Home Office

Country Information and Guidance
Ukraine: Women fearing gender based violence

Version 1.0

November 2015

Preface

This document provides country of origin information (COI) and guidance to Home Office decision makers on handling particular types of protection and human rights claims. This includes whether claims are likely to justify the granting of asylum, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave and whether – in the event of a claim being refused – it is likely to be certifiable as 'clearly unfounded' under s94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.

Decision makers must consider claims on an individual basis, taking into account the case specific facts and all relevant evidence, including: the guidance contained with this document; the available COI; any applicable caselaw; and the Home Office casework guidance in relation to relevant policies.

Country Information

The COI within this document has been compiled from a wide range of external information sources (usually) published in English. Consideration has been given to the relevance, reliability, accuracy, objectivity, currency, transparency and traceability of the information and wherever possible attempts have been made to corroborate the information used across independent sources, to ensure accuracy. All sources cited have been referenced in footnotes. It has been researched and presented with reference to the Common EU [European Union] Guidelines for Processing Country of Origin Information (COI), dated April 2008, and the European Asylum Support Office's research guidelines, Country of Origin Information report methodology, dated July 2012.

Feedback

Our goal is to continuously improve the guidance and information we provide. Therefore, if you would like to comment on this document, please e-mail us.

Independent Advisory Group on Country Information

The Independent Advisory Group on Country Information (IAGCI) was set up in March 2009 by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration to make recommendations to him about the content of the Home Office's COI material. The IAGCI welcomes feedback on the Home Office's COI material. It is not the function of the IAGCI to endorse any Home Office material, procedures or policy.

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Information about the IAGCI's work and a list of the COI documents which have been reviewed by the IAGCI can be found on the Independent Chief Inspector's website at http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/country-information-reviews/

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Guidance

Updated: 24 November 2015

1. Introduction

1.1 Basis of Claim

1.1.1 Fear of gender-based violence and/or serious harm by non-state actors because the person is a woman.

1.2 Other Points to Note

1.2.1 In addition to this guidance decision makers should also refer to the Asylum Instructions on Gender issues in the asylum claim and on Assessing Credibility and Refugee Status.

1.2.2 Where a claim falls to be refused, it must be considered for certification under section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 as Ukraine is listed as a designated state.

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2. Consideration of Issues

2.1 Is the person's account a credible one?

2.1.1 For information on assessing credibility, see sections 4 and 5 of the Asylum Instruction on Assessing Credibility and Refugee Status.

2.1.2 Decision makers must also check if there has been a previous application for a UK visa or another form of leave. Asylum applications matched to visas should be investigated prior to the asylum interview (see the Asylum Instruction on Visa Matches, Asylum Claims from UK Visa Applicants).

2.1.3 Decision makers should also consider the need to conduct language analysis testing (see the Asylum Instruction on Language Analysis).

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2.2 Do Ukrainian women constitute a particular social group (PSG)?

2.2.1 Women in Ukraine form a particular social group (PSG) within the meaning of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention. This is because they share an immutable (or innate) characteristic – their gender - that cannot be changed; and have a distinct identity in their home society.

2.2.2 Although women in Ukraine form a PSG, this does not mean that establishing such membership will be sufficient to make out a case to be recognised as a refugee. The question to be addressed in each case will be whether the particular person will face a real risk of persecution on account of their gender.

2.2.3 For further guidance on particular social groups, see section 7.6 of the Asylum Instruction on Assessing Credibility and Refugee Status.

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2.3 Is the person at risk of persecution or serious harm?

2.3.1 Gender based violence remains a major concern in the Ukranine. Domestic violence is a serious problem and increasingly common, with some 85,200 complaints being registered in the first nine months of 2014. There are also numerous incidents of rape and sexual assault. Most cases go unreported due to domestic violence and rape being widely considered as private matters and limitations in the law. (see Gender-based violence and country information and guidance on Ukraine: Victims of trafficking).

2.3.2 Being female does not on its own establish a need for international protection. Whilst there are numerous incidents of gender-based violence in Ukraine, the actual number of incidents when compared with the overall size of the population suggests that there is not a general risk of women being being subjected to persecution or serious harm on account of their gender alone.

2.3.3 However, several groups of women are at heightened risk of gender- based violence. Women in the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine and IDP women are at increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence and trafficking, and there are reports of abductions, rape, forced labour and conflict-related sexual violence. The incidence of domestic violence has risen with demobilisation and the return of soliders home. Unaccompanied minors who have fled the conflict are at risk of child prostitution and trafficking. Women from minority ethnic groups such as Roma are at particular risk of domestic violence and street violence at the hands of non-Roma. The onus is on the person to demonstrate that she would be personally at risk of gender based violence.

2.5.1. See also country information and guidance on Ukraine: Victims of trafficking and on Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk.

2.3.4 For further information on assessing risk, see section 6 of the Asylum Instruction on Assessing Credibility and Refugee Status.

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2.4 Are those at risk able to seek effective protection?

2.4.1 Domestic violence is an offence under the Ukrainian Law on the Prevention of Violence in the Family and the Ukrainian Code on Administrative Offences (Article 173-2). Sexual harassment is covered by the Law on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities of Women and Men. Rape is prohibited by Article 152 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code with penalties of up to 15 years imprisonment. In November 2012, the law was amended to add a provision which stated that ‘rape without aggravating circumstances… is a private prosecution case, and investigation depends on the victim’s complaint’. Article 149 of the criminal code prohibits all forms of trafficking and prescribes penalties from three to 15 years’ imprisonment (see Legal context).

2.4.2 Many women who are victims of domestic violence do not seek help. The authorities do however take action in response to domestic violence complaints. In the first 9 months of 2014, 85,200 domestic violence complaints were lodged. Over 68,000 domestic violence warnings and

protection orders were made during the period, while courts considered almost 39,700 administrative orders for domestic violence and disobeying protective orders. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 82,200 persons were under police monitoring in connection with domestic violence. Punishment includes fines, administrative arrest, and community service. (see Gender-based violence).

2.4.3 Furthermore, there are a number of non governmental organisations in Ukraine who are active in women's issues, including providing shelter, and who can potentially assist the person to avail themselves of the protection of the state. However, NGOs and services such as shelters and hotlines for victims of domestic violence lack adequate resources and do not cover the whole country. There are no dedicated centres for victims of sexual violence in the country. Some shelters run by NGOs closed in 2014 due to lack of government funding (see Civil society organizations and Assistance for victims of trafficking).

2.3.1 Where the person's fear is of ill treatment/persecution at the hands of non state agents - or rogue state agents - then effective state protection is likely to be available. However decision makers must consider each case on its facts. The onus is on the person to demonstrate why they would not be able to seek and obtain state protection.

2.5.2. The situation is however different in Crimea where after it's annexation by Russia in 2014, the existing laws of Russia came into force. Similarly under Russian influence, women in the so-called Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics are unable to access the legal protections provided in Ukrainian law (see country information and guidance on Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk).

2.4.4 For further information on assessing the availability or not of state protection, see section 8.1 of the Asylum Instruction on Assessing Credibility and Refugee Status

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2.5 Are those at risk able to internally relocate to escape the risk?

2.5.3. Some women may be able to internally relocate to escape localised threats from members of their family, but other women, especially single women with no support networks, may be vulnerable and subjected to destitution. However, in some cases, this could be mitigated by the existence of shelters and assistance available from civil society organisations, but the individual circumstances of each case will need to be taken into account (see Assistance available to women).

2.5.4. For guidance on relocation from Crimea, Luhansk or Donetsk, see country information and guidance on Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk.

2.5.5. Decision makers must give careful consideration to the relevance and reasonableness of internal relocation on a case-by-case basis taking full account of the individual circumstances of the particular person.

2.5.6. The onus is on the person to demonstrate why they believe they would be unable to relocate to a specific town/city to mitigate any risk.

2.5.7. For further information on considering internal relocation and the factors to be taken into account, see section 8.2 of the Asylum Instruction on Assessing Credibility and Refugee Status

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2.6 If refused, is the claim likely to be certifiable as 'clearly unfounded'?

2.5.8. Except in the case of those from Crimea and the so-called Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics, where a claim falls to be refused, it is likely to be certifiable as 'clearly unfounded' under section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 because effective state protection is available.

2.5.9. For further information on certification, see the Appeals Instruction on Certification of Protection and Human Rights claims under Section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (clearly unfounded claims).

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3. Policy summary

3.1.1 **Gender based violence - particularly domestic violence, rape nand sexual assault - is a serious problem in the Ukranine.**

3.1.2 **Whilst there are numerous incidents of gender-based violence in Ukraine, the actual number of incidents when compared with the overall size of the population suggests that there is not a general risk of women being being subjected to persecution or serious harm on account of their gender alone.**

3.1.3 **There are comprehensive legal provisions for dealing with gender based violence and appropriate sanctions are handed down by the courts. Thee authorities are in general willing and able to provide effective protection.**

3.1.4 **Except in the case of those from Crimea, Luhansk and Donetsk, where a claim falls to be refused it is likely to be certifiable as 'clearly unfounded'.**

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Country Information

Updated: 24 November 2015

4. Background

4.1.1 Freedom House stated the following in their report, 'Freedom in the World 2015,' published in January 2015:

'Gender discrimination is prohibited under the constitution, but government officials demonstrate little interest or understanding of the problem. Nearly 12 percent of the new parliament's seats are held by women, the largest share in Ukraine's post-Soviet history. Human rights groups have complained that employers openly discriminate on the basis of gender, physical appearance, and age. The trafficking of women abroad for the purpose of prostitution remains a major problem.'[1]

4.1.2 See country information and guidance on Ukraine: Victims of trafficking for further information on this subject.

4.1.3 A report published by UNHCR in June 2015 stated, 'Women and children represent a sizeable proportion of the IDP population: for the eastern five oblasts, the numbers of able-bodied, working-age women (who often leave with their children) averaged 34% of IDPs in September and October of 2014. This proportion has since fallen…'[2]

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5. Legal Context

5.1.1 The European Commission noted the following in a report dated March 2015: 'National legislation on gender equality and women's empowerment was, in general, well advanced, based on existing UN Conventions. However, Ukraine still did not meet European standards in this area. According to the World Economic Forum's global gender gap index, in 2014, Ukraine was ranked 56 out of 142 countries.'[3]

5.1.2 The OECD Development Centre's 2014 edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) noted: 'Ukraine has signed but not ratified the Council

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[1] Freedom House. 'Freedom in the World 2015;' Ukraine; Personal autonomy and individual rights; published 28 January 2015. https://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2015/ukraine Date accessed: 20 July 2015

[2] Global Protection Cluster: Ukraine: Protection Strategy, June 2015 (published by UNHCR, available at ecoi.net) http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1930_1434634743_1-june-2015-protection-strategy-en-1.pdf Date accessed: 17 July 2015.

[3] European Commission. 'Implementation Of The European Neighbourhood Policy In Ukraine; Progress In 2014 And Recommendations For Actions Accompanying The Document Joint Communication To The European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic And Social Committee And The Committee Of The Regions' [SWD(2015) 74 final], page 7, dated 25 March 2015 (available at ecoi.net) http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1226_1427898393_ukraine-enp-report-2015-en.pdf Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.'[4]

5.1.3 In December 2014, the UN Committee against Torture published its concluding observations on the 6th periodic report of Ukraine, stating, 'The State party should: (a) Amend its legislation in order to strengthen efforts to specifically criminalize, prevent and combat domestic violence, and ensure the effective implementation of legislation on domestic and family violence in practice.'[5]

5.2 Law on domestic violence

5.2.1 The OECD Development Centre's 2014 Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) noted the following with regard to domestic violence: 'Domestic violence is an offence according to the Ukrainian Code on Administrative Offences (article 173-2 – Violence in family). In case of physical injuries, police and judges also use articles of Criminal Code of Ukraine on physical abuse.

'There is no law specifically criminalising domestic violence in Ukraine. However, domestic violence is addressed under the Law on the Prevention of Violence in the Family. This law defines domestic violence as "any intentional action committed by one family member towards another family member which violates the constitutional rights and freedoms of the family member and causes harm to his or her physical, mental or moral health", and encompasses physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence. The law was revised in 2009 following criticism from Ukrainian women's rights activists of some aspects, for instance, a clause which allowed police to issue warnings to victims for "provoking" the violence. This clause was removed, and a system of correctional programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence was introduced.'[6]

5.3 Law on rape

5.3.1 The SIGI 2014 also described the law regarding rape, stating:

'Rape is prohibited by the Ukrainian Criminal Code. The law contains no specific reference to spousal rape. Perpetrators of spousal rape can be punished under a law prohibiting "forced sexual relations with a materially dependent person" (the same law that can be used to prosecute sexual

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[4] OECD Development Centre. 2014 Edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index; Ukraine; Restricted physical integrity; published November 2014. http://genderindex.org/country/ukraine Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

[5] United Nations Committee Against Torture. 'Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Ukraine' [CAT/C/UKR/CO/6], dated 12 December 2014 http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/UKR/CAT_C_UKR_CO_6_18892_E.pdf Date accessed: 9 September 2015

[6] OECD Development Centre. 2014 Edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index; Ukraine; Restricted physical integrity; published November 2014. http://genderindex.org/country/ukraine Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

harassment cases). There is nothing in the Criminal Code to suggest that a perpetrator can escape prosecution by marrying the victim.'[7]

5.3.2 The website of Advocates for Human Rights, 'Stop Violence against Women' stated that:

'The Criminal Code of Ukraine recognizes five categories of sexual crimes, which are dealt with in the following articles, most recently amended in 2010:

- Article 152: Rape
- Article 153: Violent unnatural gratification of sexual desires
- Article 154: Compulsion to sexual intercourse
- Article 155: Sexual intercourse with a sexually immature person
- Article 156: Debauchery of minors' …

'Rape charges are brought only upon a victim's complaint, or if the victim is a minor, by the victim's relatives or a medical institution. A forensic medical examination is mandatory to determine the fact of sexual intercourse and the forensic expert's conclusion usually is the only means of prosecuting the perpetrator under Article 152.

'Ukraine updated its criminal procedure law in November 2012 to add the following provision: "rape without aggravating circumstances . . . is a private prosecution case, and investigation depends on the victim's complaint." The majority of rape cases in Ukraine do not involve aggravating circumstances, and if the victim does not support prosecution the case will simply be closed. According to the European Women's Lobby, the risk of the new provision "is that the victim may waive the complaint under pressure from the perpetrator," and this lends itself to under-reporting of rape cases.

'Ukrainian law does not specifically punish marital rape. Article 56 of the Family Code of Ukraine on the "right of the wife and the husband to personal liberty," forbids compulsion of sexual relations in marriage by physical or psychological violence. Article 18 of the Family Code grants spouses the right to apply to a court to protect a family right or interest. How this right may work in practice, however, is unclear.'[8]

5.4 Law on sexual harassment

4.4.1 The SIGI 2014 provided the following information about the law on sexual harassment: 'While there is no specific legislation addressing sexual harassment, sexual harassment is covered by the Law on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities of Women and Men. In addition, the Criminal

[7] OECD Development Centre. 2014 Edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index; Ukraine; Restricted physical integrity; published November 2014. http://genderindex.org/country/ukraine Date accessed: 20 July 2015.
[8] The Advocates for Human Rights. 'Violence against Women in Ukraine,' last updated August 2014. http://www.stopvaw.org/Ukraine Date accessed: 10 September 2015

Code includes clauses prohibiting people from exploiting a victim's dependence or vulnerability to coerce them into unwanted sexual contact.'[9]

4.4.2 The US Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014 stated:

'The law puts sexual harassment in the same category as discrimination, but women's rights groups asserted there was no effective mechanism to protect against sexual harassment Women rarely sought legal recourse, because courts declined to hear their cases and rarely convicted perpetrators… While the law prohibits coercing a "materially dependent person" to have sexual intercourse, legal experts stated safeguards against harassment were inadequate.'[10]

4.4.3 The OECD Development Centre's SIGI index for 2014 stated:

'The Law on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities of Women and Men calls on employers to take measures to "avoid incidents of sexual harassment", and states that persons who have experienced sexual harassment can make a complaint to the Commissioner for Human Rights. Victims of sexual harassment are also entitled to financial compensation. However, a 2011 report notes that the legal procedures involved in making a claim of sexual harassment are complex, and there are no special mechanisms in place to investigate cases of sexual harassment in the workplace.

'… One expert cited in the 2011 report mentioned above criticised the current legal framework for failing to protect women from sexual harassment, noting that the definition of sexual harassment in the Law on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities of Women and Men is too narrow.'[11]

4.4.4 In relation to discrimination, the website of Advocates for Human Rights stated that: 'In 2005 the Ukrainian Parliament passed the law "On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" (Gender Equality Law), which went into effect on January 1, 2006….

'According to women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Ukraine, the law did not create a clear mechanism to help Ukrainian women enforce their rights, a problem exacerbated by Ukrainians' general reluctance to sue for protection from discrimination in court and a lack of awareness that a

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[9] OECD Development Centre. 2014 Edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index; Ukraine; Restricted physical integrity; published November 2014. http://genderindex.org/country/ukraine Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

[10] US Department of State. 'Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014;' Ukraine; Section 6. Women, published 25 June 2015. http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2014&dlid=236588 Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

[11] OECD Development Centre. 2014 Edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index; Ukraine; Restricted physical integrity; published November 2014. http://genderindex.org/country/ukraine Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

legal remedy even exists. Thus, the impact of the law in curbing discrimination based on sex has been limited.'[12]

5.5 Law on human trafficking

5.5.1 See country information and guidance on Ukraine: Victims of trafficking.

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6. Gender-based violence

6.1 Domestic violence

6.1.1 The US Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014 stated:

'Domestic violence against women remained a serious problem. Spousal abuse was common. Advocacy groups asserted the percentage of women subjected to physical violence or psychological abuse at home remained high. Human rights groups noted the ability of agencies to detect and report cases of domestic violence was limited and preventive services remained underfunded and underdeveloped.'[13]

6.1.2 The Eighth Periodic Report of State Parties to the UN CEDAW Committee noted that:

'Statistical court reports on domestic violence are collected, but they require improvement and changes. Thus, in the statistical reports on domestic violence, except for completed criminal proceedings, there is no information on the number and sex of persons (adults and children) who suffered from violence or information on the kind of domestic violence. Available statistical reports do not allow to comprehensively analyze causes and circumstances of committed offences.

'The government statistics also does not show much about the prevalence of domestic violence. Out of 11 international statistical indicators on violence only 4 are collected in Ukraine starting from 2010.

'In the absence of statistical data, within the scope of the preparation of this report some sociological researches have been conducted that allow determining the level of domestic violence in the country. The depersonalized data on the clients of crisis centers helps to define the correlation of different kinds of violence and social and demographic characteristics of its victims. The most widespread kinds are physical violence (82%) and psychological violence (80%). Less often women complain on economic (51%) and sexual violence (11%). Usually, violence is

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[12] The Advocates for Human Rights. 'Violence against Women in Ukraine,' last updated August 2014. http://www.stopvaw.org/Ukraine Date accessed: 10 September 2015

[13] US Department of State. 'Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014;' Ukraine; Section 6. Women, published 25 June 2015. http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2014&dlid=236588 Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

complex, 43% of clients have suffered from at least three kinds of violence (physical, psychological, economic).'[14]

5.1.3 The OECD Development Centre's SIGI index 2014 stated: 'Every year the amount of reported cases of domestic violence grows by about 10,000, which indicates an increased level of awareness and visibility of the issue, and readiness of the police to respond to such cases. Public prosecutors are only required to initiate proceedings in domestic violence cases in the case of serious assault.

'According to a shadow report submitted to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee by the Women's Consortium of Ukraine, domestic violence remains a hidden problem in Ukraine. Most cases go unreported; one survey conducted in 2009 found that just 10% of women affected by domestic violence had sought help from the authorities. It is considered to be a private, family matter, a view shared by law enforcement officials and others in authority. This makes it very difficult for women to seek help, as does the fact that many women are unaware of the legal protection that is available to them. Advocates for Human Rights also note the inadequate way that police respond to domestic violence.'[15]

5.1.4 The website of Advocates for Human Rights stated that: 'Violence against women comprises at least 90% of reported cases of violence in Ukraine, yet it is estimated that only 1 in 4 women who have been victims of domestic violence have sought support from the legal system.'[16]

5.1.5 The US Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014 stated:

'Through September [2014] the Ministry of Internal Affairs received 85,200 domestic violence complaints. Police issued 68,198 domestic violence warnings and protection orders during the period, while courts considered almost 39,700 administrative orders for domestic violence and disobeying protective orders. According to the ministry, 82,200 persons were under police monitoring in connection with domestic violence. Punishment included fines, administrative arrest, and community service.'[17]

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[14] UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention. Eighth Periodic Report of States Parties due in 2014; Ukraine, dated 26 August 2015. http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fUKR%2f8&Lang=en Date accessed: 11 September 2015

[15] OECD Development Centre. 2014 Edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index; Ukraine; Restricted physical integrity; published November 2014. http://genderindex.org/country/ukraine Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

[16] The Advocates for Human Rights. 'Violence against Women in Ukraine,' last updated August 2014. http://www.stopvaw.org/Ukraine Date accessed: 10 September 2015

[17] US Department of State. 'Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014;' Ukraine; Section 6. Women, published 25 June 2015. http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2014&dlid=236588 Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

5.1.6 On the issue of punishment of perpetrators of domestic violence, the August 2015 report of Ukraine noted: 'Data on further application of fines as the most widespread form of punishment in domestic violence cases support the CO [concluding observations] No. 26: in 2010 a fine was used as punishment in 87.7% of cases, in 2012 – in 88.3% of cases.'[18]

5.1.7 The Eighth Periodic Report of State Parties to UN CEDAW Committee highlighted that: '...More than half of women who suffered from domestic violence (60%) prior to their installation in the crisis centers had submitted claims of domestic violence to state institutions' and that 'The problem of domestic violence has not been solved in the majority of cases after the appeal to the above mentioned state institutions, and as a direct result, the women came to these centers.'[19]

5.1.8 In December 2014, the UN Committee against Torture published its concluding observations on the 6th periodic report of Ukraine and noted:

'While welcoming the steps taken by the State party, such as the adoption of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2001) and the "Stop violence!" campaign, the Committee is concerned at the persistently high rate of domestic violence. It is also concerned about the absence of an appropriate normative framework to fight domestic violence effectively and the lack of availability of remedies for the victims.'[20]

5.1.9 The Eighth Periodic Report of States to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) noted that the Department for Family, Gender Policy and Counter Human Trafficking in the Ministry of Social Policy is a coordinating body for creating and implementing gender policy in Ukraine. It also noted that: 'The absence of clear vertical framework, personnel weakening and anti-gender propaganda resulted in certain negative consequences. At present, there is no unified structure, responsible for this direction of work in the local state administrations and local authorities.'[21]

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[18] UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention. Eighth Periodic Report of States Parties due in 2014; Ukraine, dated 26 August 2015. http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fUKR%2f8&Lang=en Date accessed: 11 September 2015

[19] UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention. Eighth Periodic Report of States Parties due in 2014; Ukraine, dated 26 August 2015. http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fUKR%2f8&Lang=en Date accessed: 11 September 2015

[20] UN Committee Against Torture. Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Ukraine [CAT/C/UKR/CO/6], dated 12 December 2014 http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/UKR/CAT_C_UKR_CO_6_18892_E.pdf Date Accessed: 9 September 2015

[21] UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention. Eighth Periodic Report of States Parties due in 2014; Ukraine, dated 26 August 2015. http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fUKR%2f8&Lang=en Date accessed: 11 September 2015

5.1.10 The OECD Development Centre's 2014 edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index stated: 'According to the Council of Europe, information on women's rights to protection from domestic violence and other forms of violence against women is available and widely disseminated in Ukraine; this includes education campaigns. Police officers also receive training on violence against women.'[22]

6.2 Rape

6.2.1 The US Department of State's Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2014 stated: 'Sexual assault and rape continued to be significant problems. According to the Prosecutor General's Office, through September [2014] there were 317 reports of rape or attempted rape.'

6.2.2 The website of Advocates for Human Rights stated that: 'The Ministry of Internal Affairs reported that during the first ten months of 2012, the police recorded 451 incidents of rape or attempted rape. Still, rape is a largely unreported crime, as many victims of rape are afraid of public shame, mistrust police officers, and harbor a belief that bringing charges will never result in justice.'[23]

6.2.3 The OECD Development Centre's 2014 edition of the SIGI stated: 'Data held by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) indicates that in 2010, 635 cases of rape were registered with the police. It is unclear how many of these resulted in a conviction. Public prosecutors are only required to initiate proceedings in cases of sexual violence in the case of serious assault.

'According to the Advocates for Human Rights, most incidents of rape go unreported because victims are ashamed, distrust the police, or do not believe that bringing charges will result in justice. One prevalence study found that among women who had experienced sexual violence, this was most often from their husbands or male partners.'[24]

6.3 Sexual harassment

6.3.1 The OECD Development Centre's SIGI index for 2014 stated: 'Sexual harassment appears to be a widespread but little-understood problem in Ukraine. In many sectors, sexual harassment is considered normal and women do not recognise sexual harassment for what it is, or realise that they have the right to protection.'[25]

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[22] OECD Development Centre. 2014 Edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index; Ukraine; Restricted physical integrity; published November 2014. http://genderindex.org/country/ukraine Date accessed: 20 July 2015.
[23] The Advocates for Human Rights. 'Violence against Women in Ukraine,' last updated August 2014. http://www.stopvaw.org/Ukraine Date accessed: 10 September 2015
[24] OECD Development Centre. 2014 Edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index; Ukraine; Restricted physical integrity; published November 2014. http://genderindex.org/country/ukraine Date accessed: 20 July 2015.
[25] OECD Development Centre. 2014 Edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index; Ukraine; Restricted physical integrity; published November 2014. http://genderindex.org/country/ukraine Date

6.3.2 In its August 2015 report, the Equal Rights Trust stated:

'Evidence collected by NGOs indicates that sexual harassment of women in the workplace is widespread, despite having been prohibited by the Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" since 2006. There are no official statistics collected on the incidence of sexual harassment, but women's organisations estimate that one in four women in Ukraine will experience sexual harassment at work...

'It appears that, as of May 2015, there has only been one case of sexual harassment considered by a court. Svitlana Pomilyaiko of Kharkiv regularly informed the management of the factory where she worked that the head of the design bureau made sexual advances towards her. In response to her complaints, the administration fired her, officially for being four minutes late to work. Svitlana took her complaint to the court. She was reinstated in her position, but was unable to prove the real reason for her dismissal.'[26]

6.4 Human trafficking

6.4.1 See country information and guidance on Ukraine: Victims of trafficking.

6.5 Minority ethnic groups

5.5.1 The OECD Development Centre's SIGI 2014 stated:

'According to the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), violence directed against Roma women is a particular problem in Ukraine. This includes domestic violence in the home, and street violence, at the hands of non-Roma. The police do not respond effectively to prevent violence or punish perpetrators. In the case of domestic violence, this is often on the grounds that this is a "Roma" problem and should be settled within the community. In addition, many Roma women are reluctant to report violence to the police due to mistrust, and bad experiences at the hands of police in the past.'[27]

5.5.2 The OECD Development Centre's SIGI 2014 further noted that 'Violence and intimidation at the hands of neo-Nazi groups also affects women's free access to public space for women belonging to some minority groups, including Roma, Crimean Tartars, and other ethnic minorities, and the LGBTI community.'[28]

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accessed: 20 July 2015.

[26] Equal Rights Trust. 'In the Crosscurrents: Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Ukraine,' dated August 2015. http://www.equalrightstrust.org/sites/www.equalrightstrust.org/files/ertdocs/In%20the%20Crosscurrents%20Addressing%20Discrimination%20and%20Inequality%20in%20Ukraine.pdf Date accessed: 10 September 2015

[27] OECD Development Centre. 2014 Edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index; Ukraine; Restricted physical integrity; published November 2014. http://genderindex.org/country/ukraine Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

[28] OECD Development Centre. 2014 Edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index; Ukraine; Restricted civil liberties; published November 2014. http://genderindex.org/country/ukraine Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

5.5.3 The Eighth Periodic Report of State Parties to the UN CEDAW, dated August 2015, noted: 'In course of several studies, it was revealed that the Roma ethnicity women in Ukraine are subject to multiple/cross discrimination on the grounds of gender and ethnic factor. They face discrimination, inhuman and humiliating treatment on the part of doctors and hospital personnel, sometimes they are refused in medical assistance.'[29]

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7. Women and conflict

7.1.1 A report published by UNHCR in June 2015 stated: 'Gender-Based Violence (GBV) was recognized by all communities as a major concern during the crisis and remains a significant risk in crisis affected areas of Ukraine. In one of the most recent needs assessments report, rape and harassment by armed men were raised as a concern in few individual interviews .

'Further, the assessments have noted that in the current crisis, many risk factors for violence were evident and directly associated with IDPs' on-going struggle to meet their basic survival needs. According to UNFPA in-depth Needs Assessment in 16 oblasts of Ukraine (January 2015) various forms of violence have been faced by women IDP including threaten with weapon (9,3%), psychological (24%), sexual (1.3 %), intimidation (15,6 %) and domestic (1 %).

'High levels of violence against women by both returned fighters and non-combatant men who find themselves idle in displacement are reported, as well as harassment, intimidation and violence against non-combatant men themselves. There are also undocumented reports of high levels of sexual violence in the conflict area, which require substantiation and medical, psychosocial and legal redress. Risk and exposure to HIV is a real threat in this context.

'Even before the crisis other types of GBV, such as intimate partner violence and sex trafficking, were being reported. The Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) has stated concerns about the negative consequences of the current crisis on anti-trafficking activities, and has noted that the growing number of IDPs is vulnerable to human trafficking .'[30]

7.1.2 In its January 2015 report 'International Protection Considerations related to developments in Ukraine,' the UN High Commissioner for Refugees stated:

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[29] UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention. Eighth Periodic Report of States Parties due in 2014; Ukraine, dated 26 August 2015. http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fUKR%2f8&Lang=en Date accessed: 11 September 2015.

[30] Global Protection Cluster: Ukraine: Protection Strategy, June 2015 (published by UNHCR, available at ecoi.net) http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1930_1434634743_1-june-2015-protection-strategy-en-1.pdf Date accessed: 17 July 2015

'[T]here are increasing reports of violence against women in this area [i.e. regions outside government control], including harassment, forced labour and sexual violence; there are also reports of sexual harassment at checkpoints whilst leaving the non-government controlled areas.' [31]

7.1.3 In September 2014, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported:

'The HRMMU [Human Rights Monitoring Mission to Ukraine] has received allegations of incidents of sexual and gender-based violence in the east. An NGO reported that women who remained in the area are forced to clean, cook and wash clothes for the members of armed groups. Groups of volunteers helping to evacuate people received first-hand reports of rape or detention of women at check-points. There have also been incidents of abductions of women, by armed groups, whose whereabouts remain unknown. During a filmed interrogation, the member of an armed group detained by the Security Service of Ukraine mentioned that at the checkpoint where he served, local women were subjected to gang rape and then killed.'[32]

7.1.4 In its report on the human rights situation in Ukraine of November 2014, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights noted that it continued to receive allegations of sexual and gender-based violence in the eastern regions: 'Those trapped in areas of fighting are at a heightened threat of sexual violence. Information from NGOs and IDPs that young women and men are being taken off buses leaving the conflict zone require further investigation. The HRMU is concerned that cases of violence against women may go unreported…Women, including those internally displaced, may be at heightened risk of being exposed to trafficking, sexual violence and resorting to prostitution as a means of survival.'[33]

7.1.5 The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights gave details about the lack of access to justice for victims of sexual and gender based violence in eastern Ukraine in its report on the situation in Ukraine of November 2014. This included one case on 23 September, in which it was reported that a member of a 'Luhansk People's Republic' armed group raped a 22-year old girl. He was later subjected to public humiliation by his commanders as punishment. In another case on 25 October, in Alchevsk (Luhansk region) the 'Phantom Brigade' organised 'the first people's trial', which considered two rape cases involving a 15-year old girl and a 20-year

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[31] UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). 'International Protection Considerations Related to the Developments in Ukraine – Update II,' dated 15 January 2015 (paragraph 15). http://www.refworld.org/docid/54c639474.html Date accessed: 11 September 2015

[32] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. 'Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine,' dated 16 September 2014. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/OHCHR_sixth_report_on_Ukraine.pdf Date accessed: 9 September 2014

[33] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. 'Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine,' dated 15 November (paragraphs 127 and 130). http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/OHCHR_seventh_reportUkraine20.11.14.pdf Date accessed: 7 September 2015.

old women. The 'trial' was filmed and clearly did not meet any fair trial standards. The first perpetrator was allowed to 'go to the front-line to pay his guilt with blood,' while the second was sentenced to death. During this 'trial', the commander of the'Phantom Brigade', presiding over the proceedings, made some derogatory comments regarding women and stated that 'from now on any woman seen in a cafe or bar will be immediately detained', adding that women should sit at home.[34]

7.1.6 In an article published by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in April 2015, Aliona Zubchenko, spokeswoman for the NGO La Strada, stated: '"We get some calls from occupied territories, but not enough to understand whether we are dealing with isolated cases or with a widespread problem. In addition, neither we nor Ukrainian authorities have access to the occupied territories, so we can only guess what is happening there".

'"We have, however, received calls from women who were subjected to sexual violence in the occupied territories. They say separatists seize women, lock them up in basements, and sexually abuse them. Unfortunately, we can only listen to these calls. Our psychologists can offer counseling to these women, but we cannot turn to law-enforcement authorities because they don't have access to these areas."'[35]

7.1.7 Aliona Zubechenko added that they had received about 15 calls from women affected by violence committed by the insurgency but added: '"…not everyone is able to get in touch with us. Our hotline is a nationwide Ukrainian hotline, but not all operators work in the Luhansk and the Donetsk regions. Out of Ukraine's three main operators, two don't work there. In Crimea, Ukrainian operators don't work at all. So Crimean women cannot call to tell us what is happening there.'"[36]

7.1.8 A report by the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights, dated September 2014, stated:

'According to NGOs, women coming from eastern regions mentioned that conflicts regularly occurred in their families due to "ideological" differences. La Strada received calls from women complaining that their husbands, active supporters of "Donetsk or Luhansk people's republics," tried to prevent them from fleeing the region, including in cases when they had young children.

'Women are at heightened risk of domestic violence due to the return of soldiers from the security operation area. Doctors treating wounded Ukrainian servicemen reported that many have resorted to alcohol to cope

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[34] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. 'Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine,' dated 15 November (paragraphs 131 and 132) http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/OHCHR_seventh_reportUkraine20.11.14.pdf Date accessed: 7 September 2015.

[35] Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. 'Men return completely changed:' Ukraine conflict fuelling surge in domestic violence, dated 26 April 2015. http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-conflict-domestic-violence/26979064.html Date accessed: 22 July 2015.

[36] Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. 'Men return completely changed:' Ukraine conflict fuelling surge in domestic violence, dated 26 April 2015. http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-conflict-domestic-violence/26979064.html Date accessed: 22 July 2015.

with psychological trauma. Volunteers in hospitals also reported about the need for professional and experienced psychologists. NGOs providing social and psychological services for women mentioned that some have requested assistance due to the acts of violence committed against them by their husbands, who were fighting in the east and have now returned; at the same time these women generally justify the behaviour of their partners, on the grounds of post-traumatic stress. Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health and Health Right International noted that women themselves do not always perceive violence as such; battering and psychological pressure are considered "normal".'[37]

7.1.9 The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights published a report in June 2015, which stated: 'The rehabilitation of former soldiers is important, including for the prevention of domestic violence. The NGO La Strada notes that as demobilisation is ongoing, cases of domestic violence have been increasingly reported. More instances of physical and sexual domestic violence have been reported compared to 2014, including from the territories controlled by the armed groups.'[38]

7.1.10 In an article published by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in April 2015, Aliona Zubchenko, spokeswoman for La Strada, attributed the increase in violence to post-traumatic stress disorder in the men returning from fighting and stated: '"We took a total of 7,000 calls in 2014, 80 percent of which related to domestic violence. This year, the figure has risen more than twofold. In the first three months of this year, we had more than 2,600 calls."[39]

8. Children and conflict

8.1.1 A Global Protection Cluster report, published by UNHCR in June 2015, noted:

'The conflict is having a particular impact on children's rights. It is estimated that children account to 18 per cent of the displaced population. A significant number of minors have fled the violence with relatives but are not accompanied by their parents. Separated children with adults who are not their legal guardians are not registered as IDPs and thus do not receive social benefits. The prolonged separation, including children being sent abroad, also poses challenges to maintaining family unity. This is a serious concern in a country where child prostitution and trafficking in children, both

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[37] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. 'Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine,' dated 16 September 2014 (paragraphs144 to 149). http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/OHCHR_sixth_report_on_Ukraine.pdf Date accessed: 9 September 2014

[38] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. 'Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine: 16 February to 15 May 2015,' dated 1 June 2015 (available at ecoi.net) http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1226_1433322481_10thohchrreportukraine.pdf Date accessed: 17 July 2015)

[39] Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. 'Men return completely changed:' Ukraine conflict fuelling surge in domestic violence, dated 26 April 2015. http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-conflict-domestic-violence/26979064.html Date accessed: 22 July 2015.

cross-border and internally, was already a problem before the conflict. Furthermore, the disruption of basic social services in non-government controlled areas hampers the response to abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence.'[40]

8.1.2 The US Department of State's report, 'Trafficking in Persons 2015,' published in July 2015, stated:

'Russia's aggression that has fueled the conflict in eastern Ukraine has displaced over 1.3 million people, and this population is especially vulnerable to exploitation…Russian-separatist forces fighting in Ukraine's eastern oblasts of Luhansk and Donetsk have reportedly employed minors as soldiers, informants, and used them as human shields. This reported recruitment and usage of minors as combatants took place on territory not under control of the central government, or in areas where the central government is unable to enforce national labor law due to the military conflict. In addition, self-proclaimed separatist leader Aleksandr Zakharchenko has allegedly stated that children as young as 14 are fighting in his rebel unit. Media sources have reported over a dozen cases of the use of children in the conflict by combined Russian-separatist forces. In addition, although the Government of Ukraine has proactively enforced prohibitions against the use of children under 18 in the conflict, credible media sources have reported one to two incidents of children as young as 16 fighting with Ukrainian forces not under direct control of the government.'[41]

8.1.3 The US Department of State's report, 'Trafficking in Persons 2015,' published in July 2015, stated: 'Child victims could be accommodated in centers for socio-psychological rehabilitation of children for up to 12 months and receive social, medical, psychological, education, legal, and other types of assistance; four child victims of forced begging stayed at these centers before being transferred to foster care.'[42]

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9. Assistance available to women

9.1.1 See also Gender-based violence above.

9.1.2 A list of civil society organisations in Ukraine, including those active in women's issues can be found on the European Union website at: http://www.eeas.europa.eu/eastern/civil_society/forum2010/docs/organisations_en.pdf

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[40] GlobalProtectionCluster.org. 'Ukraine: Protection Strategy,' dated June 2015. http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1930_1434634743_1-june-2015-protection-strategy-en-1.pdf Date accessed: 8 September 2015.

[41] US Department of State. Trafficking in Persons 2015; Country Narratives: T-Z and Special Case; Ukraine, p 347, published 27 July 2015. http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/243562.pdf Date accessed: 12 August 2015.

[42] US Department of State. Trafficking in Persons 2015; Country Narratives: T-Z and Special Case; Ukraine, p 347, published 27 July 2015. http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/243562.pdf Date accessed: 12 August 2015.

9.1.3 The US Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014 stated:

'Although the law requires the government to operate a shelter in every major city, it did not do so, in part due to lack of municipal funding. During the year officials reported 20 centers for social and psychological help and nine centers for psychological and legal help for women who suffered from domestic violence. There were concerns government austerity measures implemented during the year could lead to the elimination of some services provided by these centers.

'Through September [2014], according to the Ministry of Social Policy, government centers provided domestic violence-related services, in the form of social-psychological assistance, to 14,463 individuals. Social services centers assisted 1,688 families in matters related to domestic violence and child abuse. NGOs operated additional centers for victims of domestic violence in several regions, but women's rights groups noted many nongovernment shelters closed due to lack of funding. There were no state-run shelters for adult victims of domestic violence in the Kharkiv, Vinnytsya, and Poltava Kherson regions.

'According to women's advocacy groups, municipally and privately funded shelters were not always accessible. Shelters were frequently full, and resources were limited. Some shelters did not function throughout the year, and administrative restrictions prevented women and families from accessing services. For example, some shelters would only accept children of certain ages, while others did not admit women not registered as local residents. Government centers offered only limited legal, psychological, and economic assistance to victims of domestic violence.'[43]

9.1.4 In its August 2015 State report to the UN CEDAW, the Ukrainian government addressed the issue of the obstacles for women victims of domestic violence in accessing shelters and social centres:

'The other identified factors limiting access of women who suffered from violence to the services of the specialized establishments are the low level of awareness among women about such institutions, the services and conditions of service rendering; the low level of trust of women who suffered from violence to any social institutions; the lack of available places at the institutions; the limited financing of the centers.

'A lot of centers don't accept women with serious health problems: HIV, tuberculosis, psychological diseases, drug addiction, etc. Every 4th center limits the age of clients – 18-35 years. There are no centers aiding the elderly women who suffered from violence, as well as women requiring additional care (with musculoskeletal system disorders, etc.).'[44]

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[43] US Department of State. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014; Ukraine; Section 6. Women, published 25 June 2015. http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2014&dlid=236588 Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

[44] UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Consideration of reports

9.1.5 The OECD Development Centre's SIGI index 2014 stated: 'While shelters for domestic violence victims exist, they lack financial support from the Ukrainian Government and the local authorities. In addition, the Women's Consortium of Ukraine states that implementation of the legal provisions is not consistent, and most support provided to victims comes from women's rights NGOs rather than state bodies. '[45]

9.1.6 In an article published by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in April 2015, Aliona Zubchenko, spokeswoman for the NGO 'La Strada,' stated: '"We have a network of shelters for victims of domestic violence. There are shelters in every region, but on average they can each accommodate about 30 women and children. The problem is that there is usually only one shelter per region, and some regions have 10 million residents. So 30 beds, of course, are completely inadequate for a population of 10 million."'[46]

9.1.7 The OECD Development Centre's SIGI index 2014 stated:

'There is a national "Stop Violence" hotline that victims can call, and in 2010, a five-year "Stop Violence" national campaign was launched. The hotline is available nation-wide and is toll-free. It is run by the NGO La Strada – Ukraine since November 2003, and the number of calls increases every year.'[47] In a report dated March 2015, the European Commission noted that a state hot line for victims had not yet been set up. It added that the NGO-operated hotline was insufficiently resourced and did not cover the whole country.[48] The US Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014 stated: 'Through September [2014], 4,833 individuals called the hotline for assistance related to domestic or sexual violence, accounting for 81.8 percent of all calls. The NGO said expanded public awareness campaigns had increased the number of requests for assistance each year for five years.'[49]

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submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention. Eighth Periodic Report of States Parties due in 2014; Ukraine, dated 26 August 2015. http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fUKR%2f8&Lang=en Date accessed: 11 September 2015.

[45] OECD Development Centre. 2014 Edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index; Ukraine; Restricted physical integrity; published November 2014. http://genderindex.org/country/ukraine Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

[46] Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty. 'Men return completely changed:' Ukraine conflict fuelling surge in domestic violence, dated 26 April 2015. http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-conflict-domestic-violence/26979064.html Date accessed: 22 July 2015.

[47] OECD Development Centre. 2014 Edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index; Ukraine; Restricted physical integrity; published November 2014. http://genderindex.org/country/ukraine Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

[48] European Commission: Implementation Of The European Neighbourhood Policy In Ukraine; Progress In 2014 And Recommendations For Actions Accompanying The Document Joint Communication To The European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic And Social Committee And The Committee Of The Regions [SWD(2015) 74 final], page 7, dated 25 March 2015 (available at ecoi.net) http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1226_1427898393_ukraine-enp-report-2015-en.pdf Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

[49] US Department of State. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014; Ukraine; Section 6. Women, published 25 June 2015. http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2014&dlid=236588 Date

9.1.8 In a submission to the UN Committee against Torture of October 2014, the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union provided the following information on the 6th periodic report of Ukraine on implementation of the Convention against Torture:

'The existing system of providing aid, rehabilitation and compensation for the victims of human trafficking, domestic violence and other sexual violence does not meet the current needs: Although it is provided to create the sufficient number of various public services and organizations that should be responsible for providing various services for the prevention of domestic violence in Ukraine, their real scale is inadequate…'[50]

The OECD Development Centre's Social Institutions and Gender Index 2014 stated: 'According to a report by the Council of Europe, Ukraine does have a system of support services available to victims of sexual assault. However, Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) notes that there are no dedicated centres for victims of sexual violence in the country.'[51]

9.2 Assistance for victims of trafficking

9.2.1 See country information and guidance on Ukraine: Victims of trafficking.

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accessed: 20 July 2015.

[50] Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union. 'Comments of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union to Sixth Periodic Report of Ukraine on Compliance with the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,' dated 13 October 2014 (published by CAT, available at ecoi.net) http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1930_1416398210_int-cat-ngo-ukr-18649-e.pdf Date accessed: 11 September 2015

[51] OECD Development Centre. 2014 Edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index; Ukraine; Restricted physical integrity; published November 2014. http://genderindex.org/country/ukraine Date accessed: 20 July 2015.

Version Control and Contacts

Contacts

If you have any questions about the guidance and your line manager or senior caseworker cannot help you or you think that the guidance has factual errors then email the Country Policy and Information Team.

If you notice any formatting errors in this guidance (broken links, spelling mistakes and so on) or have any comments about the layout or navigability of the guidance then you can email the Guidance, Rules and Forms Team.

Clearance

Below is information on when this version of the guidance was cleared:

- version **1.0.**
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