



РІВНІ МОЖЛИВОСТІ
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES INTER-FACTION UNION

Newsletter / № 4 (May 2015)

UPCOMING EVENTS

On June 19, 2015 an advocacy roundtable on reproductive health will take place in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (18/2 Hrushevskogo street, room 12).

The roundtable aims to discuss the results of the current State Program "Reproductive Health of the Nation" for the period through 2015 and support to the State Program on the Reproductive Health of the Nation for the period 2016-2020.

The event will take place on the initiative of the Charitable Fund "Women's Health and Family Planning" in cooperation with the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union.

The roundtable will convene the MPs of Ukraine, members of the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union, members of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Public Health and Committee on Budget, representatives of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, experts, representatives of the civil society and international organizations.

JAPANESE CHERRY TREES WERE PLANTED IN THE BOTANICAL GARDEN TO CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY

On May 10, 2015 festivities on the occasion of Mother's Day took place in the M.M. Grishko National Botanical Garden. The tradition to celebrate Mother's Day in the botanical garden was introduced by the members of the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union in 2012. This year's celebrations were



initiated by the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in cooperation with "For the Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union of the Kyiv City Council and organized with the assistance of the Kyiv City State Administration and the Kyiv City Center "Family House".

MPs of Ukraine, Co-chairs of the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union **Olena Kondratiuk, Maria Ionova** and **Aliona Babak** took part in the celebration. They wished mothers and their families happy Mother's Day filled with patience, love and most importantly peace.

Trees and flowers were traditionally planted in the botanical garden to celebrate Mother's Day.

Olena Kondratiuk, Maria Ionova and Aliona Babak together with the Kyiv City councilors planted Japanese cherry trees and peony seedlings on the UN alley. Olena Kondratiuk, Co-chair of the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union named



her first planted peony after Nadia Savchenko.

This year's Mother's Day celebration aimed to promote the image of a modern mother who successfully combines childcare, career and social activities. Thus, socially active mothers and those mothers who volunteer were awarded letters of gratitude on the initiative of the Kyiv City State Administration.

<http://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Novyny/108703.html>

EXPERT MEETING ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



Iryna Friz: "Are women needed in politics? They are critically needed, because women are inherently able to build and are not able to destroy. A woman is always willing to compromise and will not create a conflict herself".

http://elle.ua/stil-zhizni/blog_stil_zhizni/jenschina-v-politike-kruglyiy-stol-elle-ukraina/#ixzz3b8sO8mPy



Oksana Yurynets: "There is so much cynicism in the Verkhovna Rada. I have never seen so much cynicism in my life, and there is so much men's "rusticity" there. Women would definitely win a competition, if this would be based on the quality of work and not on gender. "

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«Рівні можливості»/ Equal Opportunities Caucus

On **May 26-27, 2015** "Expert Meeting on Good Practices for Advancing Women's Political Participation in the OSCE Region", organized by the OSCE/ODIHR was held in Warsaw (Poland). The event was initiated to discuss the issues of increasing women's representation in parliaments and local governments of the OSCE region and the role of political parties in formation of the women's political leadership. **Maria Ionova**, MP of Ukraine, Co-chair of the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union was invited to participate in the expert meeting.

The participants, including Michael George Link, Director of the OSCE/ODIHR and Meg Munn, former Minister for Women and Equality of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as parliamentarians of the OSCE participating states and representatives of



international organizations, discussed key strategies used by political parties and state government authorities to encourage participation of women in politics. Getting to know international practices of women's empowerment is essential for the effective implementation of the equal opportunities policy in Ukraine.

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1639291832971296&id=1568562916710855

THE RATIFICATION OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION IS ON TIME

Final analytical report on compliance of the selected laws of Ukraine with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, as well as such occurrences (Istanbul Convention) was presented within the framework of the Council of Europe Project "Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine" on May 26, 2015. . The report aims to assist Ukrainian authorities in improving its legal framework to combat violence against women and domestic violence by means of reviewing the legislation and bringing it in compliance with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention. Participants of the meeting were unanimous in recognizing the fact, that under the conditions of the conflict in the east of Ukraine it is important to intensify work towards ratifying the Istanbul Convention. **Iryna Lutsenko**, who represented the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union at the meeting, said that MPs realize, how important the Istanbul Convention is for ensuring women's rights, which is why they work on legislation prohibiting all forms of violence against women and ensuring the proper implementation of justice, protection and support for the victims of violence.