



РІВНІ МОЖЛИВОСТІ
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES INTER-FACTION UNION

Newsletter / № 5 (June 2015)

THE "DONBASS: CHILDREN OF WAR" EXHIBITION OPENING

On **July 2, 2015** a round table discussion on the prospects of ratification and subsequent implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) took place in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The event was initiated by **Iryna Lutsenko**, the Chairperson of the Subcommittee on International-Legal Affairs and Parliamentary Control Over the Implementation of International Obligations by Ukraine under the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Committee on Foreign Affairs, member of the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union in cooperation with the Office of the Council of Europe in Ukraine with the support of the Council of Europe project "Prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine", funded by the Swedish Government and implemented by the Office of the Council of Europe in Ukraine.

MPs of Ukraine, representatives of the Office of the Council of Europe in Ukraine and delegates of the project "Prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine", representatives of the Ministries and departments, leaders of social movement took part in the round table discussion.

More information about the event will be provided in the next newsletter.

On **June 3, 2015** the photo exhibition "**Donbass: children of war**", initiated by **Iryna Gerashchenko**, the Commissioner of the President of Ukraine on the peaceful settlement of the situation in Lugansk and Donetsk regions and the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine with the support of

the "Equal Opportunities"

Inter-Faction

Union and Mykola

Kuleba, the

Commissioner of

the President of

Ukraine for

Children's Rights

was launched in

Kyiv.

The exhibition

presents 40 photographs that illustrate the complicated trial experienced by the Ukrainian children because of the conflict in the east of Ukraine. Children's rights are the least of all protected during the conflict. Internally displaced children and children that live in the anti-terrorist operation area and on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine suffer from

psychological trauma and often from physical violence and require special support and assistance to overcome the consequences of the conflict.

MP **Mariya Ionova** and MP **Iryna Lutsenko** took part in the exhibition opening. They



along with colleagues, members of the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union, repeatedly visited the anti-terrorist operation area and know from their own experience about children's sufferings during the war.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/news/32992.html>

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1642207949346351&id=1568562916710855

«UMBRELLA FROM VIOLENCE»

On **June 2, 2015** the project "Freedom from violence: improving access to social services in Ukraine" was launched. The project is organized by the HealthRight International Representative Office in Ukraine in cooperation with international charitable foundation "Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health" and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine. The project was started with the opening of the symbolic installation "Umbrella from violence." The project aims to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of social and rehabilitation services for women victims of violence as well as men, who have committed violence.

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1642146229352523&id=1568562916710855

SOCIAL PROJECT "HAPPINESS IN 4 HANDS"



ЩАСТЯ У 4 РУКИ
соціальний проєкт

The equal distribution of family duties and responsibilities between women and men in the children upbringing is one of the important steps to ensure the equal rights of women and men. On **June 2, 2015** the United Nations Population Fund in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Policy launched an information campaign "Happiness in 4 hands." The purpose of the "Happiness in 4 hands" campaign is to show the couples which decided to get married the simple recipes of family happiness and to demonstrate that fair sharing of the family duties between the husband and wife is helpful and pleasant. "Happiness in 4 hands" commercials will be shown on the national and regional public broadcasting stations, and on the billboards and city lights of many Ukrainian cities.

<http://zags.org.ua/>

MEETING WITH CANADIAN GENDER EXPERT MICHAEL AYLWARD

On **June 3, 2015** MP **Iryna Lutsenko** met with **Michael Aylward**, Canadian gender expert, who has been making an exposure visit to Ukraine from June 2 to 8, 2015.

Iryna Lutsenko informed the representatives of the Canadian Embassy in Ukraine about the activities of the members of the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union and about legislative initiatives aimed at ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men in Ukraine. The issues of women's involvement in political parties and the prospects for implementing gender quotas to increase women's representation in the state and local authorities were discussed during the meeting.



Iryna Lutsenko raised the issues relating to ensuring of women's rights in conflict and combating violence against women and domestic violence, cases of which increased due to the situation in the east of Ukraine. Michael Aylward, who has experience of working in Serbia, told about the Serbian open-door policy for psychological rehabilitation of victims of

violence and people, who have committed violence. Mr. Aylward also shared information about successful art therapy programs for children that were used in Palestine.



Iryna Lutsenko and Michael Aylward discussed the importance of post-conflict recovery and social reintegration of male soldiers.

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1642505899316556&id=1568562916710855

MEETING WITH THE UKRAINIAN WOMEN'S FOUND

THE CITY THROUGH WOMEN'S EYES



NGO "Women's Democratic Alliance" with the support of the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy of United States introduced the publication "The city through the eyes of women". The publication presents the results of monitoring of 5 Ukrainian cities for friendliness to women. 229 women-volunteers from different social groups during seven days described the impressions about their daily routes in Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Lviv and Mykolaiv.

On their everyday route pregnant women and women with children, elderly women and women with disabilities, cyclist and automobilist and all city population face significant barriers. Describing their city route, women paid attention to comfortable and uncomfortable elements of the urban infrastructure.

We offer you to read the results of the monitoring and assess friendliness of your own city and district to women.

<http://women-da.org/2014/11/misto-ochyma-zhinok-monitorynh-ukrajinskyh-mist-na-druzhnist-do-zhinok/>
<http://bit.ly/mistoochymazhinok>

On **June 4, 2015** a meeting between **Mariya Ionova, Liliya Hrynevych, Aliona Babak** and **Olexandra Kuzhel**, Co-chairs and members of the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union and Olesya Bondar and Natalia Karbowska, representatives of the Ukrainian Women's Fund (UWF) was held. Representatives of UWF told about main directions of the Fund's work and key projects that are implemented to protect and promote women's rights, specifically to improve women's economic opportunities and to strengthen their political leadership.

In particular, UWF in cooperation with the Western Ukrainian Center "Women's Perspectives" under the USAID "Growth of Women's Business and Leadership Program" organize for women in regions of Ukraine trainings on financial, legal literacy and personal effectiveness.

MP Oleksandra Kuzhel underlined that it is important to create additional conditions for realization of



women's economic opportunities in Ukraine. She emphasized on the problem of economic integration of women after 40 years and on necessity of programs for their personal growth.



Olesya Bondar and Natalia Karbowska also presented to MPs the youth women's leadership program "The First Step to Success", which was launched in 2006. During last 10 years "The First Step to Success" program supports young women-leaders and provides them with new knowledge and skills, organizes meetings with successful women, and helps to realize participants' ideas. The winners of this year's program will take part in the Forum of young women-leaders that will be held in Kiev from June 26 to 28, 2015. Participants of the meeting discussed possible areas of cooperation between MPs of Ukraine and UWF within program "The First Step to Success". Following the meeting an invitation to participate in the Forum of young women-leaders was sent to the members of the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union.

Sharing experiences to enhance women's participation in political parties of Georgia



A series of consultations with political parties to identify the key areas for promoting gender equality in politics and increasing women's participation in political parties was held in Georgia during 2011-2015 within the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) "Strengthening Women's Participation in Political Parties in the OSCE Region".

On **June 15-16, 2015** in Tbilisi (Georgia) Georgian political parties that participated in the OSCE/ODIHR "Strengthening Women's Participation in Political Parties in the OSCE Region" presented the results of the project.

Anna Romanova, MP of Ukraine, and **Victoria Mukha** and **Halyna Yanchenko**, deputies of the Kyiv City Council, members of the "For the Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union took part in the event.

The successful practices used by Georgia to increase the level of women's participation in political parties and the prospects for their use in Ukraine, as well as challenges encountered in connection with gender audit of the parties and the development of gender action plans in Georgia were discussed during the event, organized by the OSCE/ODIHR together with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Georgia.

CONFERENCE "WOMEN'S ACCESS TO POLITICS IN UKRAINE: NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL"

On **June 12, 2015** the conference "Women's Access to Politics in Ukraine: National and Regional level", organized by the International Centre for Policy Studies (ICPS) was held. The participants, among which **Iryna Gerashchenko**, MP of Ukraine, member the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union, **Olena Makeieva**, Deputy Minister of Finance of Ukraine **Tamara Martseniuk**, gender expert, and **Vasyl Filipchuk**, ICPS Chairman, discussed the issues of women's access to politics in Ukraine and the challenges faced by women.

Iryna Gerashchenko told about the activities of the 'Equal Opportunities' Inter-Faction Union and the legislative initiatives aimed at bringing Ukrainian gender legislation into line with European norms and international obligations taken by



Ukraine. She noted the close relationship between the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union and the public sector and underlined that Caucus supports the strengthening of such cooperation. She also pointed out that the state of gender equality in Ukraine has improved in recent years. However, the low involvement of women in politics and strengthening their influence on decision-making in all areas of state policy remains one of the most pressing issues.



Iryna Gerashchenko stressed on the need to carry out educational work among Ukrainians aimed at strengthening understanding of the important role of women in politics.

All participants were unanimous with the need to introduce positive measures to address the lack of women in senior policy-making levels.

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1645678818999264&id=1568562916710855

"Family policy of Ukraine - goals and objectives"

On **June 17, 2015** Parliamentary hearings "Family policy in Ukraine - goals and objectives" were held in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. MPs of Ukraine, representatives of Ministries and departments, public sector experts and delegates of UNICEF and UNFPA presented the reports on key trends and current problems of the family policy in Ukraine.

Participants of the parliamentary hearings noted on increasing number of vulnerable families during the conflict in the eastern Ukraine. The key problems in the current situation are impoverishment of families and increase of domestic violence. **Nuzhat Ehsan**, UNFPA Representative in Ukraine, noted that according to the UNFPA data, 16% of women in Ukraine experienced the violence of the husband or other relatives. In a situation of the armed conflict this issue becomes even more important. This was stressed by MP **Iryna Lutsenko**, member of the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union. In her report, she underlined on the importance of ratification of the Istanbul Convention and the urgency and importance of the introduction of measures to prevent the escalation of domestic violence in Ukraine under current conditions.

http://static.rada.gov.ua/zakon/new/p ar_sl/SL170615.htm

PRESENTATION OF THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF THE STATE PROGRAM "REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 2015"

On **June 19, 2015** a round table "Strategy of State Policy on Reproductive Health," initiated by the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union in cooperation with the USAID project "Reproductive Health in Ukraine", implemented by the Charitable Foundation "Women's Health and Family Planning" was held in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. **Mariya Ionova**, **Liliya Hrynevych** and **Aliona Babak**, MPs of Ukraine, Co-chairs of the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union and **Oksana Korchynska** and **Oleksii Kyrychenko**, members of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Public Health, representatives of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and more than 50 Ukrainian and foreign experts, representatives of donor organizations USAID, UNFPA, WHO and NGO leaders took part in the event.



The results of an independent evaluation of the State program "Reproductive Health of the Nation" until 2015 were presented during the event. Experts emphasized that the range of measures implemented under the current program contributed to positive changes in the area of reproductive health. At the same time the report data shows that despite the progress, key indicators of reproductive health in Ukraine are still not in line with those in the EU. So it is important that the achieved results were not only maintained but improved. Because of these, experts stressed on the need to adopt new state program within which further set of measures will be implemented to improve reproductive health in Ukraine. The decision to establish the working group for the development and subsequent approval of the State program "Reproductive Health of the Nation" for the period 2016-2020 which will form and structure of the new program was made by the participants of the round table.

<http://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Novyny/112073.html>

Forum of young women leaders

On **June 27, 2015** the Forum of young women-leaders within the program to support youth women's leadership "First Step to Success" organized by the Ukrainian Women's Fund was held.

Ambassadors of Argentina, Slovenia and Finland, and **Andreas von Bekerat**, Swedish Ambassador addressed to participants of the Forum, who came to Kyiv from all over Ukraine. They shared with the young leaders their own experiences of career and personal growth. A discussion on the role of women in the situation in Ukraine and the need for more active involvement of women in peacekeeping processes, dialogue and mutual tolerance in the community was held within the event. Public activist Larisa Kobelyanska, Mariia Berlinska, Tamila Tasheva, Victoriia Voitsitska, Nataliia Tarasenko and Iryna Slavinska joined the discussion.

Many graduates of the program are closely cooperating or interested in helping internally displaced people or those living in the territory close to the areas of the antiterrorist operation.



(photo from Ukrainian Women's Fund Facebook page)

«FAMILY AND PROFESSION: CONFLICT OR HARMONY?»

MP **Liliya Hrynevych**, Co-chair of the "Equal Opportunities" Inter-Faction Union, and **Svitlana Voitsekhovska**, member of the Caucus, took part in the conference "Family and Profession - Conflict or Harmony?". The event devoted to the harmonious combination of professional life and care of the family, was held on **June 26, 2015** in the Senate of the Czech Republic (Praha). MPs of six European countries discussed the ways to create better opportunities for the development of families that are used in their countries. They discussed the issues of expanding the network of kindergartens and creches and keeping them largely from the budget; reducing taxes depending on number of children; taking decree into the pension time etc. The speech of Liliya Hrynevych was devoted to the problems and challenges faced by women and men in the current socio-economic transformation in Ukraine.



<http://www.kdu.cz/aktualne/zpravy/kdu-csl-na-celostatni-konferenci-strany-vystoupila?feed=c19871af-4fbo-4d09-9738-238dc4e80155>

<http://rada.gov.ua/news/Novyny/113075.html>

Follow us on **facebook** – **МФО «Рівні можливості»/ Equal Opportunities Caucus**