



**Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women**

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

Fifty-fourth session

11 February–1 March 2013

**Concluding observations of the Committee on the
Elimination of Discrimination against Women:
Ukraine**

Addendum

**Information provided by the Government of Ukraine on the
follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee
(CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/7)***

* In accordance with the information transmitted to States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document was not edited.

Information on implementation of the recommendations in paragraphs 31 and 33 of the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Information on paragraph 31 of the concluding observations (CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/7)

1. Trafficking in persons, especially women and children, is a pressing problem for Ukraine today. Data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs for 2010, 2011 and the first five months of 2012 show 554 offences punishable under article 149 of the Criminal Code (trafficking in persons and other illegal transactions in respect of a person).

2. In 2010, there were 257 offences with 277 victims, of whom 204 were women and 35 were children.

3. In 2011, there were 197 offences with 294 victims, of whom 214 were women and 12 were children.

4. In the first five months of 2012, there were 109 offences with 128 victims, of whom 77 were women and 7 were children.

5. For that reason, in 2010, Ukraine signed and ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

6. The Government is devoting substantial efforts to dealing with the problem. The Trafficking in Persons Act was adopted on 20 September 2011.

7. It contains comprehensive measures aimed at preventing and combating trafficking in persons and assisting the victims.

8. A series of statutory regulations drafted by the Ministry of Social Policy have been adopted in implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Act:

- Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 29 of 18 January 2012 on a national coordinator to combat human trafficking, the coordinator being designated by the Ministry of Social Policy;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 350 of 21 March 2012 approving a special Government social programme on combating human trafficking up to 2015;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 417 of 23 May 2012 approving the procedure for determining the status of victims of trafficking;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 660 of 25 May 2012 approving the procedure for one-time support payments for victims of trafficking.

A draft decision on a national mechanism for inter-agency collaboration in combating human trafficking is currently being considered by the Cabinet of Ministers.

9. The main aim of the special Government social programme on combating human trafficking up to 2015 is to prevent trafficking in persons, to prosecute the perpetrators more effectively, and to support the victims and protect their rights.

10. The programme thus includes the following: measures to improve domestic legislation and bring it into line with international undertakings in the area of human trafficking; the introduction of a system to monitor the activities of those involved in

combating trafficking in persons; information campaigns; further training for experts working with victims of human trafficking; and support for the victims.

11. The programme includes funding of more than 7 million hryvnias (Hrv) for the above-mentioned measures (approximately Hrv 3 million from the State budget, Hrv 1.5 million from local budgets and around Hrv 2.8 million from other sources that are not prohibited by law).

12. Assistance is provided to victims of human trafficking through 1,399 social service centres for families, children and young people, 21 social and psychological assistance centres and 735 regional social service centres that offer legal, psychological, medical and medical advisory services for persons in difficulties, including victims of human trafficking.

13. The President's social initiatives include further modernization of the social services to ensure more comprehensive State provision for vulnerable persons (Presidential Instruction No. 1-1/598 of 15 March 2012).

14. The Act introducing amendments to the 2012 State Budget Act thus provides additional funding for local budgets to allow them to employ a further 12,000 specialized social workers in social service centres for families, children and young people.

Information on paragraph 33 of the concluding observations

15. Article 24 of the Constitution states that all citizens have equal constitutional rights and freedoms and are equal before the law.

16. There may be no privileges or restrictions on grounds of race, colour, political, religious or other beliefs, sex, ethnic or social origin, property status, place of residence, or linguistic or other characteristics.

17. Equal rights for women and men are ensured by:

- Offering women the same opportunities as men in social, political and cultural activities, in education and vocational training, in work, and with regard to remuneration for work;
- Implementing special measures to protect women's work and health, and providing pension benefits;
- Creating conditions that enable women to combine work with motherhood;
- Providing legal protection and financial and moral support for mothers and children, including paid leave and other benefits for pregnant women and mothers.

18. The Act on Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women was adopted on 8 September 2005 to establish legislative mechanisms to ensure respect for article 24 of the Constitution and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

19. The Act provides for: the confirmation of gender equality; the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex; affirmative action; equal involvement of women and men in socially important decisions; equal opportunities for women and men to combine professional and family obligations; encouragement of and advocacy for a culture of gender equality; and the protection of society from information intended to discriminate on the basis of sex.

20. Measures have been implemented in recent years to enshrine the positive trends in law to guarantee equal opportunities for women and men to be elected to the supreme

legislative bodies and to local authorities. On 17 October 2011, the Verkhovna Rada adopted the new Parliamentary Elections Act.

21. Under article 2, paragraph 8, of the Act, no direct or indirect privileges may be granted in respect of, or restrictions placed on, the electoral rights of Ukrainian citizens on the basis of race, colour, political, religious or other beliefs, sex, ethnic or social origin, property status, place of residence, language or other characteristics.

22. Article 3, paragraph 5 (1), affirms that candidates and parties involved in the electoral process have equal rights and opportunities therein. This is achieved by prohibiting any privileges for or restrictions on candidates on grounds of race, colour, political, religious or other beliefs, sex, ethnic or social origin, property status, place of residence, or linguistic or other characteristics.

23. On 15 May 2012, the Verkhovna Rada, in plenary session, considered a bill on amendments to some acts related to equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the workplace.

24. The bill was intended to ensure equal representation of women and men on electoral lists and the lists of political parties, on councils at all levels and in Government agencies and local authorities, by introducing gender quotas.

25. It established that, in drawing up lists for the nomination of electoral candidates, parties would be obliged to ensure that every group of five candidates on the list must include at least two candidates of each sex.

26. As the Parliamentary Elections Act had, by then, been adopted, it became necessary to review some of the provisions in the bill.

27. The Verkhovna Rada Committee on Human Rights, Ethnic Minorities and Inter-ethnic Relations rewrote the bill and registered a new bill on amendments to some acts to improve legislation on equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

28. The new bill provides for:

- A ban on all forms and manifestations of discrimination, and equal access to Government service;
- A ban on all forms and manifestations of discrimination, and equal opportunities for access to service in local authorities, taking account of professional qualities and vocational training;
- The appointment of members of the Cabinet of Ministers by the Prime Minister, taking account of the level of representation of each sex;
- A ban on publicity and advertisements that are discriminatory in nature and go against the principle of equal rights and opportunities for women and men;
- The right of individuals and groups of individuals who think that they have been victims of any form or manifestation of sexual discrimination to appeal to the Human Rights Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada; the specially mandated central executive body with responsibility for matters relating to equal rights and opportunities for women and men; the deputy chairperson of the provincial administration, who is the coordinator for ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men; the deputy chairperson of the local authority, who is the coordinator for ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men; the law enforcement agencies; and the courts.

29. Furthermore, the bill also expresses in new wording such concepts as gender equality, sexual discrimination, direct and indirect sexual discrimination, sexism, sexual harassment, slander and affirmative action.

30. The Ministry of Social Policy has worked extensively to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

31. In 2012, it developed a framework for a new Government programme to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men up to 2016 in order to bring gender mainstreaming into all areas of society.

32. The framework proposes addressing the de facto inequality between women and men by:

- Improving national legislation, specifically, by bringing it into line with international and European norms;
- Encouraging employers to introduce European standards on equality between male and female employees in the workplace;
- Introducing measures to ensure that women and men have the possibility of combining work and family commitments;
- Fostering women's leadership skills and encouraging them to take part in decision-making and go into business, paying particular attention to rural women, women from ethnic minorities and women with special needs;
- Training specialists who deal with issues related to ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men;
- Systematically introducing gender mainstreaming at all levels of education;
- Holding awareness-raising campaigns involving all the media and cultural and educational establishments to encourage a culture of gender equality and overcome gender stereotypes;
- Implementing commitments undertaken by Ukraine in subscribing to treaties and other international instruments to guarantee equal rights and opportunities for men and women;
- Involving international and local non-governmental organizations working in the area of equal rights and opportunities in society for women and men in efforts to achieve the aims of the Government programme.

33. Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 354 of 3 May 2012 on amendments to Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 1087 of 5 September 2007 relaunched the activities of the Interdepartmental Council for Family Matters, Gender Equality, Demographic Development, Preventing Domestic Violence and Combating Trafficking in Persons, and its staff was confirmed by order of the Ministry of Social Policy.

34. A consultative advisory body, the Expert Council to Review Communications concerning Sexual Discrimination, has been set up to ensure that responses to complaints and communications concerning sexual discrimination are both timely and effective.