

# Summary of the analytical report

## **PROSPECTS FOR THE RESTORATION OF UKRAINE by involving the layer of Ukrainian society that was least protected during the war in active actions for the implementation of the National Strategy in the Field of Human Rights**

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**Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum** (<http://eap-csf.org.ua/>) is a network of more than 140 public organizations of Ukraine that defends Ukrainian interests within the framework of the Eastern Partnership. The platform is part of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP Civil Society Forum).

**Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum** (<https://eap-csf.eu/>) is a unique multi-level regional civil society platform aimed at promoting European integration, promoting reforms and democratic transformations in six Eastern partnership countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. As the public element of the EaP, the EaP Civil Society Forum strives to strengthen civil society in the region, increase the level of pluralism in public discourse and politics by promoting participatory democracy and fundamental freedoms. EaP Civil Society Forum is a non-party non-governmental organization

**NGO Kyiv School of Equal Opportunities** is a member of the UNP Working Group No. 1 – Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (UNP EaP CSF).

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# SUMMARY

The analytical report is the result of a study with the extended title «**Prospects for the restoration of Ukraine by involving in active actions for the implementation of the National Strategy in the Field of Human Rights of the stratum of Ukrainian society least protected during the war – in particular, women and girls with disabilities, who will receive the status of Ambassadors of European changes as part of the implementation of the initiative**», as well as – the result of the analysis of the activism of the Ambassadors themselves, who joined, within the framework of this initiative, in advocacy and educational campaigns – in terms of the thematic priorities of the activity of the Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum for the year 2023.

The report aims to reveal three priority areas:

- children's rights;
- gender equality given today's challenges;
- non-discrimination and response to the challenges of the war, especially regarding the protection of the rights and freedoms of Ukrainians, in particular women and girls with disabilities and forcibly displaced women.

Chronology of the approval and implementation of the National Strategy in the Field of Human Rights: approval by the Decree of the President of Ukraine dated March 24, 2021; adoption of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine «On the Formation of the Interdepartmental Working Group to Assess the Progress of the Implementation of the National Strategy in the Field of Human Rights» dated May 12, 2021; approval by the Government of the Action Plan for 2021–2023 for the Implementation of the National Strategy in the Field of Human Rights dated June 23, 2021.

The participation of female Ambassadors in monitoring is an opportunity to really respond to the actions of the state and the challenges caused by the war; an attempt to join the civil position and the desire to be heard and involved in the protection of human rights in own country.

Project participants confirmed that children are the most vulnerable category facing the brutal realities of a full-scale war. «Children of war» became the topic of discussion at a special coaching session, as well as the name of a performance prepared for advocacy and information campaigns. **Ensuring the rights of the child** is a priority task for the state and civil society. In particular, the strategic goal of §18 of the Strategy is to ensure and protect the rights

of children in Ukraine in accordance with generally recognized international standards and taking into account the best interests and opinion of the child when making decisions that concern him. The war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine violated all the rights of children, and most important, the right to life.

It was established that Government Resolution No. 349 of March 22, 2022 regulates the placement of children left without parental care, including children separated from their families, orphans, and children deprived of parental care.

In order to strengthen the protection of children's rights, during 2022 the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine modernized the Unified Information Automated System «Children», designed for storing, recording, searching and using data about children. In order to improve these actions, on July 18, 2023 the Government, by its order No. 634-r, approved the Plan of measures for 2023 regarding the further development of the Unified Information System of the Social Sphere within the framework of the implementation of the Strategy of Digital Transformation of the Social Sphere.

In order to resolve issues related to the return of temporarily displaced (evacuated) children – citizens of Ukraine, a special Government Resolution dated July 7, 2022 No. 794 was adopted.

It was found that children's rights to education are violated in the conditions of war. Since the military invasion, 1,702 schools and 1,069 kindergartens have been destroyed or damaged on the territory of Ukraine. In total, 10% of Ukraine's educational infrastructure was damaged by Russian shelling.

The state takes care of children's rights at all levels of government and local self-government. Services for children rights (or family and children rights) operate at the regional, district and city levels and are actively created in communities. Children's rights to education are protected by the educational ombudsman..

**The task for the government and society** has been defined: to increase the public's

awareness of the rights of the child, the mechanisms of their implementation and protection.

The strategy provides for the formation of an effective system for **preventing and countering discrimination in Ukraine**.

It was found that all citizens have access to effective means of prevention and protection against discrimination; the legislation of Ukraine in the field of preventing and countering discrimination is consistent, effective, meets international, including European, standards and takes into account the best world experience and real challenges in ensuring human rights and freedoms in Ukraine.

On June 20, 2022, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine «On the Ratification of the Convention of the Council of Europe on the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence and Combating These Phenomena» (Istanbul Convention). The Convention promotes the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and the promotion of real equality between women and men, including by empowering women.

Attention of the public and the state **to the protection of the rights of people with disabilities**. Actions plans for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Creation of a Barrier-Free Space in Ukraine for the period up to 2030 have been approved. The actions plans are aimed at creating a civil defense system that takes into account the protection and safety needs of low-mobility population groups, including people with disabilities, in a state of war or emergency. In particular, this Plan envisages measures to increase the accessibility of physical environment objects, goods, works and services for persons with disabilities and groups with reduced mobility.

It was determined that state policy regarding national minorities (communities) is based on the principle of **non-discrimination of persons belonging to national minorities** (communities) (Law of Ukraine «On National

Minorities (Communities) of Ukraine»). A separate article 4 prohibits discrimination and provides that persons belonging to national minorities (communities) are equal before the law and have the right to equal legal protection, and any direct or indirect discrimination of these persons is unacceptable.

The goal of the Strategy is **to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men**, which involves the application of a comprehensive gender approach to the formation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all state policies in all spheres of public life, deserves attention. It was determined that women and men in Ukraine have equal rights and opportunities in all spheres of life (State Strategy for Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men for the Period Until 2030 (2022) and the Operational Plan for its Implementation for 2022–2024).

The approval of the Strategy for the implementation of gender equality in the field of education until 2030 is of great importance. The Strategy's purpose is the comprehensive implementation of the principles of ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men, non-discrimination on any basis in the education system and determining ways to comply with the gender approach at all levels and spheres of education.

In the context of expanding the range of target groups for the provision of humanitarian, psychological, legal assistance, social and administrative services, Government Order No. 1150 dated 16.12.2022 amended the National Action Plan for the Implementation of **UN Security Council Resolution 1325 «Women, Peace,**

**Security»** for the period until 2025, which took into account new challenges associated with a full-scale military invasion of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine.

An analysis of the National Strategy for Overcoming the Gender Pay Gap for the period up to 2030 was carried out. It was found that the threat of non-return of Ukrainian women and men who are currently abroad remains a challenge to gender equality in pay after the war.

It was determined that the **participation of female Ambassadors in advocacy and educational campaigns** is an effective condition for solving these urgent tasks. Advocacy work is a component of the School of Equal Opportunities. This is an effective opportunity to achieve changes in communities and the state as a whole. Different tools and different forms of advocacy campaigns are used, which help shape new rules of the game in the country and change the existing ones. For the participants of the «Ambassadors of European Changes» Initiative and this study, in particular, it was important to acquire advocacy skills.

During this time, the Ukrainian team, in particular in Germany, conducted seven information and advocacy campaigns with theatrical performances and live dialogues, in which the voices of Ukrainian children – future Ambassadors, and their mentors – human rights experts were heard. Thus, the interests and values of Ukraine were advocated at the European level. More than 3,500 people attended these events, including representatives of German local authorities, teachers, young people, ordinary German citizens, as well as forced migrants from Ukraine.