

**Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Working Session 8: “Tolerance and non-discrimination, incl. ensuring
equal rights and opportunities for women and men” of
2019 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
delivered by Sergiy Nizhynskyi, Deputy Minister for European Integration of
Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine
(20 September 2019)**

Distinguished participants of the Meeting,

Ukraine continues to implement a consistent policy on gender equality as an important precondition for sustainable development in employment, education and training, economic and social activities, and decision-making.

This is part of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. The "Gender Equality" objective is part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, adapted for Ukraine. It is also part of the Government's Action Program, the NATO-Ukraine Annual National Program.

Reducing gender inequalities in all spheres, and overcoming gender stereotypes, are included in the State Social Program of Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and the National Action Plan on the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The new (2019) Electoral Code provides for a gender quota of at least 40% of the people of the same gender in electoral rolls.

In the new Parliament, the proportion of women exceeds 20% and is the highest present in the Verkhovna Rada since 1991 (*past convocation – 12%*).

Representation of women in new Government has also increased. Among Ministers, 30% are women.

Gender budgeting is being actively implemented.

Highly respected guests,

Ukraine has shown significant progress in the region in sphere prevention and counteraction of violence.

New legislation embodies the spirit of the Istanbul Convention. It provides a basis for the proper protection of victims, prevention of new cases of violence, bringing the violators to justice (including criminal ones), and building coordinated policies at all levels. Responsibility at all levels - from the community to the Government - has been identified.

Assistance and redirection models have been created. Service models were developed: shelters for victims, mobile teams of social and psychological assistance, police response teams (POLINA). A National Hotline is being created.

Violence is not a closed topic any more, and victims believe they can receive guaranteed help and protection.

The Government's strategy on building a system of response to violence takes into account the urgent needs of communities and implements global principles. Additional coordinated support requires:

- development of a system of services for the victims, launching and support of specialized services at local community level;

- creation and implementation of the National Information Policy Strategy for Prevention and Combating Violence;
- launching a unified system for exchange of administrative data and case management of cases of violence (Single Registry);
- introduction of a Call Center for victims and witnesses of violence;
- improving the access of victims to justice and systematic work on bringing violators to justice.

The risks of gender based violence related to the conflict are quite serious.

And we need support in adapting the International Protocol on the Documentation and investigation of the crime.

The Government is relying on both national partners and international technical assistance to further implementation of truly revolutionary shifts in gender equality and in the prevention and counteraction of violence in Ukraine.

Thank you.