoenix” and “Twins”, as well as the European Centre for Combating Smuggling of Migrants.

36. In 2024, MIPOLE units supported and joined the initiative to create two joint operational groups by Europol. One is related to a criminal network involved in the trafficking of Ukrainian women for sexual exploitation in the EU, the other is the use of Ukrainians in the secondary migration of migrants to the EU.

37. Another component of international cooperation is participation in the EMPACT platform and the implementation of its Operational Plan on human trafficking.

38. In 2022, Ukraine joined 4 pan-European operations – days of joint action (Joint Action Days) to combat human trafficking, provided for by the relevant Operational Plan EMPACT in the areas of combating child trafficking; sexual exploitation, involvement in criminal activity and begging; labour exploitation.

39. In 2023, MIPOLE employees provided representation in six such days of joint action (three operations each year).

40. The largest scale was the “Global Chain” operation, in which 41 countries of the world participated. In particular, during this operation, the National Police of Ukraine neutralized two human trafficking schemes, in the first, victims were exploited in forced begging, in the second, women were used to involve them in criminal activities.
