*Annex to the letter of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine*

Child, early and forced marriage

In 2018, the Government of Ukraine adopted the National Action Plan to implement the recommendations set out in the concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to the eighth periodic report of Ukraine on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women for the Period up to 2021, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers Of Ukraine dated September 5, 2018 № 634-р (hereinafter - the National Plan).

Following the recommendation of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in the section “Implementing the strict use of the minimum age of marriage at 18 years of age”, the National Plan includes a list of measures aimed at protecting the rights of women and girls, in particular, providing for the implementation of strict application of minimum age of 18 years; monitoring the observance of the minimum marriage age, set at 18 years for girls; strengthening the awareness of families about the harmfulness of early marriages and intensifying the cross-sectoral collaboration of schools and social services to prevent early marriage among girls from vulnerable groups.

There is close interaction between centers of social services for families, children and youth and educational institutions in the regions of Ukraine on training young people for family life, responsible for reproductive health. Forming responsible parenthood among young people is an important component of preventative work to prevent future family problems and domestic violence.

Due to the prevalence of neglectful parenting in the youth environment, inadequate attention to future motherhood, the use of forced early marriages among persons in difficult life circumstances, measures are organized to prevent unwanted and unwanted pregnancy life, and the inadmissibility of forced, early child marriages.
Social services centers for families, children and young people also carry out social work to identify and reach social services for persons, families with children in difficult life circumstances, including underage mothers. Mothers with children, in case of difficult life circumstances that they cannot overcome on their own, receive social services on a general basis, regardless of nationality, religion, place of residence or other characteristics.

As of October 1, 2019, 403 underage mothers had received social services in accordance with their needs.

Comprehensive support and temporary shelter for girls and women at the seventh - ninth months of pregnancy and mothers with children from birth to 18 months, who are in difficult life circumstances that impede the fulfillment of maternal duty, receive at the social centers of mother and child.

As of January 1, 2019, there are 16 such centers operating in Ukraine, where more than 450 mothers with children and pregnant women received assistance last year.
In addition, we inform that the Law of Ukraine "On State Aid to Families with Children", in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, establishes a state-guaranteed level of financial support for families with children through the provision of state financial assistance.

According to this Law, women (including minors) are assigned, in particular, assistance in connection with pregnancy and childbirth, maternity assistance, child support for single mothers.

The social protection of low-income families is ensured by providing them with assistance in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On State Social Assistance to Low-Income Families", taking into account the total income and financial status of the family.

Low-income individuals can receive assistance for housing and communal services in the form of housing subsidies, compensation, benefits and more.