**UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION**

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

I present my compliments to you and bearing in mind your letter of June 17, 2019 I am sending you the requested information regarding implementation of the Article 8 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Ukraine.

Annex: on 4 pages.

***Yours faithfully,***

**Commissioner Liudmyla Denisova**

***Annex to the letter of the Commissioner No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**Information regarding implementation of the Article 8 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Concluding Observations on the First Report of Ukraine on the Status of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the Implementation by Ukraine of Article 8 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities “Educational and awareness measures” stated as follows:

“The Committee notes with concern the lack of measures taken to raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities as contained in the Convention. The Committee is particularly concerned that public officials, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, the public in general and the persons with disabilities themselves remain unaware of their rights. The Committee urges the State party to step up its efforts to raise the awareness of its public on the rights of persons with disabilities, by conducting public campaigns, including the Convention in the curricula of schools and professional training of public officials and all relevant professionals”.

By prescription of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 28th of December, 2012 No. 1073-р was approved the Plan of Measures to implement the recommendations set out in the concluding observations provided by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the first periodic report of Ukraine on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the period up to 2020 year.

At the same time, in force the State Target Program “National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” for the period till 2020, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated August, 1st 2012 No. 706.

Ministries and other central executive bodies responsible for the implementation of tasks and activities envisaged by the above-mentioned normative acts of the Government, regional administrations and Kyiv city state administrations submit to the Ministry of Social Policy every year by January 30 the status of their implementation for generalization.

The analysis of the summarized information received from the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, as well as carried out by the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights own monitoring of the implementation of requirements of state authorities and local self-government bodies of the implementation of the requirements of Article 8 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by state authorities and local authorities, including during monitoring visits to local authorities, showed some increase in the level of educational work among people with disabilities and the public on the rights of this category of people.

Public authorities cover information on the rights of persons with disabilities in their respective areas on their websites, as well as carry out other information campaigns[[1]](#footnote-1).

In the context of the armed conflict in Ukraine, the explanatory work on the rights of persons with disabilities from among military personnel and persons directly involved in the antiterrorist operation, ensuring its implementation, being directly in the areas of the antiterrorist operation during it, in implementing measures to ensure national security and defense, repelling and deterring armed aggression of the Russian Federation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. In particular, the relevant explanations are provided by the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine and the State Service of Ukraine for the affairs of war veterans and participants of the antiterrorist operation.

There has been some progress in ensuring the accessibility of government websites for people with visual and hearing impairments. However, not all of these sites are accessible to these individuals.

The issue of access of people with disabilities to information and communication technologies and systems, especially in rural areas, remains a topical issue.

At the same time, educational information campaigns carried out by central state authorities at the national level are not systemic and devoted to different events[[2]](#footnote-2)[[3]](#footnote-3).

It is worth mentioning the active conduct of advocacy work on vocational rehabilitation, engagement and employment of persons with disabilities, the organization of meetings and seminars, including with the involvement of employers and specialists of the department of the Social Protection Fund for Persons with Disabilities in order to inform persons with disabilities about vocational rehabilitation opportunities engagement and employment, including regional levels[[4]](#footnote-4). Current issues regarding the rights of persons with disabilities in the field of work and employment are covered in local media.

Active educational and awareness-raising measures are carried out in the area of pre-school and secondary general education. A section on inclusive education for specialists has been created on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. The above-mentioned section includes methodological recommendations, handbooks, online classes, enrollment information for parents of children with special educational needs, online tutorials «Parental involvement into organization of inclusive education» and «Paramedic assistance».

However government gives insufficient attention to parental education regarding care for children requiring special attention. Most parents lack the skills and knowledge about existing services, education and consultancy. Therewith, as known, good-quality care and timely aid contribute to the reduction or even prevention of disability.

Awareness-raising efforts in the field of vocational (technical) education, high education and health care are insufficient.

In recent years public authorities and agencies involved in the development and implementation of policies on disability issues enhanced their cooperation with persons with disabilities and public organizations representing their interests5.

The most active awareness-raising contribution on the issues of the rights of persons with disabilities is taken by NGOs representing their interests[[5]](#footnote-5)[[6]](#footnote-6)[[7]](#footnote-7)8910.

At the same time, as in the case with public authorities, relevant awareness campaigns are conducted by NGOs, mainly with the support and funding of international organizations.

Mass media plays a significant role in the formation of public opinion among the above-mentioned social group. Mass media attached great importance to the protection of rights of persons with disabilities, covering not only their needs and problems but also their achievements and contributions to the social life of the country, what shapes a positive public opinion and helps to overcome stereotypes about persons with disabilities.

Highlighting the issues of violation of the rights of persons with disabilities, mass media prompt public authorities to solve the problems that persons with disabilities face every day, thereby influencing public policy.

It is necessary to note an intensive work in the judicial field regarding raising the awareness and professionalization of public servants, specialists, working with and for persons with disabilities, with regard to the rights of persons with disabilities[[8]](#footnote-8).

Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights has focused considerable attention on respect to the principle of equality and on protection against discrimination of persons with disabilities in realizing rights and freedoms.

In 2018 Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights increased her efforts In order to raise awareness of citizens, representatives of public authorities and local self-governments on prevention and combating discrimination, in particular discrimination on grounds of disability[[9]](#footnote-9).

1. Since 2009, the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine is the founder and organizer of the All-Ukrainian Festival of Creativity of Persons with Disabilities, «Colour of Life», one of the main tasks of which is conducting an educational work on the artistic possibilities of people with disabilities - various types of artistic creativity, literary, musical and theatrical arts, perfection of professional skill of invalids in different kinds of art. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine conducted the All-Ukrainian Social-Informational Campaign «I Can», dedicated to the International Day of People with Disabilities, which was presented on 22nd of November, 2018 in Ukrinform. The campaign presented the history of successful people with disabilities who inspired and serve as an example for others. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. On 15th of May, 2019, in Poltava, the Office for Family, Youth and Sports of the Poltava City Council together with the Poltava City Institution - the center of physical health of the population «Sport for All» held an inclusive sports and awareness event «Without Barriers», dedicated to the International Day for the Rights of People with disability. Pupils and students of educational facilities Poltava city and Poltava region, representatives of NGOs and guests of Poltava city took a part in this event. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. On the basis of the Kharkiv City Employment Center in 2018, was implemented the project «Creation of Inclusive Coworking» Affordable Employment». Within the framework of the Project, in this facility created a working space, installed special equipment on the principles of universal design for all people without restrictions, including for persons with disabilities of different nosological groups (with visual and hearing impairments, musculoskeletal system), for the elderly and persons with small children, which has expanded opportunities for them in matters of employment, access to knowledge and the labor market. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ukrainian public organization of disabled women «Donna-Ukraine» established for women after the surgery with the diagnosis of breast cancer has been active and focused on psychological support and explanations for what steps are to be taken by women after surgery to resume their normal lives. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Non-governmental project «BIBLIO HUB for persons with visual impairments» has been implemented. A special equipment was established in June 2019 at the Pavlo Tychyna Library (A. Sheptytskoho str., 24, on Mykilska Slobidka). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. In 2017-2019 a workshop “Inclusive Court: basic concepts and development path” was held in cooperation with All-Ukrainian Public Organization of Handicapped “Advocacy Association of Disabled”, Public Organization “Institute of judicial management” and All-Ukrainian Association «National Assembly of persons with disabilities in Ukraine». [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. In January 18, 2019 National school of judges approved an intermittent training programme for judges with the purpose of capacity-building of judges at the workshop “Key guidelines of communication with persons with intellectual disabilities and mental disorders” organized in cooperation with Public Organization “Advocacy organization “Human Rights”. Event is organized within the implementation of the project “Development and testing of a training course for judges and employees of the court apparatus on the peculiarities of communication with persons with intellectual and psychological disorders”, established through the USAID within the program “New justice”. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. In cooperation with international and non-governmental organizations, in particular the United Nations Office in Ukraine and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Ukraine, seven trainings on "Recognition and Response to Discrimination" were held for representatives of public authorities and local self-government authorities in the cities of Dnipro, Uzhhorod, Zhytomyr, Khmelnytsky, Chernivtsi, Lutsk, Kropivnitsky. Inter alia, a topic "Discrimination on the basis of disability and health: issues and methods of combating" was included into the program of the training.

   During the the annual action "16 Days Against Violence" and in order to promote the principle of equality and non-discrimination among students, a lecture on "Life without barriers" was held for students of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.

   Employees of the Department on monitoring of equal rights and freedoms of the Secretariat of the Commissioner together with public organizations, focused on equality issues, conducted a workshop “Equal human rights - equal opportunities” for students of the Igor Sikorsky Polytechnic Institute. During the event students were informed about the key aspects of national and international law, which guarantees the equality of human rights and freedoms, mechanisms for ensuring the principle of equality, and observance of the principle of non-discrimination, including those with disabilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)