

Biographical data of Ms. Olena Suslova
Candidate from Ukraine to CEDAW

Name and first name:

SUSLOVA Olena

Date and place of birth:

23 April 1958, Orenburg, Russia

Working languages:

Ukrainian (mother tongue); Fluent in English, Russian, Spanish; German, Polish – compr. and read.

Current position/function:

Gender Activity Coordinator (2005 to date) Parliamentary Development Project (Ohio State University);

Founder, Chair Board (1995 to date) Women's Information Consultative Center (Ukraine)

Main professional activities¹:

- Career centers on *advocacy, training, research, consultancy* and *publishing* materials.
- The main attention of Ms.Suslova's work addresses women's human rights advocacy based at international (CEDAW, Platform of Action) and national documents, training on gender sensitivity (NGOs, students etc.) and gender mainstreaming (MPs and Parliament staff, ministries, governmental officials etc.), gender analysis of legislation (equal opportunity law, domestic violence law, labour code, public health system, education, penitentiary system), consultations on individual cases of gender discrimination, preparing publications on women's human rights and gender equality.
- Human rights activist since 90-ies. Helsinki Union (first human rights organization alternative to Communist regime based at Meeting on Security and Cooperation in Europe (MSCE) documents ratified by the USSR) member since 1989.
- Contributed to the CEDAW alternative report (2002).
- Based all training methodology produced by the the WICC on human rights based approach and paid particular attention to the CEDAW standards.
- Included activity on CEDAW in ALL training materials on women's human rights and gender sensitivity.
- 2007 participated in the editing CEDAW governmental report (6th and 7th).
- In 1998 – 1999 participated in Human Rights Advanced Leadership Training for Women Program provided by the Women, Law and Development organization and supported by the Open Society Institute (New York City).
- As a Coordinator participated in different networks: KARAT Coalition (Central and Eastern European Women's NGOs Network), WAVE (Women Against Violence in Europe), International Criminal Court Steering Committee of NGO etc. 2008 – 2009 as a Ukraine Coordinator participated in the project "Building towards Eastern European and Central Asia NGO Coalition on Optional Protocol to CEDAW", KARAT Coalition.
- Member of the Advisory Council at the Parliament Committee on Human Rights.

- Experienced in international training – Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burma, Georgia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan. Main topics on training are – Conflict Transformation, Women’s Human Rights Advocacy (based at national and international (CEDAW, Platform of Action) standards), Gender Sensitivity, Gender Analysis, Gender mainstreaming, Fundraising, Strategic Planning, Reproductive Rights, Healthy Life – Surviving Together (on reproductive rights of women), How to Get Job etc.
- Initiated the Empowering Education project – Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Girls and Boys (gender education) www.empedu.org . It developed successfully and since 1999 it began to work in 8 countries of region more (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan). Since 2002 Afghan, Burmese, Indonesian participants joined this program too. The program is very effective for different vulnerable groups like Roma, disabled people, lesbians, homeless, unemployed, refugees. 2001 the WICC received the license from the Ministry of Science and Education to do innovative courses for teachers on gender problematics.
- Author and editor of more 50 articles, manuals and other publications.

Educational background:

- Ukrainian Academy of International Trade, Master Degree on International Law (Master work theme is on UN Peace–Keeping Operations), 2001
- National University of “Kyiv – Mohyla Academy” in collaboration with Tempus – Tacis Program, Research in Social Work and Social Policy Course, 1999
- CEU Summer University, Conflict Transformation: Transcend Approach Course, 1999
- Orenburg Polytechnic Institute, Civil Engineer Degree, 1979

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

- Expert, **UNDP**, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009
- Gender sensitivity training for 3 new regional gender centers in Kherson, Luhansk, Transcarpathian regions.
- Gender mainstreaming trainings for all UNDP project working in Ukraine.
- Provided Gender Audit for UNDP projects.
- Leader of the team on Equal Opportunity Law comments.
- Trainer-Consultant, **Policy Project**, 2000 – 2001, 2003 – 2004
- The main goal of the POLICY Project is the creation of favorable environs for family planning and reproductive health protection by means of supporting different economic sectors and different forms of ownership and participation in the political process.
- 2003 – 2004 worked as a consultant for the initiative group on creation the Coalition of NGOs giving services on HIV/AIDS. Was in charge on strengthening its technical capacity and advocacy capabilities.
- Human Rights Education Manual Production Team member, **European Youth Centre Budapest**, Budapest, 2001
- One of authors. Human Rights Education Youth Program invited 7 persons around the Europe to create the manual COMPASS could be used by youth in Europe studying human rights. Gender is one of “burning issues” described in the manual.

- **Chair, All-Ukrainian Association of Empowering Education and Communications**, Kyiv, 1999 - 2001.
- The basic goal of the Association is to implement system of gender sensitive peaceful non-violent education in society; assistance in communications between women and women organizations around the world; overcoming of gender stereotyping in public consciousness; increasing of women's role in society and their visibility.
- **Trainer-consultant, since 1996 Training Program Director, Women's Consortium NIS – USA of Winrock International**, Kyiv, May 1995 – September 1999.

List of most recent publications in the field:

- Equal Opportunities Law – comments (co-author), UNDP, 2009;
- Mechanisms of counteraction and monitoring gender violence and discrimination. – analysis, UNFPA, 2009;
- Our rights are not optional. CEDAW, OP CEDAW, comments of IWRAW (translation and edition), UWF, 2008, WICC 2009;
- Regional Legislative Analysis and Mapping on Correspondence to International Treaties on Discrimination against Women, UNFPA – analysis, 2008.

¹ It should be noted that membership in the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women requires participation in two/three annual sessions of three weeks duration, plus participation (on a rotating basis) in a pre-session working group of one week in respect of each session.