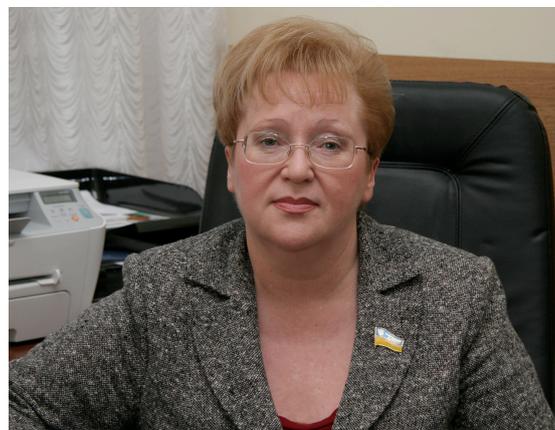


### Success Story

Cooperation between the International Women’s Rights Center “La Strada – Ukraine” and the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and International Relations to organize hearings on implementation of the Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities of Men and Women”, November 10, 2010



Kateryna Levchenko, President  
International women’s Rights Center “La Strada – Ukraine”

Olena Bondarenko, Member of the Parliament of  
Ukraine, Chairperson of the Subcommittee on  
International Legal Relations and Gender Policy of the  
Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and  
Interethnic Relations

***What is the scope of activities of your organization / department?***

Since 1997, International Women’s Rights Center “La Strada-Ukraine” has been working on prevention of human trafficking, in particular of women and children, elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence in the society and on promotion of compliance with the human rights, gender equality and protection of the children’s rights.

I am a Chairperson of the Subcommittee of the Parliament of Ukraine involved in regulatory support of equal opportunities for women and men.

***What problem have you resolved?***

Similarly to other active women’s NGOs, our organization has invested a lot of efforts to promote adoption of the Law “On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities of Men and Women” in 2005. The goal of the hearings was to analyze the state of the implementation of the Law, to discuss a need to improve it, to develop the state policy on ensuring gender equality, as well as to share ideas between the public and the government agencies and parliament regarding operation of the law.

Participants of the Parliamentary hearings that have taken place on November 10, 2010, discussed the state of the implementation of the Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities of Men and Women,” its practical operation and the efficiency of implementation of the provisions of this law by state authorities , as well as compliance with the requirements of the law, achievements and problem in gender equality.

***How have you developed cooperation?***

Our Center has been cooperating with the executive authorities and Parliamentary Committees for many years regarding legal regulation of the issues related to human trafficking prevention, elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence in the society, gender equality and protection of children’s rights.

The Subcommittee has established effective cooperation with the NGOs, international human rights projects, women’s organizations working to ensure gender equality, improve gender culture of the citizens, civil servants and staff of the local self-governmental bodies. When the Committee makes a decision to

<p>We were invited to take part in the hearings. Often we apply to take part in various activities organized by the Parliamentary Committees, in particular, by the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and Interethnic Relations and the Committee on Legislative Support of Law Enforcement. We submit relevant appeals to the MPs of Ukraine, and organize awareness-raising campaigns in the course of our activities. We also initiate joint activities.</p>	<p>organize a round table or a parliamentary hearing, we place an announcement at the web-site of the Parliament. The Committee is interested in expertise gained by the NGOs and we do our best to involve as many NGOs as possible. For instance, 30 NGOs and experts from international projects, including the International women’s rights center “La Strada – Ukraine”, have taken part in the Parliamentary hearings “Practical Application of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities of Men and Women’” (November 10, 2010).</p>
<p><b><i>What are the achieved results?</i></b></p>	
<p>The hearings made it possible for the representatives of many NGOs to express their vision of the issue to the representatives of the public agencies and MPs. Based on the results, the Committee has adopted rather sound recommendations, however due to the administrative reform the national mechanism to ensure gender equality has unfortunately been eliminated, and there is no agency to implement all recommendations on gender equality. Nevertheless, this fact stresses the importance of adoption of the committee recommendations with the participation of the NGOs.</p>	<p>The results are as follows: MPs of Ukraine, and representatives of the executives authorities have heard the representatives of the NGOs, academic institutions regarding their vision of implementation of the Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities of Men and Women.” The proposals made by the participants have been taken into consideration during the development of the committee recommendations “Practical Application of the Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities of Men and Women,” approved during the Committee session and have been published at the Committee web-site:  <a href="http://kompravlud.rada.gov.ua/kompravlud/control/uk/publish/article?art_id=46004&amp;cat_id=46334">http://kompravlud.rada.gov.ua/kompravlud/control/uk/publish/article?art_id=46004&amp;cat_id=46334</a></p>
<p><b><i>What would you advise for further development of inter-sectoral cooperation?</i></b></p>	
<p>My advice to the NGOs is to be active in their cooperation with the public agencies, to apply to take part in their events, to initiate joint events, to demand information necessary for their activities, especially since recently the Law of Ukraine “On Access to Public Information” has come into force. It is also important to provide training on skills in making short presentations and provision of clear recommendations.</p>	<p>My suggestions to the NGOs to be active and to use the existing mechanisms of cooperation with the public agencies, including the Parliament, take part in the committee hearings, provide expert assessment of the draft laws, to organize gender-related awareness-raising campaigns. It is also important for them to learn more about cooperation, especially since now there are international projects working efficiently and actively that implement training programs for the NGOs on efficient cooperation with the Parliament of Ukraine, and competent implementation of the principle of equal rights and opportunities in the state development programs, in particular, the [USAID] Parliamentary Development Project for Ukraine.</p>