

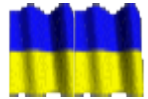


***Dr. Galina Maystruk
EEARC Coordinator
FIAPAC, Slovenia 2014***



Implementation of Ukraine's international commitments to RH&RR

- *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals:*
 - *to reduce maternal mortality by $\frac{3}{4}$ between 1990 and 2015,*
 - *to ensure wider access to reproductive health care.*
- *Implementation of the State Program for Reproductive Health of the Nation, 2006-2015.*
- *Implementation of the Nova Zhyttja national project for a new quality of maternal and child health aimed at improving the quality of care and improving access to high-quality perinatal care.*
- *Implementation of the Strategy for the Demographic Development of Ukraine for 2006-2015.*



A woman's right to safe abortion is one of women's fundamental rights and is guaranteed by:

- *The Constitution of Ukraine, the country's fundamental set of laws.*
- *Basic healthcare legislation in Ukraine.*
- *Clinical Protocol - Order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine N1177/31.12 . 2010 based on: WHO recommendations for safe abortion (2004, 2012) and the findings of key international organizations working in reproductive health and reproductive rights, e.g., Gynuity, Ipas, IPPF and others.*
- *Organizational Order N423/24.05.2013 “On the Approval of Instructions on the Procedure of Health Care Provided to a Pregnant Woman with an Unwanted Pregnancy”. The Order is registered by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and approved by the Statement of the Government Agent of the European Court of Human Rights in Ukraine securing compliance of the Convention of Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.*



Exercising women's right to safe abortion in Ukraine

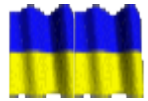
- *Order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine N1177 /31.12. 2010 (Clinical Protocol) defines the basic principles of integrated care during pregnancy, maintaining and improving the reproductive health of women by improving the quality and efficiency of services provided by the health care system to prevent unwanted pregnancy including pre- and post-abortion counseling, safe abortion procedures (operations), and measures to prevent complications.*
- *In the context of the Project “Comprehensive Care of Unwanted Pregnancy” MOH/WHO/WHFP funded by SDC the key provisions of this Clinical Protocol are being implemented in 5 pilot regions by end of 2014 and will potentially be expanded to the rest of the country.*
- *Safe Abortion Scaling up Strategy implementation (MOH Decree N1090/13.12.2013).*



Threats to women's right to safe abortion in Ukraine: Chronology of events

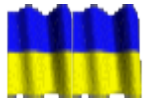
- *Appeal of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic and Roman Catholic churches to the deputies of the Verkhovna Rada to introduce a complete ban on abortions in Ukraine (March 2012, April 2013)*
- *Deputies of the Verkhovna Rada prepared a bill to ban abortion in Ukraine and submitted it for consideration by the parliament (2012, 2013)*
- *Activists from leading non-governmental and women's organizations joined forces and implemented a series of measures to counter this irresponsible political initiative (2012, 2013, 2014):*
 - *Open letters to the President of Ukraine, Verchovna Rada asking to ensure that women's rights are not violated;*
 - *Press conferences with many representatives of key national and regional media outlets;*
 - *together with the relevant committee of Ukraine's parliament held a national round tables to discuss legislative initiative to ban abortion in Ukraine.*

The outcome of joint efforts: the bills was removed from further consideration.



Inevitable consequences of adopting irresponsible policies (to ban abortion in Ukraine)

- *The legislative initiative to ban abortion in Ukraine may have a negative impact on women's health and, in some cases, endanger their lives.*
- *Limited access to health services for unwanted pregnancies would pose greater risks for women from the most vulnerable groups—low income individuals, those with limited education, without access to welfare services, and those who live in remote areas.*
- *There will be an increased risk of an evolving black market for abortion services and a rapid increase in the number of illegal abortions.*



Threats to women's right to safe abortion in Ukraine

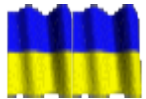
- ***Political aspects:***
 - ***Possible re-introduction of the bill to ban abortion in Ukraine***
 - ***Growing influence of the church on government institutions in the area of reproductive health and reproductive rights***

Medical aspects:

- ***Restrictions on second-trimester abortion***
- ***Ethical and moral issues***
- ***Lack of safe abortion providers (trainings, in-service education)***
- ***Lack of supplies for safe abortion (MVA, MA)***

Financial aspects:

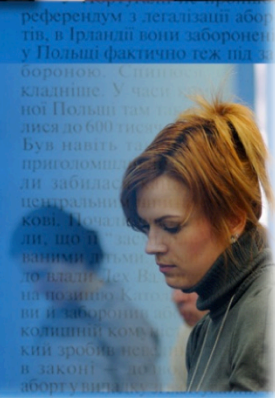
- ***High cost of medical abortion (on 1.10.2014 – 660 Uhr.)***
- ***No budget for second trimester MA***

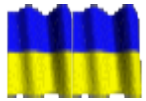


Threats to women's right to safe abortion

Euromaidan and 2014 revolution

- *The wave of demonstrations and the following violence and the subsequent resignation of Yanukowich and his government was the dominating theme in Ukraine that paralyzed wide public sectors influenced on Scaling up Safe Abortion Strategy implementation (MOH Decree N1090/13.12.2013).*
- *Military conflicts in the East part of Ukraine. Reproductive age women population (Donetsk – 1 085 178 and Lugansk - 558 139).*
- *IDPs with limited access to services (UN on September 2014 - 380 000).*
- *Destroyed infrastructure (medical institutions).*
- *Absence of supplies.*
- *Limited experience of RH services organization in emergency situations.*





Key topics of media analysis:

- *Reproductive health*
- *Family planning*
- *Modern-day methods of contraception*
- *Prevention of unwanted pregnancy*
- *Termination of pregnancy*
- *Reproductive rights*

Media monitoring results: 3 776 mentions in the media over 11 months and 2897 publications

Thank you!

