

CSOs shadow report 2016 on Ukraine

Implementation of

**the Recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-
conflict situations,**

and

**UN Resolution 1325 Women, Peace, and Security of the UN Convention on the
Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

June 2016

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Introduction

On preparation of the Eighth Report of the State of Ukraine to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to implement Recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, and UN Resolution 1325 Women, Peace, and Security

BACKGROUND

This shadow report on implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, and UN Resolution 1325 Women, Peace, and Security of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a joint initiative of Ukrainian women's NGOs and individual experts that complements the eighth periodic report of the state of Ukraine to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The report covers the period from March 2014 till June 2016.

The report was prepared in the Ukrainian language, the English version is a translation of the original report.

The opinions and recommendations presented in this report solely reflect the views of the respective authors. The report was developed by experts of Women's Information Consultative Center, International Organization La Strada Ukraine, the Center for Development of Democracy, Women's League for Peace and Freedom, International Justice Program of the Advocates for Human Rights, NGO "Gender Club Dnipro", NGO "Donetsk Center of Mother and Child", Zaporizhzhya regional organization of society of the Red Cross of Ukraine, CF Child's smile (the list of experts is attached in Annex 1)

The report is structured according to sections of Recommendations No. 30:

IV.A Women and conflict prevention

women's participation in organizations that deal with war costs and other global issues, and preventive diplomacy

B. Women in conflict and post-conflict contexts

1. Violence against women (1 - 3, 5a)

- prevention, investigation, intolerance to cases of gender-based violence, especially sexual violence

- access to justice, in particular procedures for investigating cases of sexual violence

- data collection and standardization of the collection methods, especially in cases of sexual violence

- effective tools and resources for compensation to victims of violence

- standardization of victim referral processes

2. Human trafficking (6)

- the policy of zero tolerance for human trafficking among military personnel

- migration policy taking into account gender expertise

3. Participation (7 - 8)

- representation of women, particularly in the armed forces, police, judiciary

- participation of women's organizations in peace negotiations, reconstruction, and restoration

4. Access to education, employment and health, and rural women (10 - 12, 14)

- return of girls to school after displacement

- healthcare services for the displaced, particularly those HIV-positive

Summary

An important step in implementation of recommendation No. 30 was adoption of the National Action Plan to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Women, Peace, and Security for the period till 2020¹. The plan was prepared on the initiative of and in cooperation with civil society and international organizations.

The issues revealed by the analysis of implementation of the recommendations:

- lack of coordination among CEBs to ensure women's participation in restoration of peace
- weak national mechanism for ensuring gender equality. Low level of funding of the national program to ensure gender equality for the period till 2015
- low awareness and understanding by representatives of the judiciary of gender-base violence issues faced by women. Lack of response mechanisms, mechanisms for registration and assistance to victims of gender-based violence.
- lack of a coherent and well-organized policy for women's implementation of human rights, including participation in elections

The report covers the period of March 2014 through June 2016

Implementation of Recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women No.30 on women in conflict prevention, women in conflict and post-conflict situations and Resolution 1325 Women, Peace, and Security is intended to include the gender component into governmental actions to prevent military conflicts and political crises , peace-building, and conflict resolution. Analyzing implementation of the recommendations is important for summing up whether the state takes all appropriate measures for gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women in all stages of peace-building.

The military conflict began in Ukraine in March 2014, when the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea was illegally occupied by troops of the Russian Federation and annexed. The illegal annexation led to violations of human rights of citizens of Ukraine, including the military personnel who did not break the oath of allegiance to Ukraine, Crimean Tatars, civil society activists and others. The number of IDPs from Donetsk, Luhansk regions, and from the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, according to data from the Unified Information Database on Internally Displaced Persons (UIDB) as of April 21, 2016 was 1 million 780 thousand people, including almost 1 million 100 thousand women, and 700 thousand men.²

IV.A. Women and conflict prevention

Women's participation in the structures that make decisions on war costs and other global issues and preventive diplomacy remains low.

Member of Parliament (from 04.14.2016 - First Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada) Iryna Gerashchenko was appointed the Commissioner of the President for Peaceful Settlement of the

¹ <http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/uk/cardnpd?docid=248861725>

² <https://dostup.pravda.com.ua/request/10954/response/17263/attach/2/264%20081%20232%2016%201.pdf>

Situation in Donetsk and Luhansk Regions. She takes part in Minsk negotiations, the humanitarian sub-group the focus of which includes the four key issues: release of hostages, search for missing persons, work of humanitarian missions in the occupied territories, and issues of internally displaced persons.

Some of key departments of the Ministry of Defense dealing with war costs are headed by women. This is not enough to ensure balanced participation of women in organizations and activities aimed at conflict prevention.

Women's participation in international peacekeeping operations is still low, the reason for this, in particular, was the orders of the Ministry of Defense that limited women's access to lots of military specialties. The order was canceled in June 2016.

There are sporadic examples of public diplomacy projects initiated by women, such as the Peace Dialog between Women of Ukraine and Russia launched in April 2014. In June 2016 the Dialog transformed into the Regional Platform Women's Peaceful Dialogue.

There is no evaluation system for early prevention of conflicts, escalation of gender-based violence.

Recommendations:

- **To ensure women's participation in international peacekeeping operations, negotiating groups, multilateral measures to combat global and regional challenges and threats in view of the interests of Ukraine.**
- **To support public diplomacy projects involving women.**
- **To develop and adopt gender-conditioned assessment criteria for early prevention of conflicts, escalation of gender-based violence, and other violations of women's rights.**

B. Women in conflict and post-conflict contexts

1. Violence against women (1 - 3, 5a)

Human rights organizations record poor conditions of illegal detention of civilians, men and women in the occupied territories: application of undue force when detaining civilians, no separation of civilian men and women in illegal detention facilities, no access to sanitation, food and water, individual hygiene means during menstruation, torture, including torture of women, human trafficking³.

A survey among IDPs⁴ recorded a low level of sexual violence (13 women and 0.5% of all respondents reported at least one episode during the conflict). There is a widespread taboo in the society on raising awareness of such crimes. There are new manifestations of gender violence

³ The Report of Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and member organizations of the coalition Justice for Peace in Donbass, 120 people interviewed

The Report of Women's Information Consultative Center "Sexual violence in conflict", 36 people interviewed

⁴ The Ukrainian Center for Social Reforms supported by UNFPA in 2015 interviewed 1,505 women from the local communities that are geographically close to the war zone and 1,007 IDP women on prevalence of gender-based violence

related to the military conflict, namely to the special survival needs in the conflict: sex work in exchange for money/food.

Because of the high level of stigma in the society, people are often not willing to speak about human rights violations in the temporarily occupied territories in general and against women in particular⁵.

Threats and simulation of violence, including sexual, are not perceived as violence, while causing deep wounds on the victims and being hard to overcome for an extended period of time. The legislation of Ukraine and international law do not interpret imitation of sexual abuse as violence. There is no reason to believe that during the temporary occupation there were mass rapes used as a tool of waging the war, as it occurred in other conflict zones in the world. There is indirect evidence of that in the territories that are not under the control of Ukraine human rights violations, violence, in particularly sexual one, are more brutal, frequent, and not documented.

The Commissioner for Human Rights had to note that in Ukraine there is no specialized legal, institutional basis for preventing and combating gender-based violence. There is no definition of gender-based violence in the Law of Ukraine On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men. Moreover, there are no special measures or services for rehabilitation and social integration of victims of such violence, except for family violence.⁶

An analysis of court rulings on claims submitted by IDPs⁷ shows that women are more active in defending their rights. 95% of claims considered regarding application of the Law of Ukraine On Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons are filed by women, the main subject of the claims are:

- failure to obtain the IDP certificate of registration⁸;
- family affairs (charging alimonies, divorce, establishing the fact of a baby's birth), social (getting targeted assistance, appealing against a refusal to pay pension at the new place of residence), administrative (appealing against refusal to register as an IDP), employment-related ones (termination of an employment contract)⁹.

Currently, crisis centers for victims of domestic violence only operate in two regions of Ukraine: in Zaporizhia region (*NGO-based*) and Khmelnytsky region (*a public institution*). Social assistance in the form of provision of shelter is available for a person who suffered violence from a center of social and psychological assistance.

Due to the anti-terrorist operation in the eastern Ukraine, such institutions in Donetsk and Luhansk regions are not operating.

There are difficulties regarding access to the specialized facilities: the age limit of 35 years old, availability of registration when admitting to the centers, etc.

⁵ The Ukrainian Helsinki Union in cooperation with the Women's Information Consultative Center during June - July 2015 conducted documentation of facts related to human rights violations and violence in the temporarily occupied territories, particularly against women.

⁶ The Annual Report of the Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Human Rights on Human and Citizen Rights and Freedoms in Ukraine. - 2016, p. 494

⁷ Conducted by the NGO "Civic Alternative"

⁸ see the decision of Sviatoshynsky District Court of Kyiv of 24.06.2015 in case No.2/759/4430/15, the decision of Moscovsky District Court of Kharkiv of 19.01.2015 in case No. 643/455/15-c, the decision of Berdyansk City Court of Zaporizhya region of 04.02.2015 in case No. 310/1071/15a, etc.

⁹ see decision of Rivne City Court of Rivne region of 26.03.2015 in case No. 569/3293/15-a, decision of Volodarsky District Court of Donetsk region of 24.02.2015 in case No. 222/100/15a, etc.

An effective resource to assist victims of violence is the national "hot" line to prevent domestic violence, human trafficking, and gender discrimination run by La Strada Ukraine Center.

Some of the assistance providing facilities remained in the uncontrolled areas. Humanitarian projects of international donors cannot cover all the needs for services¹⁰.

Due to structural changes in the Ministry of Interior of Ukraine, the Office of Juvenile Criminal Police is once again in the process of a reform. The function of children's rights protection was transferred to the Department of Criminal Investigation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Public Safety Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which is a threat to "lose" the entire function.

The report of Amnesty International¹¹ on the situation regarding human rights in the world includes a rebuke addressed to Ukraine: "despite the fact that the government of Ukraine has initiated several criminal investigations on suspicion of violations committed by Ukrainian armed forces - mainly paramilitary groups - as of the end of the year no conviction has been announced".

Representatives of civil society organizations working with IDP women report numerous cases of gender-based violence (both physical, and psychological) among IDPs, but note that with respect to these actions it is difficult to apply the existing legal system and instruments due to the stereotypes through which a victim of such violence is victimized. The victims do not seek help because of a failure to recognize violation of their rights, due to the habit of tolerating such treatment, lack of awareness of what to do, where and how to seek help for the fear of social condemnation and the perpetrator's retaliation.

Recommendations:

- **to establish standards for collecting data on gender-based violence, including sexual violence against women of different categories in the military conflict zone.**
- **to amend the legislation to recognize an attempt and simulation of sexual offense as a crime.**
- **to establish regular staff training for the law enforcement, judicial, and security sectors on behavior, the collection protocol and provision of assistance to victims of gender-based violence during an armed conflict.**
- **to develop and implement a unified mechanism of interaction among all entities providing services to victims of violence and to adopt standards of work with victims of violence.**
- **to set up the centers where victims of domestic violence can get assistance in the form of providing shelter in all regions of Ukraine. When setting up the centers, it is necessary to consider their accessibility for residents of remote regions and rural areas, regardless of their age and health status.**
- **to improve the system of protection of children affected by violence, especially sexual one, by implementing in the domestic legal framework of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse ratified by Ukraine in 2012.**

¹⁰ <http://www.unfpa.org.ua/news/539.html>

¹¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/europe-and-central-asia/ukraine/report-ukraine/>

2. Human trafficking (6)

The problem of human trafficking is relevant for Ukraine, which is a country of origin, transit, and destination of trafficking in men, women, and children. In the territory of the conflict, in the ATO area, the situation is more risky. In Ukraine, all types of trafficking are observed: labor exploitation, begging, forced prostitution. The current laws largely protect rights of trafficked persons, but there are problems regarding law enforcement.

After annexation of the Crimea and occupation of the territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, a new problem arose: internally displaced persons are another most at risk group for human trafficking¹².

Media coverage, reports of international monitoring missions include information about human trafficking in the territory of the annexed Crimea and the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, but it is impossible to prove the facts.

The OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine supports training on combating human trafficking and domestic violence for the new police, including patrol one, in all regions of Ukraine. In 2016 OSCE plans training for the Department to Combat Human Trafficking Crimes (approximately 400 academic hours) and the new cyber police.

There are cases of abduction of women and girls from the area of fighting to sell them as sexual and labor slaves¹³. In the so-called "gray zone", i.e. the front-line territory, a shadow sex industry is developing, there is now the respective infrastructure (brothels disguised as saunas and massage rooms). Women are forced into prostitution because of poverty, they put their health at risk and are stigmatized in the society. Among the women who are forced to sell their body, there are predominantly 20-30 year old local residents, often with children, but having no husbands - the so-called "single mothers". The society and government are trying to shift responsibility to the women, accusing them of immorality, instead of creating normal social conditions for the citizens.

Recommendations:

- **to involve monitors of international missions to detect evidence of human trafficking in the non-governmentally controlled territory**
- **to regularly raise awareness of citizens of Ukraine, in particular internally displaced persons, about the risks of falling into the situation of human trafficking, and enable them to obtain qualified advice**
- **to introduce a system of regular training on combating human trafficking for law enforcement staff**
- **to assist in creating conditions to improve opportunities of employment or self-employment for IDP women**

3. Participation (7 - 8)

More than 15,000 women pass their service in the Armed Forces of Ukraine (representing about 7.4% of the total military personnel), more than 1,000 of them have obtained the military actions participant status. As of December 2015, during the period of the ATO, 611 military

¹² In 2014, La Strada Ukraine Center held the study "Assessment of IDPs' risks of exposure to human trafficking situations in Ukraine" http://www.la-strada.org.ua/ucp_mod_library_view_307.html

¹³ http://news.liga.net/news/politics/6289724-torgovlya_lyudmi_ostaetsya_realnostyu_v_ukraine_gosdep.htm

servicewomen were awarded with honors of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, and 32 women more were awarded with state awards.

To execute the National Action Plan to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Women, Peace, and Security for the period till 2020¹⁴ and following the proposal of UN Women in Ukraine, in April 2016 the Ministry of Defense established a working group to prepare proposals for implementing the principle of equal rights and opportunities for women and men in operations of the Ministry of Defense.

In the Armed Forces of Ukraine, there are no female generals, 14 female colonels (including 10 colonels of the medical service), 129 lieutenant colonels (including 78 lieutenant colonels of the medical service), and 372 majors. During the period of 1992 through 2005, approximately 40 Ukrainian women soldiers served in the peacekeeping troops of Ukraine all over the world. But after the death of a female peacekeeper in Iraq in 2005, the Armed Forces of Ukraine made the decision to no longer commission women to peacekeeping forces.

Until May 2016, the applicable regulatory acts forbade women to take senior positions in the military field or to perform tasks in the battlefield¹⁵. In addition to career prospects, women have limited opportunities to obtain the status of an ATO participant. After numerous appeals of NGOs to the Ministry of Defense to amend the regulatory legal acts, including No. 337 On Approval of the Provisional Lists of Military Occupational Specialties and Permanent Positions of Privates, NCOs, and Servicewomen, and the Tariff Lists of the Positions of the Above Servicepersons", which prohibited women to hold managerial positions in the military field and to perform tasks in the battlefield, Order of the MoD No.337 of May 2016 amended the documents to allow servicewomen to be assigned to the combat positions that are associated with higher risks and responsibility within the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Living conditions are problematic for women who take part in the anti-terrorist operation: lack of specialized medical care, appropriate sizes of uniforms and shoes, poor living conditions. Women say that the infrastructure of the Armed Forces of Ukraine is arranged for needs of men and excludes women with their specific needs. At the same time, during the survey none of the interviewed servicewomen mentioned cases of violence against themselves committed by men in uniform.¹⁶

Recommendations

- **to eliminate legislative, executive, administrative, and other barriers that limit women's participation in activities to prevent, regulate, and resolve conflicts**
- **to include gender issues into education, training, and execution of military tasks, including training on human rights, gender equality in line with command responsibilities**
- **to adopt the appropriate regulations to include women and NGOs into the processes of negotiation and mediation as delegates, including at the highest levels**
- **the general recommendation is to include gender-based indicators into collection of administrative data on the judicial system of Ukraine and other statistical studies. It is important to not only collect but also to analyze and disseminate data.**

¹⁴ Approved by the Minister of Defense in May 18, 2016

¹⁵ Orders of the Ministry of Defense 412D and 337

¹⁶ The sociological study "Invisible Battalion": women's participation in military operations in the ATO, prepared by H. Hrytsenko, A. Kvit, T. Martsenyuk, supported by the ICF "Ukrainian Women's Fund", Kyiv, 2015

- **it is necessary to collect the following indicators on access to the judicial profession:**
 - A) The number of women and men judges in local, appellate, and higher courts separately by jurisdiction, as well as in the Supreme Court of Ukraine.**
 - B) The number of women and men judges in local, appellate, and higher courts separately by jurisdictions, as well as in the Supreme Court of Ukraine that take the positions of the president of court and deputy president of court.¹⁷**

4. Access to education, employment and health, and rural women (10 - 12, 14)

Organization of the educational process for IDPs is satisfactory and covers the basic needs for educational services for this category of people. However, the problem is access to kindergartens, which in some cities causes conflicts with local residents¹⁸. This affects traditional gender needs of women, both IDPs and local residents. No gender imbalances were revealed in the survey.

Undoubtedly, significant progress in the field of education was liberalization of the procedures for children from the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and uncontrolled territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions to obtain Ukrainian education documentation.¹⁹

Recommendations:

- **to promote involvement of civil society organizations to work with schools that admit IDPs**

- healthcare services for the displaced, particularly those HIV-positive

Absence of documents and of registration of IDPs conditions the limitations in obtaining medical services, for example, registration with pregnancy, HIV/AIDS testing, registration with the AIDS Center, access to treatment. Some HIV-positive people do not register when moving to other regions of Ukraine²⁰.

There are systemic problems regarding interagency cooperation to implement measures to combat the HIV infection and tuberculosis, which are due to a change in leadership, transfer of the regional state administration into the governmentally controlled territory in Donetsk region in Kramatorsk, a change in leadership of the Department of Health of the regional administration, and other factors. This makes it difficult for women from those regions to access reproductive health services.

Full-fledged and effective medical care is often out of reach for single mothers, women who look after sick or elderly relatives, women with disabilities due to lack of funds to pay for travel to

¹⁷ The list of recommendations developed at the forum "Gender aspects of the justice system in Ukraine", June 9, 2016, supported by USAID Fair Justice Project, OSCE Education of Judges for Economic Growth Project

¹⁸ <http://khpg.org/index.php?id=1428662900>

¹⁹ The Annual Report of the Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Human Rights on Human and Citizen Rights and Freedoms in Ukraine. - 2016, p. 515

²⁰ <http://vpoltave.info/post/37203-pereselenci-zi-skhodu-zbilshili-poltavcjam-statistiku-v%D0%86l-infikovanikh>

hospitals, to buy medicines, to pay for procedures and examinations. Money for treatment are raised by volunteers and NGOs.²¹

There are cases of discrimination against women and obstruction of realization of their right to health care because of inaccessibility or difficult access to hospital (check points, document checks, queues, bullying by soldiers and militants, allegations from them of treason because of attempts to reach the nearest hospital or maternity home that is now on the other side of the contact line than the one where the woman in need of assistance lives.

The situation is complicated with the absence in hospitals of the "gray area" in the combat zone of specialized professionals, particularly gynecologists, who left these areas because of the fighting. There are reports of refusals to register pregnant women due to lack of procedures for admission of women who worked in uncontrolled areas. For women, the problem of obtaining registration documents required for obtaining state social benefits is even more sensitive because of their need to provide for children, sick and elderly people. These women require a simplified registration procedure.

The risk of contracting HIV/AIDS in the ATO area is 50% higher, while 61% of men did not use condoms for commercial sex. Work on prevention, awareness raising, and condoms distribution to soldiers are needed. The key reason for spreading in the ATO area of sexually transmitted diseases is involvement into the sex industry of women who did not have this experience before and who do not understand the need for protection.²²

In the uncontrolled territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, there is evidence of a growing number of STD cases and lack of control over this growth. This increases the risk of disease in the controlled territory due to residents' migration.

Recommendations:

- **To enhance inter-agency cooperation to implement measures to combat HIV and TB**
- **To ensure coordination of activities of organizations working in the field of health service provision for IDPs, including HIV-positive ones, to avoid duplication of activities**
- **To involve civil society organizations of women with disabilities into decision-making and implementation of decisions on service provision by state health care institutions to promote enhanced quality and quantity of services provided to this category of women.**

- coordination of activities to avoid duplication in the humanitarian field

²¹ http://vostok-sos.org/sbor_na_obsledovanie/

²² Representative of the International Alliance on HIV/AIDS in Ukraine Pavel Skala <http://news-front.info/2016/05/16/prostituticiya-v-zone-ato-seks-v-obmen-na-prodovolstvie-mikita-pidgora/>

In August 2015, the Program of IDP Advisors was launched²³. In April 2016, the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons was established, which is responsible for coordinating the activities.

Recommendations:

- To enhance coordination of activities to avoid duplication in the humanitarian sphere, in particular, to implement action plan 1325.

5. Displacement, refugees and asylum-seekers (1 - 3, 5a)

- protection from forced displacement

- taking into account the specific risks and needs of different groups of IDPs - women with special needs, elderly women, girls, widows, HIV-positive, rural, ethnic, sexual, religious minorities, human rights activists

As on 11.02.2016, 71,085 IDPs with disabilities²⁴ were registered, or more than 4% of the total number of internally displaced persons. Almost 300,000 people with disabilities remain in the occupied and uncontrolled territories.

The largest settlement centers for people with disabilities or families with disabled children are located in Odessa region²⁵.

So far, the issue of obtaining financial support for pregnancy and childbirth for women who have or had labor relations with enterprises, institutions, organizations, or individuals located in the temporarily governmentally-uncontrolled territories and are not internally displaced persons remains unresolved.²⁶

Recommendations:

- **In the context of implementation of local programs, to take into account the specific risks and needs of IDP women with disabilities**
- **To involve NGOs working with persons with disabilities into provision of social services for IDPs with disabilities**
- **To investigate discrimination at all stages of displacement**

6. Nationality and statelessness (1 - 3, 9)

- prevention of loss of citizenship

There is the issue of registration in Ukraine of children born in the temporarily occupied territory of the AR Crimea or in the areas of the anti-terrorist operation.

Parents of newborns receive a medical certificate, one copy, from the hospital under the laws of the Russian Federation, while in accordance with Art. 9 of the Law of Ukraine On Ensuring the

²³ <http://sos.naiu.org.ua/news/v-ukrajini-pratsyuvatymut-27-radnykiv-z-pytan-vnutrishno-peremischenyh-osib/#more-1735>

²⁴ Data of civil society organizations of persons with disabilities

²⁵ the resorts "Kuyalnyk", "Senetaty", children's health camp "Avtodorozhnyk", "Spirantsa", "Morska Hvylya" complex

²⁶ The Annual Report of the Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Human Rights on Human and Citizen Rights and Freedoms in Ukraine. – 2016, P.397.

Rights and Freedoms of Citizens and the Legal Regime in the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine any act (decision, document) issued by illegal authorities and/or officials is null and void and does not create legal consequences. Therefore, Ukrainian civil status registration authorities do not recognize documents received by parents and refuse to issue certificates of birth. Thus, the child is actually deprived of the Ukrainian citizenship.

The temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine is an integral part of the territory of Ukraine, covered by the scope of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine. The law establishes the state's duty to take all necessary measures to guarantee human and citizen rights and freedoms under the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, international treaties for all citizens of Ukraine who live in the temporarily occupied territory. Therefore, such an important issue must necessarily be resolved at the legislative level and provide a clear mechanism for citizens' implementation of their rights. Since the legislation does not offer any special procedure for registration in Ukraine of babies born in the territory of the Crimea, while in practice citizens encounter problems at the border and when dealing with registration authorities, the most appropriate way to solve this problem is appealing to courts, which prolongs and encumbers the process.

Recommendations:

- **To develop a procedure for granting citizenship of Ukraine to children born in the temporarily occupied territory and in the AR of Crimea**

8. Security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

(1 - 3, 5a, 7) - security sector reform, taking into account gender aspects of the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration program

- a test of non-involvement of ex-combatants into gender-based violence
- participation of women in all processes at all stages
- reintegration of female combatants
- prevention of stigma regarding mothers of "children of conflict"

No information on state initiatives only civic initiatives

On June 25, Ministry on Defense conducted the common event with NATO to discuss the gender issues integration into Security Sector Reforming. Deputy Minister Igor Dolgov emphasized the participants that the discussion on gender equality will have concrete results to be included in the daily activities of law enforcement agencies.²⁷

Recommendations:

1. **Strengthening civilian control and oversight of the security sector including: reforming ministries of defense and internal affairs; initiating public sector reviews of military expenditures (gender budget analysis of government public security spending to ensure that funds are being equitably allocated); and building the capacity of civil society organizations to oversee the security sector.**

²⁷ <http://www.mil.gov.ua/news/2016/06/23/u-kievi-rozpochavsya-publichnij-zahid-visokogo-rivnya-z-pitan-zabezpechennya-%D2%91endernoi-rivnosti-u-sferi-oboroni-i-bezpeki-ukraini-/>

2. **Professionalization of the security forces including: programs designed to train soldiers, police and other security sector personnel on democratic accountability, gender issues, human rights, international humanitarian law and ethnic sensitivity**
3. **Screening of female ex-combatants and encouraging them to conduct networks**

Annex 1. List of experts and organizations

Anna Chernova, CF Child's smile

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Ella Lamakh, Center for Development of Democracy

Ganna Miagkykh, NGO "Gender Club Dnipro"

Irina Chorna, Zaporizhia regional organization of society of the Red Cross of Ukraine, volunteer, peacekeeper

Kateryna Borozdina, International Organization La Strada Ukraine

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Lesya Nechyporenko, Women's Information Consultative Center,

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