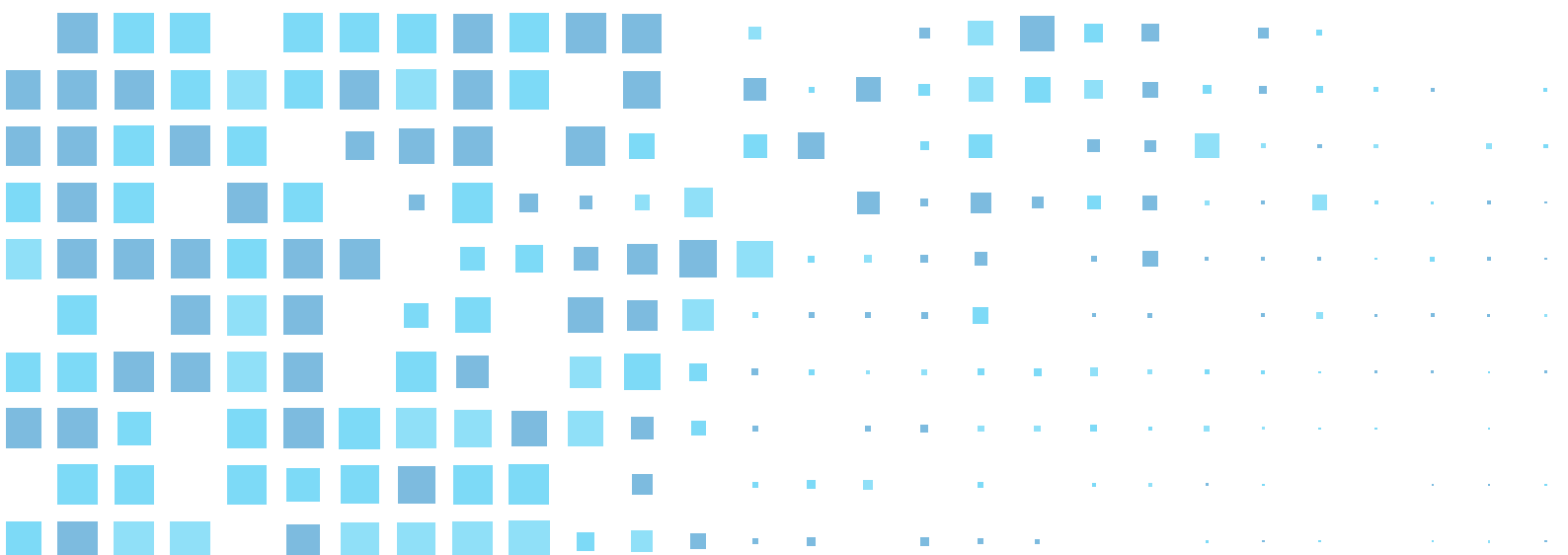


# Research of international and Ukrainian good practices on community policing and prevention of violence against women and girls



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



UNITED NATIONS  
UKRAINE



This research was developed by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women — UN Women Ukraine in partnership with charitable organization “Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health”, in the framework of the United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP) implemented by four United Nations agencies: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Programme is supported by thirteen international partners: the European Union, the European Investment Bank and the governments of Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, USA and the UK.

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UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of UN Women, the United Nations Organization, or any of its associated organizations.

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# ACRONYMS

CEDAW - The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

CSO - Civil Society Organizations

NGO - Non-governmental organization

OHCHR – Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

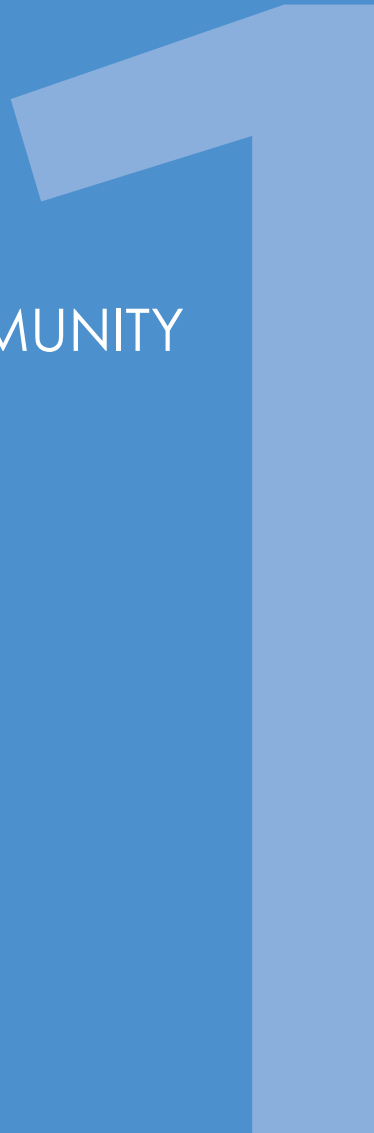
UN - The United Nations

UNODC - The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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# THE CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY POLICING



## 1.1.

### WHAT IS COMMUNITY POLICING AND WHY IS IT EFFECTIVE?

Community policing is a philosophy of full service personalized policing, where the police officer patrols and works in a community on a permanent basis, engaging in a proactive partnership with citizens to identify and solve safety and security problems<sup>1</sup>. In other words, community policing is a strategy of policing aimed at constructing ties and working closely with the community, creating partnerships for reducing crime and preserving the public order.

In many countries around the world, police is considered an institution with a mission to prevent crime and enforce the law. Strategies on the prevention and combating crime are adopted at a higher institutional level and usually emerge in the investigation of already committed offenses. On the contrary, the model of community-oriented police or “community policing”<sup>2</sup> is built on the principles of constant communication and individual approach to solving community problems pertaining to safety and security in close cooperation with members of community and respective authorities on the local level.

Community policing is an approach that was developed to help police in urban spaces to tackle crime in an alternative manner rather than simply initiating repressive responsive-based tactics<sup>3</sup>. This type of approach considers the importance of applying

prevention to improve the relationship with the population and work more closely with the community when dealing with various types of crime. Community policing also integrates many principles associated with crime prevention, such as local knowledge building and the promotion of human rights<sup>4</sup>.

As explained by UNODC, community-oriented policing seeks to address the causes of crime and to reduce fear of social disorder through problem-solving strategies and police-community partnerships<sup>5</sup>.

Therefore, community policing should be considered as an approach that is deployed in the daily work of the police at the grassroots/community level, built on the principles of constant communication and cooperation with the local population and aimed at ensuring the effective protection of human rights and freedoms, crime prevention and combating, as well as maintaining public safety and order.

Implementing community policing transforms the structure of policing and its management. It also links the police and the community together. The partnership that develops over time can ultimately help the police find the underlying causes of crime within a given neighborhood. By getting the community involved, the police have more

1 Bertus, Ferreira. The Use and Effectiveness of Community Policing in a Democracy. Prod. National Institute of Justice. Washington, D.C., 1996

2 What Is Community Policing? International Association of Chiefs of Police. Resource access mode: <https://www.discoverpolicing.org/explore-the-field/what-is-community-policing/>

3 Training Manual on Policing Urban Space. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Resource access mode: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/crimeprevention/Training\\_Manual\\_Policing\\_Urban\\_Space\\_V1258164.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/crimeprevention/Training_Manual_Policing_Urban_Space_V1258164.pdf)

4 Ibid

5 Community Policing. Bureau Of Justice Statistics. Resource access mode: <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=81>

resources available to them to help in crime prevention. By familiarizing themselves with the members of the community, officers are more likely to obtain valuable information about criminals and their activities. Also, they are more likely to obtain a reliable evaluation of citizens' needs and their expectations of the police<sup>6</sup>.

Community policing as opposed to the "reactive policing" proves to be more effective in crime prevention due to the involvement of the community members. For example, joint police and community patrolling is one of the most effective practices not only for preventing the actual commission of crimes but also for their timely identification. As a result, the enhanced crime prevention work contributes to decreasing the crime rates in the community.

Joint interventions of police and the community contribute to building a trust-based relationship between the law enforcement authorities and residents of the community, securing people's support. At the same time, solving the day-to-day security and safety issues faced by the community assembles a more positive image of the police, increasing the awareness of the public on the mandate of the police.

## 1.2.

### WHY DOES THE COMMUNITY NEED COMMUNITY POLICING?

In addition to contributing to ensuring safety in communities, Community Policing also contributes to building social cohesion among citizens by involving locals in solving their safety and security issues jointly with the police and local public authorities. At the same time, Community Policing raises the level of legal awareness of the population, as such a system often includes various educational campaigns, trainings for citizens on their rights

#### Advantages of Community Policing<sup>7</sup>

- Improves the trust and confidence levels of the community
- Improves public safety
- Police are assisted by the community in reducing actual and perceived crime and in improving safety
- An important tool in reassuring the public about the current situation and what the police are doing (reducing the fear of crime)
- Promotes a positive perception of the police and fosters partnership between police and the community
- Can make a visible positive impact on the situation for vulnerable person(s)/groups
- Intelligence-gathering tool. "Community Intelligence" is thought to be more effective and reliable in assisting to evaluate threats than intelligence gained from other area
- Improves the community's satisfaction and confidence levels towards police
- Strengthens the community in a way to combat possible ethnic differences that may deeply affect marginalized groups
- Emphasizes the need for strong relationships and engagement with the community to promote harmony and social cohesiveness.

and responsibilities, as well as informs the population about the role of the police and the local decision-making processes.

In recent years there has been a shift from the narrower notion of crime prevention attributed to the police, to the broader idea of community safety, which is a community responsibility. Community Policing involves community members in building long-term strategies for

<sup>6</sup> Advantages and disadvantages of community policing, 2018 <https://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/criminology/advantages-and-disadvantages-of-community-policing.php?vref=1>

<sup>7</sup> Source: United Nations Peacekeeping Resource Hub



their community with due regard to issues raised by citizens and solutions proposed by them. Participation of the community in the development of local policies addressing their safety and security needs leads to truly effective measures, stemming from the actual needs and priority raised by people.

Community Policing also gives impetus to engagement in innovative practices aimed at creating a socially safe urban environment. The communication between police and

community often takes place via on-line platforms, which for example make available instantly accessible "crime maps" or "safe zones", displaying the current level of security in a particular geographic area.

In addition, it is important to mention that Community Policing has proven to reduce the community crime rates. This, in turn, increases the attractiveness of settlements for new investments and may contribute to their socio-economic development.

### 1.3.

## WHY LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES NEED COMMUNITY POLICING?

The links between poverty, social disadvantage, crime and victimization have shown that many agencies need to work together to prevent crime. Local public authorities should see community safety as a basic human right and an important aspect of the quality of life in their communities<sup>8</sup>. They should mobilize local partnerships with key actors - the police, government agencies, community organizations, and residents - to develop safe, secure, and vibrant communities. For this purpose, there is a need to work for community safety by tackling the social and economic conditions that foster crime and victimization. The common

public view that community safety is the sole responsibility of the police has changed and people now recognize that governments, communities, and partnerships at all levels must be actively engaged<sup>9</sup>.

A framework for tackling community safety has emerged in recent years that can be used by local governments by recognizing crime and safety as quality-of-life issues, working across jurisdictional boundaries both horizontally and vertically, recognizing the crucial role of political leadership and adapting strategies to local needs on the basis of good analysis and targeted plans<sup>10</sup>.

8 US Department of Justice, The role of the local government in community safety, 2001

9 Ibid

10 Ibid



OVERVIEW OF THE UKRAINIAN  
COMMUNITY POLICING LEGAL  
FRAMEWORK

The foundation of community policing in Ukraine was established in 2015 with the adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police"<sup>11</sup>. Article 11 of the Law on the National Police enshrines the principle of close cooperation and interaction of police with citizens aimed at ensuring safe and secure communities. In particular, the Law on the National Police brings an important innovation, which requires police to proactively identify and respond to local security issues.

The principle of interaction with communities is also provided by Article 88 of the Law on National Police, according to which territorial police authorities are obliged to hold open meetings with local government representatives at least once in two months in order to establish effective cooperation. The primary responsibility of territorial police includes the obligation to inform periodically the public about the criminality rate and any other public order issues, aimed at increasing the authority and trust of the police.

According to Article 89 of the Law on National Police, in order to comply with the principle of cooperation, the police jointly with the community develops and implements community projects, programs and events as a response to the identified safety and security needs of the citizens residing in the community.

Such cooperation is aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of police interventions. For example, the police-community interaction can be expressed in implementing legal awareness programs directly targeting the community or via education or media institutions.

Interaction of police bodies and units with the public on prevention and combating of domestic violence is carried out in line with the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention and Counteraction to Domestic Violence"<sup>12</sup>. Effective interaction between local executive

bodies and police is central to the national policy on preventing and combating domestic violence.

Along with central specialized executive agencies village, town, city, rayon city councils and executive agencies whose scope of competence includes measures for preventing and combating domestic violence are specially designated authorities for preventing and combating domestic violence. The local public authorities are mandated with:

- implementation of the state policy in preventing and combating domestic violence within the relevant administrative and territorial unit;
- provision of social services within the relevant administrative and territorial unit, including through social order in the sphere of preventing and combating domestic violence;
- identification of needs in establishment of specialized services to support victims, establishment and control of such services;
- participation in training of experts whose scope of competence includes preventing and combating domestic violence, including experts running perpetrator programmes;
- receiving and handling statements and reports about cases of domestic violence, taking measures to stop domestic violence, helping victims;
- coordination of entities taking measures to address domestic violence, and ensuring their cooperation within the relevant administrative and territorial unit;
- informing victims about their rights, measures and social services available to them;
- collection, analysis and distribution of information about domestic violence within the relevant administrative territorial unit in the manner prescribed by law<sup>12</sup>.

11 Law of Ukraine "On the National Police". Resource access mode: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/580-19#Text>

12 Art.8, Law of Ukraine on Prevention and Counteracting of Domestic Violence

The National Police is one of the institutions responsible for implementing measures to prevent and combat domestic violence.

Article 10 of the Law on Prevention and Counteraction of Domestic Violence defines the functions of authorized units of the National Police:

- detecting and providing timely response to cases of domestic violence;
- receiving and processing reports about acts of domestic violence, including reports submitted to the call centre for preventing and combating domestic violence, gender-based violence, and violence against children, taking measures to stop the violence and help victims with due regard to the risk assessment according to the procedure established by the central executive agency responsible for establishing the state policy on preventing and combating domestic violence, jointly with the National Police of Ukraine;
- informing victims about their rights, measures and social services available to them;
- implementing urgent restraining orders against perpetrators;
- preventive registration of perpetrators and conducting preventive work with them according to the applicable legislation;
- control of fulfillment by perpetrators of special measures for combating domestic violence throughout the effective period of such measures;
- revocation of licences to buy, keep and carry weapons and ammunition, if the relevant licence owners commit domestic violence, and withdrawal of weapons and ammunition from them according to the procedure envisaged by law;
- liaising with other entities that take measures for preventing and combating domestic violence;
- reporting to the central executive agency responsible for implementation of the state policy on preventing and combating domestic violence about the progress in

this area in the manner established by the central executive agency responsible for establishing the state policy on preventing and combating domestic violence.

The cooperation of police and other entities responsible for preventing and combating domestic violence is carried out in line with Art.15 of the Law on Preventing and Counteracting Domestic Violence:

- exchange of information, within one day, about any revealed acts of domestic violence in cases referred to by this Law, with due regard to restricted information;
- responding to cases of domestic violence within their scope of competence and with regard to assessment of risks threatening the victim;
- coordination of response to cases of domestic violence and helping victims, if these measures are being taken by various entities;
- preparation and implementation, within their scope of competence, of perpetrator programmes;
- preparation and implementation, within their scope of competence, of programmes for preventing and combating domestic violence;
- organization of measures for preventing and combating domestic violence, within their scope of competence;
- exchange of experience in preventing and combating domestic violence;
- coordination of inter-agency training of the experts representing the entities taking measures for preventing and combating domestic violence;
- jointly with specially designated authorities for preventing and combating domestic violence, monitoring of legal compliance by the entities taking measures for preventing and combating domestic violence, and preparation of proposals to improve legislation and law application practice.

In 2018 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the *Procedure of Interaction of Subjects carrying out measures in the field of prevention and counteraction to domestic violence*<sup>13</sup>. This procedure refers not only to the interaction between various entities on prevention and counteraction of domestic violence, but also to all the other gender-based violence crimes. The mechanism of cooperation provided by this procedure includes an integrated approach to overcoming violence, promoting the interaction between police and local executive bodies and civil society, media, international organizations and individuals.

To insure interdepartmental cooperation in the field of prevention and combating domestic violence at the local level advisory bodies - local coordinating councils, which include

authorized representatives of local executive bodies and local governments, prosecutors and courts, public associations, religious organizations, international and foreign non-governmental organizations (by consent) are set up.

Furthermore, the Procedure of Interaction of Subjects carrying out measures in the field of prevention and counteraction to domestic violence provides that aiming to prevent domestic violence police jointly with local public authorities shall inter alia engage in research and data collection, conduct public information campaigns, partner with media on organizing educational campaigns to change the biased gender-based norms and conduct capacity development for domestic violence service providers, including police and other justice sector actors.

13 The Procedure of Interaction of Subjects carrying out measures in the field of prevention and counteraction to domestic violence. Resource access mode:: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/658-2018-%D0%BF#Text>

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GOOD PRACTICES OF  
COMMUNITY POLICING AND  
PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS  
IN UKRAINE

Violence against women is one of the most prevalent and persistent issues faced by women and girls globally. It represents a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between women and men, which have led to domination over, and discrimination against, women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women<sup>14</sup>. The structural nature of violence against women is gender-based violence, which affects women disproportionately and represents discrimination against women. Article 1 of CEDAW prohibits discrimination based on gender, and General Recommendation no. 19 of CEDAW explains that discrimination against women referred to in Article 1 of CEDAW implies gender-based violence as well.

The *Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence* adopted in 2011 defines violence against women as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women, representing all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

Individuals' experiences of safety are intimately tied to gender as a social construct<sup>15</sup>. The starkest demonstration of

the links between gender and safety is the prevalence of gender-based violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, domestic violence or trafficking<sup>16</sup>. Gender-based violence against women and girls is rooted in power inequalities which are often so accepted that they are rendered invisible<sup>17</sup>. These inequalities enable systematic discrimination and violence to be used as ways of maintaining control over women and girls, who threaten dominant ideas of how men and women are meant to act<sup>18</sup>. Ending gender inequality therefore renders all people – regardless of their gender – safer<sup>19</sup>.

Ensuring equal access for all to safety, security and justice is a core component of the rule of law. Advancing gender equality therefore also helps countries to consolidate the rule of law, an important foundation for peace and development. Police services have a critical role to play in this process as custodians of law and order<sup>20</sup>.

Police have a responsibility to ensure that all people are treated respectfully and crimes against them are dealt with seriously, regardless of gender. Policing that advances gender equality is citizen-oriented, serving the needs and interests of all and paying attention to groups that have been historically marginalized<sup>21</sup>. For this reason, it is important to design and implement tailored local interventions addressing specifically the safety and well-being of women and girls.

14 Council of Europe, *Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence*, Preamble

15 DCAF, OSCE/ODIHR, UN Women, *Policing and Gender*, 2019

16 Idem

17 Idem

18 Idem

19 Idem

20 Idem

21 Idem

### 3.1.

#### WORKING GROUPS ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOCIAL COHESION

The Working Groups on Public Safety and Social Cohesion are established in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zhytomyr regions with the aim to bring together the local public authorities, police, private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs) and members of the community to raise and tackle issue pertaining to public safety and jointly design tailored solutions to the identified community problems. The meetings of the Working Groups on Public Safety and Social Cohesion are organized usually once in two months. The police is presenting a periodic report on the crimes committed during the reporting period and any other issues pertaining to public safety. At the same time, community group members, CSOs and the private sector have the opportunity to raise additional public safety issues and discuss them with the representatives of the law enforcement and local authorities, jointly developing solutions, as well as targeted community projects aimed at enhancing the safety and social cohesion within the community.

The United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Program implemented in the east of Ukraine has been at the forefront of establishing Working Groups on Public Safety and Social Cohesion in the conflict-affected east of Ukraine. In some communities the Terms of Reference Working Groups on Public Safety and Social Cohesion have been amended to include responsibilities with regards to women's safety and security and use mechanisms provided by Working Groups on Public Safety and Social Cohesion for integrating gender equality in the local decision-making dialogues pertaining to safety and social cohesion. Currently, six target communities (Bilovodsk, Popasna, Krasnohorivka, Velika Novosylka, Lozno-Oleksandrivka and Siversk) have established Working Groups on Public Safety and Social Cohesion with an extended mandate, which include violence against women and girls and Women, Peace and Security as topics of major concern pertaining to safety and social cohesion.

### 3.2.

#### WEBINARS ON LEGAL EMPOWERMENT OF SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Reacting to the identified need of linking survivors of domestic violence with the available service providers, especially vital during COVID-19 pandemic confinement measures, women survivors of domestic violence and women at risk were informed by a specialized lawyer, police and representatives of local authorities about available services

for domestic violence survivors, their rights, procedures to exercise their rights and existing protection mechanisms for domestic violence survivors. This series of webinars were conducted with the support of the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme in the east of Ukraine in 36 communities in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia.



### 3.3.

#### BEZPECHNE.COMMUNITY

The *bezpechne.community*<sup>21</sup> is an online platform recently established for residents of Kyiv by CSO "Dream Kyiv", providing a mechanism for instant reporting of public safety issues to police and displaying an up to date map with safety issues occurred in a specific location. This platform is also a communication channel between the police and residents of Kyiv, where the latest can receive instant guidance and recommendations on how to act when a particular public safety issue is raised. CSO "Dream Kyiv" collaborates with Kyiv City State Administration, the city's Patrol Police, as well as with the specialists of the legal clinics of the National Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and legal aid counselling centers.

The platform is based on *Google map* where users can mark the identified public safety

issues. To lodge a complaint, the exact location of the incident should be marked on the map accompanied by a description of the problem. When the complaint is processed a red sign with a question mark appears on the map. The sign is switching to green once the raised issue is solved. This way the residents of Kyiv have instant access to the current public safety situation in their neighborhood and can track the resolution status of the raised public safety issues.

Most often people complain about unregulated street trading, violation of traffic rules, issues with the quality of roads, illegal drug trafficking (e.g., ads in Telegram), or violation of public order by noisy or/and intoxicated groups of people.

### 3.4.

#### SAFE CITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS PROGRAMME

The UN Women "Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces" Global Flagship Program Initiative launched in November 2010, with leading women's organizations, UN agencies and more than 70 global and local partners, is the first-ever global program aimed at developing, implementing and evaluating tools, policies and comprehensive approaches on the prevention of and response to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls across different settings. Ukraine joined the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces program in 2019. The city of Rubizhne was selected as a pilot city for the implementation of this program in Ukraine due to existing political will of Rubizhne City Council and Luhansk region Civil-Military Administration to implement this program, low socio-economic status of the population, the city's location in a conflict-affected region,

local community's interest in securing safe public spaces for women and girls, and local stakeholders' proactive engagement.

To assess the safety risks of women and girls concerning sexual violence and sexual harassment in Rubizhne public spaces a Scoping Study and a Safety Audit of public infrastructure were conducted jointly by women, police and local authorities based on the capacity-building and expert support provided by UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme. The findings of the Scoping Study and Safety Audit were validated by the representatives of Rubizhne City Council, executive bodies, representatives of social and health institutions, National Police, Luhansk Regional State Administration, international experts, NGO leaders and civic activists, followed by development and adoption of a

22 <https://bezpechne.community/#about>

comprehensive local program on preventing and combating sexual violence and sexual harassment in public spaces – “Rubizhne – Safe City for Women and Girls”.

Targeting the replication of the Safe City for Women and Girls Programme adopted in Rubizhne, the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme developed the capacities of local authorities and community groups from additional 20 communities in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts<sup>23</sup> on how to conduct Safety Audits of public infrastructure to identify unsafe public spaces. Additionally, the Mayor of Rubizhne, acting as a gender champion, shared with participants the good practice of city of Rubizhne on designing a targeted local programme on preventing and combating sexual violence and sexual harassment

against women and girls in public spaces, encouraging the sister communities in the region to take effective measures to prevent sexual violence against women and girls.

The UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme has provided support to women from Toretsk and Soledar in Donetsk region and Zolote and Novoayadar in Luhansk region to assess their sexual violence and sexual harassment risks faced in public spaces. Currently, based on the evidence provided by these assessments and the results of the Safety Audits the local authorities jointly with police, grass-root women and CSOs from these communities are developing targeted programmes on preventing and combating sexual violence and sexual harassment in public spaces.

### 3.5.

#### SAFE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN RUBIZHNE

Safety in public spaces, including public transportation means, is an important contributing factor to urban sustainability. The “Rubizhne – Safe City for Women and Girls” program comprises specific measures aimed at involving transportation companies in ensuring safe public spaces for women and girls by merging the efforts of public transportation companies, police and the community to transform Rubizhne in a safe and free from violence environment for all.

Seven public bus and taxi transportation companies committed to ending sexual violence and sexual harassment against women and girls and promoting safe public transportation in the conflict-affected Rubizhne, Ukraine. For this purpose, a

cooperation agreement was signed between the Rubizhne City Council, National Patrol Police, the local CSO “Dream of Youth” and the public transportation companies.

As part of the signed cooperation agreement, owners of public transportation companies, taxi and bus drivers increased their understanding of sexual violence in public spaces and received detailed guidance from “Dream of Youth” CSO on how to react, protect a woman at risk and make referrals in cases of sexual harassment, co-creating a safe city for women and girls. “Safe Transport” stickers were placed on buses and cars, as well as stickers with information on available specialized services were made available in the transportation means.

23 Luhansk oblast: Zolote, Novoaidar, Shchastie, Stanytsia Luganska, Sievierodonetsk and Donetsk oblast: Toretsk, Soledar, Khlivodarivka, Kurakhvove, Ocheretyne, Zvanivka, Krasnohorivka.

### 3.6.

#### POLICE "GREEN ROOMS"

Within the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Program implemented in the conflict-affected east of Ukraine support was provided to the development of community policing projects. Within its Small Grant Program, the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Program supported three CSOs for the implementation of community policing initiatives and dialogue facilitation

in Donetsk and Luhansk regions through the creation of "green rooms." The "green rooms" are specially equipped spaces for effective communication with children and teens who came in conflict with the law, and those who have witnessed crimes or have been affected by domestic violence, and represent a new police approach to working with children.

### 3.7.

#### EVIDENCE-BASED COMMUNITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS AND INITIATIVES

More than 1 million people were reached by the UN Women Ukraine "Sprovukovala?" digital campaign, challenging the victim-blaming attitudes persistent in cases of violence against women and girls. The campaign was informed by the UN Women "Survey on Perception of Gender-Based Violence" aimed at dismantling the gender-based biased social norms which perpetuate discrimination and violence against women. Additionally, with the support of UN Women, women and men from target communities in Luhansk, Donetsk and Zaporizhzhie regions have been mobilized in favor of respectful relationships, gender equality and zero tolerance towards violence against women and girls through a

series of community-led awareness events directed towards mobilizing women and men to challenge the existing perceptions and beliefs around women's and men's, girls and boys roles in the family and the society, build an open dialogue about the impact of the existing social construct on masculinity and femininity, the prevailing social norms and gender stereotypes as root causes of gender-based discrimination and violence and support boys and men, girls and women to act as agents of change and develop a different narrative, based on mutual respect, shared duties and responsibilities and ending harmful gender-biased practices.



INTERNATIONAL GOOD  
PRACTICES ON COMMUNITY  
POLICING AND VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN AND  
GIRLS PREVENTION

International experience in implementing the Community Policing program shows that in areas where there is a high level of community cohesion, there is a higher ability to withstand adverse events. Such negative phenomena include, in particular, gender-based discrimination and violence. Cooperation between the police, communities and local authorities allows not only to react to cases of gender-based violence, but also to prevent their occurrence and engage in preventive activities.

In order to effectively implement Community Policing with a view to prevent and combat gender-based violence against women, it is important to analyze international experience. However, one has to keep in mind that direct replication of Community Policing programs on preventing and combating gender-based violence against women will not be as effective in any country due to different cultural and political backgrounds and socio-economic factors, which can influence the adaptation of good international practices of Community Policing programs.

#### 4.1.

### USE OF MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES AS TOOLS IN THE RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Eliminating violence against women is vital to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment globally (Sustainable Development Goal 5)<sup>24</sup>. In the past years, mobile applications have begun to gain importance in the fight against such violence<sup>25</sup>. The presumed common aim of these applications is to help victims, bystanders, and/or public authorities to implement different prevention or response strategies. Notably, the United Nations supports the development and use of mobile technologies as tools in the response to violence against women in its CEDAW General Recommendation no. 35<sup>26</sup>. At the same time, these kinds of applications are a good practice of interaction between police, specialized service providers and victims of violence.

According to a study on mobile applications addressing violence against women<sup>27</sup> most

such applications (46.78% out of 171 apps included into the systematic review of the study) primarily use short-term emergency functions. However, an increasing amount of applications offer education, reporting and evidence-building and supporting functions as the prevailing features.

In India, for example, there is a steady increase in the number of cases of gender-based violence against women and girls. To respond to the escalation of violence against women, government agencies have made the development of software and phone apps one of the priorities to make the environment safer for women and girls. Currently, the most popular applications in India are Safetipin, Raksha, Himmat, Women safety, Smart24x7, Shake2Safety, bSafe<sup>28, 27</sup>.

24 United Nations General Assembly, Report of the open Working group of the general assembly on sustainable development goals, 2014

25 Maxwell L, Sanders A, Skues J, A content analysis of personal safety Apps: are they keeping us safe or making us more vulnerable? Violence Against Women 2020

26 Freeman M, Violence against women. The un convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. Oxford University Press, 2012

27 Katharina Eisenhut, Ela Sauerborn, Claudia Garcia Moreno, Verina Wild, Mobile applications addressing violence against women: a systematic review

28 7 best women safety apps. Resource access mode: [https://www.gadgetsnow.com/slideshows/7-best-women-safety-applications/Raksha-women-safety-alert/amp\\_photolist/51285630.cms](https://www.gadgetsnow.com/slideshows/7-best-women-safety-applications/Raksha-women-safety-alert/amp_photolist/51285630.cms)

29 11 Amazing Safety Apps for Women's In India. Resource access mode: <https://wirally.com/women-safety-apps-india/>

All applications were developed with the involvement of police, public authorities and community members. For example, the division of «zones» on the map into «safe» and «dangerous» takes into account not only crime rates provided by the police, but also feedback and comments from local residents and the assessment of local authorities.

In addition, local initiatives were involved in the development of the applications, which tried to create a platform that would be convenient not only for residents but also for the police. All applications are aimed at improving security, and the target audience is women, girls or other people living in dangerous regions.

Such tools are used to further work with the police together with the local population to improve safe living conditions. The number of joint police patrols and members of the public in «dangerous» areas is increasing, and local authorities are trying to improve infrastructure.

**Safetipin**<sup>30</sup> is a mobile application released on 9th March 2016, in India available on Android and Apple's Internetwork Operating System (iOS) operating system. It is basically meant to be a personal location guide of public places using Global Positioning System for the safety of women. Over Android play store it has an overall rating of 4.3/5 with 186 reviews and more than 10,000 downloads, while over Apple iOS there is not much user rating available and only two reviews are there. Currently the mobile application is available in four languages, namely English, Hindi, Spanish and Vietnamese. It helps a user in taking a safer decision based on the safety score of an area, thus notifying the user how safe or unsafe any location is to roam around. Thus, based upon the safety indicator the user can notify their family and friends in case they are in an unsafe location and helps others to keep track of user. The application user can also rate an area according to nine parameters based on their own understanding of these parameters; thus, the scores are cumulative and could vary from user to user. These nine

parameters are:

1. Lighting of Streets
2. Visibility, i.e. how many passers-by are looking at you at any given moment
3. Diversity, i.e. how many people from different age groups and genders are present at any given time
4. The crowd, i.e. how densely crowded the area is
5. Public Transport, i.e. the availability of various types of public transport in the vicinity at any given time
6. Walking Path, i.e. what is the condition of the walking area where the app user is present
7. Security, i.e. how much police and other private security is available in the vicinity
8. Openness, i.e. if the user can have a proper view of the area or not
9. Feeling, i.e. how safe the app user feels being at the location at any given time.

In fact, after inception of the organization in 2013, this application is currently operational in only 30 cities in India and abroad in collaboration with various government and non-governmental organizations, including UN Women, UK Aid etc. In India, this mobile application is operational in English and Hindi in nine cities, namely New Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Chandigarh, Guwahati, and Karnal.

**Raksha**<sup>31</sup> is designed in such a manner that even when this application isn't running on the user's phone, the user can alert his/her contacts by pressing the volume button for 3 seconds. Along with that, the application also provides contacts with exact location when the user alerts them using the volume button or pressing the alert button inside the application. It also allows the user to create a group of people who he/she wants to alert when in danger. What's missing though is the option to send an SMS to selected contacts. After all, not every place has network coverage and GPS might not necessarily work.

30 Safetipin. Resource access mode: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.safetipin.mysafetipin&hl=uk>

31 Raksha. Resource access mode: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.portalperfect.sosapp&hl=uk>

An application that sends out a message to the user's contacts when the user is in danger would be helpful in such cases. For the application to work successfully, it needs to be downloaded on the listed contacts' mobile phones as well so that Raksha can easily alert them by a loud buzz when the user is not safe.

**Himmat**<sup>32</sup> is an initiative by Delhi police designed for women. Himmat is an emergency service comprised of an Android emergency application, which can send a distress call or emergency message to Delhi Police officials and specified contact or group in an emergency situation faced by a woman. The police personnel will get these SOS alerts and locations on a portal and as text messages on their mobile phones as well.

**Smart24x7**<sup>33</sup> is an Indian police application that alerts the user's selected numbers about his/her location and calls the police using the call button. If GPRS does not work, the location is sent via SMS. The application also allows to get help from the nearest police stations, hospitals and fire stations. It has a «fake call» function to get out of any difficult situation. The creation of such an application was initiated by the police in cooperation with public authorities, and the development was carried out by a joint initiative group of public organizations, the police and business. The general support of the application is provided by the IT business. However, the information is updated by the police in real time.

## 4.2.

### WOMEN POLICE STATIONS

Initiative to establish women police stations started in Brazil in 1985 and then was adapted to the needs of Peru, Ecuador and Nicaragua. Such projects were developed in cooperation with state and local authorities, police and general public. The goal of the initiative is to improve access to justice and the provision of specialized services for women who have suffered from various forms of gender-based violence.

Women's police departments were established as separate specialized units in the law enforcement system. In Brazil, Nicaragua, and Peru, women's units are part of the police. In Ecuador, they are units of the Department of Justice. Such departments deal exclusively with cases of gender-based violence. Previously, they employed only

women who had undergone specialized training on gender issues, but in recent years they have begun to involve men who have also attended relevant training modules.

This was one of the first reactions of the state to gender-based violence. The initiative even preceded the enactment of laws on violence against women or domestic violence in these countries. In 2010, there were 475 such branches in Brazil, 34 in Ecuador, 59 in Nicaragua and 27 in Peru.

The functioning of women's police departments includes prevention, receiving and investigation of complaints. In Ecuador, the powers of such units include sentencing and guaranteeing protection in cases of gender-based violence.

32 Himmat Resource access mode: <https://apps.apple.com/in/app/himmat-plus/id1337677961>

33 Smart24x7. Resource access mode: [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=smart.emergencyservice&hl=en\\_IN](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=smart.emergencyservice&hl=en_IN)

34 Women's Police Stations in Latin America Case Study: An Entry Point for Stopping Violence and Gaining Access to Justice (Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Nicaragua). Resource access mode: [https://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/security\\_wps\\_case\\_study.pdf](https://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/security_wps_case_study.pdf)

These departments are being funded from state budgets of Brazil and Peru. In Ecuador and Nicaragua, the form of funding is mixed and involves receiving part of the funds from donors<sup>35</sup>.

The operation of such stations is ensured through the joint activities not only of the police and local authorities, but also with the involvement of the public. The setting up of women police stations was initiated based on public initiatives and with the support of organizations working in the field of gender-based violence. They provided training for women police officers and support in identifying women police station locations.

In addition, the public conducts joint patrols with women police officers, which helps increase women's trust in them and improve security at the local level.

The initiative has made gender-based violence against women and girls more visible in both public and private fields. It has also helped to improve the access to justice and legal support for women who have been abused.

There has also been a marked reduction in violence against women, and awareness of victim's rights and their protection have increased. The initiators also noted that the further activities of such departments should be extended to informing the general public about women's rights, legal ways of protection, expanding the network of the specialized local services for rapid and consistent responses to cases of gender-based violence, which requires strong cooperation between government, local and public authorities<sup>15</sup>.

### 4.3. LEGAL EMPOWERMENT

Given the high incidence of violence against women and girls in Afghanistan and the hindered access to justice for women, a pilot project was launched in Bamiyan Province. This project aimed at increasing the number of women police officers to deal with gender-based violence against women and girls, raise the awareness of the community about gender equality and enhance the legal

awareness of women and girls via periodic community dialogues. Women police officers had open discussions with the community on pervasive gender stereotypes, on how to identify and report an incident of gender-based violence against women and girls and explain the rights of survivors and procedures to exercise these rights.

### 4.4. ONE-STOP CENTRES

One-stop centres became very popular around Kenya, Zambia and Rwanda but they operate in other countries as well. Police, social services and public authorities are involved in establishing these one-stop centres.

The centres are designed to meet the needs of men, women and children who have been physically, sexually and psychologically abused. Their activity is aimed at supporting the welfare and psychological endurance of the victim and their family.

35 Women's Police Stations in Latin America Case Study: An Entry Point for Stopping Violence and Gaining Access to Justice (Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Nicaragua). Resource access mode: [https://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/security\\_wps\\_case\\_study.pdf](https://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/security_wps_case_study.pdf)



The main purpose of opening the centers is to stop the ongoing violence and mobilize the community and local leaders to prevent and combat violence.

Such centers operate round-the-clock and provide various types of support «under one roof». Police officers, social services workers, mentors, counseling psychologists and health workers are operating in one location. They also act as shelters for victims of violence. In addition, the centers provide educational services by holding regular meetings or seminars to raise public awareness on gender issues<sup>36</sup>.

Such projects operate based on the cooperation of police and community members. Most shelters are created by CSOs in collaboration with local authorities. Police who receive information about cases of gender-based violence refer victims to such shelters and work with them in a safe environment. In addition, such shelters are guarded by the police and constantly monitored by them to ensure the safety of victims of gender-based violence.

In 1999, a special police training program run by the nongovernmental organization “Rozan” in partnership with the National Police Academy, the National Police Bureau, the Islamabad Police and provincial police departments was launched in Pakistan. The program is aimed at improving cooperation between police and Pakistan communities by carrying out trainings for police officers to increase their self-awareness and skills, to gain knowledge about gender issues and to improve their capacity to respond effectively to violence against women and girls.

The non-governmental organization “Rozan” has developed training modules on gender equality and a mechanism for working with women and girl survivors of gender-based violence. The programs are targeted at police officers, as they are the ones who have to deal with cases of gender-based violence against women and girls. The training programs for the police aim at raising awareness of gender issues, overcoming gender stereotypes, increasing understanding of gender stereotypes' negative impact on society in general and police work in particular, ensuring a survivor-centered approach when handling cases of violence against women and girls and mastering new, more effective algorithms of interaction with survivors<sup>37</sup>.

Over the last 11 years, the program has gradually evolved in response to changing gender attitudes and feedback from participants and partners. In the first two phases (2000-2004), in partnership with the Islamabad Police and the National Police Academy, the program trained more than 4,000 men and women who had recently been recruited into the police or supported police officers of various ranks (police administrative staff).

Rabta has been working in partnership with the Islamabad Capital Territory Police (ICTP), National Police Bureau (NPB) and local NGOs. Over the years, Rabta has evolved a stable partnership with the National Police Academy (NPA), provincial police training wings and various colleges and schools across the country.

36 Gender-responsive policing initiatives designed to enhance confidence, satisfaction in policing services and reduce risk of violence against women in low and middle income countries – a systematic review. Resource access mode [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b1021b7e5274a18e5ea84b0/GRP\\_Report\\_Oct\\_2017\\_copypedit\\_V3\\_PwC.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b1021b7e5274a18e5ea84b0/GRP_Report_Oct_2017_copypedit_V3_PwC.pdf)

37 Promising Practice Case Study: Rabta Police Training Programme (Pakistan). Resource access mode: [http://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/security\\_rozan\\_case\\_study.pdf](http://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/security_rozan_case_study.pdf)

## 4.5.

### HUB AND RESPONSIBILITY CENTER

**Community Mobilization Prince Albert** is a multi-subject partnership network focused on the prevention of violent crimes in the community of Prince Albert, Canada. The program involves various local stakeholders, including the police, social services, schools, local offices of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Services and general public. The collaboration aims to identify children at risk, exchange information on those involved, and develop integrated targeted intervention strategies. The primary task of the programme is the harmonious development of the community and increasing the level of its members' security.

This programme is aimed at children, young people and families who are in the so-called «risk zone» and need help from the community. Among other risk factors, this network is focused on gender-based violence among children and youth.

The program consists of two parts – the Hub and the Responsibility Center. The hub uses a so-called «concentrated model» of service

delivery, which includes the judicious use of existing resources and the mobilization of existing systems to quickly respond to high-risk situations involving young people. Teams working under the program also try to identify risks in advance and act on a preventive basis. To do this, educational programs are created, involved managers meet to discuss the most important problems of the community, trying to find an acceptable and safe solution. Currently, such a group meets twice a week for a two-hour community security information exchange session. Police, local authorities and locals are all part of such a “hub”.

The Responsibility Center differs from the Hub. Its goal is to analyze and monitor risks in the community more deeply. Stakeholders develop long-term development plans and programs, trying to involve general public in the strategic planning of community progress in the areas of juvenile crime and gender-based violence among youth. The Responsibility Center is essentially the center for policy development in the field of community security<sup>38</sup>.

## 4.6.

### INTERAGENCY CASE ASSESSMENT TEAMS

An Interagency Case Assessment Team (ICAT) is a partnership of local agencies in British Columbia, Canada, including police, child welfare, health, social service, victim support, and CSOs. This group responds to referrals of suspected highest risk domestic violence cases with an aim to increase safety. This goal is achieved by:

- Identifying risk using the *BC Summary of Domestic Violence Risk Factors*<sup>38</sup>, an evidence-based risk assessment tool
- Legally and ethically sharing risk-related information

- Reaching agreement regarding the risk level
- Creating a collaborative risk management plan that addresses victim safety and support and monitoring of perpetrators.

ICAT members come from a broad range of disciplines and have different roles and mandates. However, they share the goal of wanting to develop a common understanding of domestic violence threat and a

38 Public Safety Canada. The Hub - Community Mobilization Prince Albert (CMPA). Resource access mode: <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/crm-prvntn/nvnr/dtls-en.aspx?i=10015>

collaborative approach to managing risk and safety. ICAT members also share a desire to keep women, children and communities safer while supporting and monitoring the perpetrator. The underlying principle is that with coordinated intervention, injury or death resulting from domestic violence is preventable.

The essence of the initiative is to create separate independent groups, which consist of employees of different services with different professional experience and training. These groups consist of police officers, social workers, representatives of local authorities, child care services, health departments and public activists. They have a common goal - to develop a joint understanding of the scale of domestic violence and to develop a common approach to risk and security management within a particular community.

The groups are involved in «solving» cases of gender-based violence, gathering information about its causes, consequences, and those involved. Based on the information gathered, an analysis of the general state of the fight against violence within the community is taking place. Assessing the risks and cases in which the groups are involved, helps to improve police protocols, algorithms for other stakeholders, and helps to improve prevention practices. The main goal of the groups is to create joint risk management plan to ensure the safety of victims, support and supervision of perpetrators and improving the community environment.

Group members also share a desire to protect women, children and the community by supporting and controlling the offender. The basic principle is that coordinated intervention can prevent injuries or death from domestic violence<sup>40</sup>.

#### 4.7.

#### POLICE FORCE'S YOUTH AT RISK COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

The program provides the creation of a coalition-partnership with civil society organizations, police officers and the general public in Fredericton, Canada. Such a network of partnerships is created by the Youth at Risk Coordinator (a position created in the Fredericton Police to involve partners in the field of work with young people who are at risk of violence and harassment from their peers). This coordinator acts as a kind of «liaison» between young people, community members and the police, encouraging a preventive, proactive, holistic, coordinated approach to reducing violence and developing social assets at the local level. He/she also acts as a facilitator, intervening in crisis situations in the community.

As a result of the coordinator's analytical and facilitation activities, he/she and

the partner network jointly develop draft policies and procedures to help young people at risk. They research, develop and implement educational programs on school violence at all educational levels, work with school staff to develop and implement educational strategies and provide information on combating violence and crime among young people and monitor the condition, living standards of young people and their parents, guardians, school staff to prevent cases of violence. Among other things the Coordinator deals with cases of domestic violence aimed at youth, harassment at schools and other educational institutions.

The main activity tools of the group and the coordinator are educational prevention

40 Ending violence. Association of BC. Interagency Case Assessment Teams (ICATs). Resource access mode: <https://endingviolence.org/prevention-programs/ccws-program/interagency-case-assessment-teams-icats/>

initiatives aimed at preventing cases of violence against and among young people and involving a network of partners<sup>41</sup>.

This program requires participation of police and academic institutions, local governments, police and civil society representatives as well.

## 4.8.

### AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Awareness campaigns are an organized effort to bring public pressure to bear on institutions and individuals so as to influence their actions<sup>42</sup>. Two broad types of campaigns to end violence against women can be distinguished: campaigns aiming for institutional and policy change, i.e. for effective laws, policies and institutions that prevent violence against women and support violence against women survivors, and campaigns aiming for change in individual behavior and social norms and attitudes<sup>43</sup>. Awareness-raising campaigns fit under both types as their aim can be to influence people's behavior, and/or be a

means of attracting attention and generating public support – public awareness is always an important element whether seeking individual behavior or policy change (or both)<sup>44</sup>.

A campaign may target vast sectors of the general public, or specific, smaller audiences, e.g. law makers, health practitioners, teachers, youth, men or parents. It can focus on specific forms of violence, or on particular issues around the theme of violence. The scope of a campaign can be world-wide, regional, nation-wide or limited to specific localities, as illustrated in the examples below<sup>45</sup>.

## 4.9.

### ILLUSTRATIVE CAMPAIGNS WITH DIFFERENT SCOPE<sup>46</sup>

**International:** The global UNiTE Campaign launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in 2008 calls on governments, civil society, the private sector, the media and the entire United Nations systems to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls.

**Regional:** The End FGM European Campaign, launched by Amnesty Ireland in 2010, aims to protect young women and girls living in Europe from female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). It calls for European institutions to

enhance prevention, protection and treatment for women living with FGM/C or under threat of FGM/C. Some 500,000 girls and women in the European Union are estimated to have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting.

**National:** One of the first and most influential campaigns to end VAW, Zero Tolerance, started out as a Scottish campaign in 1992 launched by the Edinburgh City Council to educate large segments of the population on the prevalence and nature of violence against women.

41 Public Safety Canada. Youth at Risk Coordinator (Details). <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/plcng/cnmcs-plcng/ndx/dtls-en.aspx?n=44>

42 Lamb, *The Good Campaigns Guide*, 2017

43 Coffman, *Lessons in Evaluating Communications Campaigns*, 2003

44 UN Women, *Campaigns to end violence against women*, 2011

45 Ibid

46 Ibid

Community-based: The Uganda-based NGO Raising Voices has inspired the emergence of community-level campaigns to end violence against women. They assist community organizations to plan and develop activities that mobilize women and girls, men and boys to transform attitudes and behaviors within their community.

Campaigns over the past decades have contributed significantly to heightening awareness of violence against women as a violation of human rights that affects society as a whole. They have helped to rally support for and influence change in international and national legislative and policy frameworks. In spite of such progress, however, violence against women and girls is still rampant in all parts of the world. A continuous, protracted effort throughout society and across disciplines is needed to effectively address the causes of violence against women,

which are rooted deep in social attitudes and practice<sup>47</sup>.

As an illustrative example, several campaigns aimed at preventing and combating violence against women were conducted in France<sup>48</sup> based on the evidence provided by a series of assessments on the incidence of different forms of violence against women and perception of gender-based violence by various groups of people conducted jointly by the police, local public authorities, CSOs and women. It is important to mention that community-based awareness campaign should be based on the data gathered and assessed at the local level, considering the specifics of each target community, which may result in the prevalence of specific forms of gender-based violence due to the contributing factors existing in a particular community (e.g., Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in communities affected by conflict).

#### 4.10.

### ENGAGING BEAUTY SALONS IN PREVENTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The program is dedicated to mobilizing the efforts of employees of beauty salons and spas to prevent domestic violence and encourage reporting in Alabama's communities in the USA (CUT IT OUT project).

The program aims to raise public awareness of gender-based violence, its causes and symptoms, to identify different types of violence at an early stage and help young women and girls who are abused but afraid to report to authorities.

The essence of the program is to place information «corners» in beauty salons and spas about gender-based violence including

the algorithm of actions which needs to be taken in such cases. Many survivors of violence are reluctant in reporting to the police or other authorities for various reasons, while they might feel more comfortable in opening to a hairdresser in a more friendly environment as a beauty salon is.

The program aims at training beauty salon employees on how to identify signs of violence, provide information on available services and refer their clients to the police or other specialized services<sup>49</sup>. Such trainings are conducted by police officers, local authorities and CSOs.

47 UN Women, Campaigns to end violence against women, 2011

48 "Breaking the silence", "Stopping violence: talking about it means acting" and "Speak before it is too late"

49 "CUT IT OUT. The Beauty Community Against Domestic Abuse. Resource access mode: <https://www.probeauty.org/pba-charities/cio>

#### 4.11.

### CONNECTING POLICE WITH NETWORKS OF WOMEN MAYORS

The project Connecting Women Mayors (2002-2004) is an initiative of the Stability Pact Gender Working Group implemented by Romanian CSO "Fundatia Sanse Egale pentru Femei" (Equal Opportunities for Women, SEF).

The aim of the project was to improve the leadership skills of women mayors in building regional and international partnerships to implement projects aimed at improving the safety of women and children in communities.

About 50 women mayors took part in this project, which was divided into two phases. During the first phase, emphasis was placed on strengthening the cooperation between women mayors, police and local networks of women's organizations to implement small projects for improving the living standards of women and children, including for improving the functioning of services for women victims of gender-based violence. Women mayors

were trained on preventing and combating gender-based and domestic violence, and in cooperation with police officers and community members designed targeted programs and projects aimed at creating safe communities for women and girls. The second phase of the project was dedicated to the creation of national and regional platforms of women mayors<sup>50</sup>.

It is important to mention that in Ukraine a similar initiative "Women Leaders in Local Self-Government», supported by the Swiss-Ukrainian project «Support to Decentralization in Ukraine» DESPRO, was initiated to set up a network of women leaders in local public administrations. The aim of this initiative is to support the exchange pertaining to the decentralization processes and development of joint projects and community development initiatives.

#### 4.12.

### COMBATING ONLINE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

International Association for Progressive Communications (APC) has been working to end violence against women in online space. One of their projects is titled «End violence: Women's rights and safety online». It was established to "to enhance women's safety and security by preventing the growing violence against women through ICTs"<sup>51</sup>. It is functioning in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

APC focuses not only on documenting, reporting, monitoring and analyzing cases of

gender-based violence against women and girls, but also on working closely "with national policy makers, judges, lawyers and other key actors in identifying remedies that may be available in current laws and regulations and, where needed, developing new policies that seek to protect women's rights including their safety and security"<sup>52</sup>.

The association also works with the private sector, trying to involve social networking platforms, web hosting companies and mobile phone operators in developing policies that would help prevent online violence against

50 Bringing Security Home: Combating Violence Against Women in the OSCE Region. Resource access mode: <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/d/b/37438.pdf>

51 The Association for Progressive Communications. End violence: Women's rights and safety online. Resource access mode: <https://www.apc.org/en/project/end-violence-womens-rights-and-safety-online>

52 Idem

women and girls, as well as detect such cases online and promptly respond to them.

The project develops special algorithms for law enforcement agencies, conducts training programs for businesses and civil servants to

raise their awareness of the topic of online violence against women and girls. The ultimate goal of the project is to create an online culture free of violence against women and girls.

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RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL  
AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE AND  
NATIONAL POLICE OF  
UKRAINE ON COMMUNITY  
POLICING AND PREVENTION  
OF VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN AND GIRLS



## RECOMMENDATION 1:

### USE MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES AS TOOLS IN THE RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Community Policing gives impetus to engagement in innovative practices aimed at creating a socially safe urban environment. The use of Information Technology to prevent and combat gender-based violence against women and girls provides space for an accelerated reach out to the survivors and increases the quality of the provided specialized services, including the access to justice.

To increase the reporting of violence against women and girls and improve the access to services, jointly with business partners, especially from the IT field, and CSOs develop mobile applications aimed at reporting violence against women and girls in private (e.g., domestic violence) and public spaces (e.g., street sexual harassment), informing about and providing referrals to specialized services, as well as at providing a personal location guide of safe public spaces.

In Ukraine, a mobile application providing a map of safe public spaces for women and

girls is not yet accessible. This kind of mobile application would be a very useful tool for detecting unsafe public spaces based on the **Safetipin** model, using such criteria as street lighting, visibility, availability of public transportation, etc., as well as unsafe public spaces due to active military operations in the communities affected by conflict in the east of Ukraine. Additionally, this application can provide a map of police stations, pharmacies, shelters for women and girls survivors of violence and health care facilities located in the proximity of the user.

This kind of mobile application should be managed by police, local public authorities and CSOs in a centralized-decentralized manner, ensuring the relevance and accuracy of the information and services provided considering the local context of each community. Moreover, citizens should be able to feed in the data about the security situation in their community based on the model provided by the good practice of **Bezpechne.community** implemented in Kyiv.

## RECOMMENDATION 2:

### INTRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE PRACTICE OF WOMEN POLICE OFFICERS HANDLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS CASES, INCLUDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The National Police of Ukraine employs 110,400 police officers. The number of women police officers is still low in Ukraine, amounting to 24 thousand in the National Police, which is less than 25% out of the total number of police officers. Among them, 3.8 thousand women work as investigators, 2.8 thousand as operatives, and only 1.5 thousand as district police officers. 3,445 women work in the Patrol Police<sup>53</sup>.

To apply the good practice of women police officers handling gender-based violence against women and girls cases, especially those including sexual violence, as presented in the showcased models implemented in Bamian, Afghanistan or Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Nicaragua in the previous chapter there is a need to increase the number of women police officers in Ukraine. Subsequently, women police officers deployed in

53 Information received from the National Police of Ukraine as of 01.11. 2020

communities should be provided with tailored trainings on handling gender-based violence cases against women and girls with a focus on the survivor-centered approach.

Considering that increasing the number of women police officers is not an immediate outcome to be achieved, police officers

operating at the community level should undergo mandatory comprehensive capacity development on the dynamics of gender-based violence against women and girls, gender-sensitive handling of violence, offences and crimes against women and girls, and ensuring a survivor-centered approach.

### RECOMMENDATION 3: ENGAGE POLICE OFFICERS IN LEGALLY EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY

To increase the reporting of gender-based violence against women and girls crimes there is a need to engage with the local community to raise their understanding of gender equality, violence against women and girls crimes, and enhance their legal awareness via periodic meetings with the community. A model of engaging police in community legal empowerment implemented in Bamian, Afghanistan, as well as the good practice of conducting webinars on legal empowerment supported by the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Program in the east of Ukraine were provided in the previous chapter.

Police officers should be trained on how to communicate with the community and specifically with women survivors of gender-based violence and women at risk, as well as on the concept of gender equality and dismantling gender-biased social norms, dynamics of gender-based violence against

women and girls and the survivor-centered approach. Equipped with knowledge and skills necessary for legally empowering citizens police officers should conduct periodic meetings with the community aimed at preventing gender-based violence against women and girls, and informing survivors and women at risk about their rights, procedures to exercise their rights, available protection mechanisms (e.g. restraining and protection orders against domestic violence perpetrators) and specialized services.

Additionally, similar meetings should be held with men from the community to raise their awareness on the root causes of violence against women and girls, promote respectful relationships between women and men, as well as inform them about the criminalization of gender-based violence against women and girls crimes and criminal sanctions applied for commission of such crimes.

## RECOMMENDATION 4:

### CONDUCT JOINT DIALOGUE BETWEEN POLICE, COMMUNITY, PRIVATE SECTOR, CSOS AND LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

Periodic dialogues of police, community, private sector, CSOs and local public authorities conducted at the local level provide space for strengthening the role of police in building the social cohesion among citizens, especially relevant in communities affected by conflict and augmenting the trust of the community in the police.

Based on the good practice of establishing Working Groups on Public Safety and Social Cohesion implemented in Luhansk, Donetsk and Zhytomir regions with the support of the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Program similar working groups can be established in other communities of Ukraine, bringing together the local public authorities, police, private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs) and members of the community to raise and tackle issues pertaining to public safety, including violence against women and girls, and jointly design tailored solutions to the identified community problems.

During this meeting the police has the opportunity to present periodic reports on

the crimes committed during the reporting period and raise any other issues pertaining to public safety. At the same time, community groups members, CSOs and the private sector have the opportunity to voice additional public safety issues and discuss them with the representatives of the law enforcement and local authorities, jointly developing solutions, as well as targeted community projects aimed at enhancing the safety and social cohesion within the community.

The recommendations and solutions proposed by the members of Working Groups on Public Safety and Social Cohesion should be fed into the development of local policies addressing the issue of public safety, as well as particularly violence against women and girls. Additionally, the meaningful involvement of community members in building long-term strategies for their community and developing local policies addressing their safety and security needs contributes to creating truly safe and secure public spaces for all.

## RECOMMENDATION 5:

### INVOLVE POLICE IN DATA COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT OF SAFETY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SPACES

Police is the law enforcement authority with access to the data pertaining to the criminality in a community. At the same time, many gender-based violence crimes against women and girls very often remain invisible and are not reported to the police or other competent authorities. For this reason, police should have a more pro-active role in detecting the violence against women and girls crimes in the community by closely cooperating with the community-based groups of citizens and CSOs to identify the survivors of such crimes, as well as improve the quality of its services

provided to women survivors by ensuring a gender-sensitive handling of gender-based violence against women and girls cases.

Moreover, police is responsible for ensuring the protection of women survivors of violence by the use of "hard" legal tools such as emergency restraining orders against domestic violence perpetrators, but also by using "soft" instruments of protection such as the individual "safety plans" for women survivors of gender-based violence. These "safety plans" should be developed jointly

with the survivor based on the risk assessment conducted by the police, but also relying on the self- assessment of risks by the survivor, considering that the victim of violence is the only one who knows the seriousness of the harm she could be subjected to even in the absence of strong material evidence in this regard. The “safety planning” reduces the risk of physical harm if the victim is planning to leave the relationship, helps brainstorm available options and creates a response plan in case of an emergency or escalation of violence. To enable police officers to effectively support women survivors of gender-based violence in developing “safety plans”, comprehensive trainings should be conducted, equipping police officers with specific knowledge pertaining to the development of “safety plans”, gender-sensitive handling of violence against women and girls cases and applying a survivor-centered approach.

Additionally, based on the good practice implemented in the framework of the Safe

Cities for Women and Girls initiative aimed at preventing sexual violence and sexual harassment against women and girls in public spaces in Rubizhne, Luhansk region, police should strengthen its role in periodically assessing the general perception of safety of women and girls in the community. Relying on the outcomes of these assessments police, women, CSOs and local authorities should design community-based solution aimed at enhancing the safety of women and girls.

Linked to the gender-sensitive handling of violence against women and girls cases the good practice of creating “green rooms” in the east of Ukraine with the support of the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme is an illustrative example of building safe spaces for communicating with children and teens who have come in conflict with the law, and those who have witnessed crimes or have been affected by domestic violence as a tailored approach used by the police when working with these specific groups of citizens.

## RECOMMENDATION 6:

### PARTNER WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR (BUSINESSES) TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The private sector (businesses) can play an important role in preventing gender-based violence against women and girls and enhancing the access to services of women survivors of violence. The fruitful cooperation between police, local public authorities, CSOs and transportation companies was illustrated in the previous chapter by providing the example of partnership established between these stakeholders in Rubizhne, Luhansk region aimed at equipping public transportation drivers with knowledge and skills to identify gender-based violence crimes committed against women and girls, particularly sexual violence and sexual harassment in public spaces, provide information on available specialized services to survivors and further refer them to these services.

The cooperation of police with the beauty industry, primarily with the local beauty and spa salons, is another good practice illustrated in this assessment (CUT IT OUT model), which can be successfully replicated in Ukraine. Local police departments can sign cooperation agreements with local beauty and spa salons to engage these private companies in raising the awareness of their clients about gender-based violence against women and girls, its causes and symptoms, identify survivors of violence and provide them support in accessing specialized services and support. Additionally, CSOs can join this partnership and jointly with police provide tailored trainings to beauty salon employees on the identification of gender-based violence against women and girls cases and referral to specialized services.

## RECOMMENDATION 7: PARTNER WITH WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Positive outcomes on preventing and combating gender-based violence against women and girls emerge from engagement of police with women's organizations, which possess expertise in the field of domestic violence but also complement specialized services for survivors provided by the government.

Based on the Romanian good practice "Equal opportunities for women" illustrated in this assessment, police and community can engage in partnerships with various associations of women leaders, including the existing Ukrainian association of women mayors «Women Leaders in Local Self-Government», supported by the Swiss-Ukrainian project «Support to Decentralization

in Ukraine» DESPRO, to support the exchange of good practices in the field of community policing and design community projects aimed at preventing and combating gender-based violence against women and girls.

An example of a good community project aimed at preventing and combating gender-based violence against women and girls stemming from the partnership between police, local authorities and women organizations is the establishment of One Stop Centres, providing a range of specialized services for women survivors of violence where police would be able to conduct its procedural work with the survivor in a safe environment and coordinate with the specialized services operating in this centre.

## RECOMMENDATION 8: IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY-BASED AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Raising awareness of the different forms of violence against women and domestic violence is an important element in the prevention of violence against women, because heightened awareness is a first step in changing attitudes and behavior that perpetuate or condone various forms of violence against women<sup>54</sup>. Awareness campaigns aim at increasing the awareness of the general public of different forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and enhancing the understanding of this phenomenon by all members of the society, lifting the existing taboos around violence against women and girls rooted in gender-biased social norms<sup>55</sup>.

Without diminishing the important impact of national campaigns aimed at preventing gender-based violence against women and girls, tailored community-based campaigns,

if designed based on the evidence generated at the local level, may target in a more focused manner specific forms of violence which are more prevalent in a community or specific groups of women and girls which are more prone to gender-based violence in that particular community. The geography (rural/urban), socio-economic situation, the ethnic structure of the community, the migration status of the population (internally displaced persons or refugees), the proximity to an active military conflict or the presence of the military may vary from one community to another and influence accordingly the prevalence of specific forms of gender-based violence against women and girls as well as configure particular groups of survivors facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. For this reason, the involvement of the police jointly with other stakeholders such as

54 Council of Europe, Raising awareness of violence against women: art. 13 of the Istanbul Convention, 2014

55 Idem

local authorities, private sector, CSOs and community groups in collecting data on the prevalence of different forms of gender-based violence against women and girls,

in assessing this data and complementing it with official crime statistics, and in designing and implementing tailored community-based awareness campaigns is imperative.

## RECOMMENDATION 9:

### DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT MEASURES AIMED AT PREVENTING AND COMBATING ONLINE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

As many people spend more time on digital devices there is a pandemic of online gender-based violence against women and girls emerging during Covid-19<sup>56</sup>. Women and girls experience online abuse, including threatening messages, sexual harassment and sharing of private images without consent.

Increased prevalence of online violence against women and girls, the lack of effective measures to prevent and contain it, and the ensuing impunity must be addressed as part of the struggle to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls<sup>57</sup>.

Prevention and combating of online violence against women and girls should be an integral part of the capacity building programs for police, equipping police officers with

knowledge and practical tools to respond to cyber violence against women and girls.

Engagement of the private sector working in the ICT field in the development of policies and practical tools aimed at preventing and combating online violence against women and girls proves to be an effective approach for detecting online violence cases against women and girls, as well as combating this phenomenon.

Awareness-raising about online violence against women and girls as a form of gender-based violence disproportionately affecting women is another effective instrument of informing the community about this type of violence and encouraging reporting.

56 UN Women, The shadow pandemic: violence against women during COVID-19, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/violence-against-women-during-covid-19>

57 OHCHR, Eliminating online violence against women and engendering digital equality, <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/GenderDigital/DueDiligenceProject.pdf>





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