

What is the origin of human rights? What are the fundamental rights? Who must defend human's rights? Do your kids get for you: freedom, equality, safety? beaten at home? Were your rights violated over with human rights the most? Where do you get information How to stand the last several years? rights Is it ok to violate rights of some social groups? Should prisoners be human rights in Ukraine? kept in bad conditions? advocacy groups? Is it acceptable What is the most to torture Does often reason for enemies? lynch law discrimination? Is there acceptable? discrimination in Ukraine? Should we teach human rights at school? Do you know about Ombudsperson and human rights advocacy groups activities?

WHAT UKRAINIANS  
KNOW AND THINK OF

# HUMAN RIGHTS

A PROGRESS STUDY (2016-2018)  
FINDINGS OF SECOND SOCIOLOGICAL SURVEY

**What Ukrainians Know and Think of Human Rights: a Progress Study (2016-2018). Research Summary / [S. Kolyshko, T. Pechonchyk, M. Parashchevin, V. Yavorskiy]; edited by T. Pechonchyk. – Kyiv, 2018.**

The publication summarizes a study of changes in perceptions and knowledge on aspects of human rights in Ukrainian society between 2016 and 2018 (the national human rights progress study). It is based on a nationwide sociological survey conducted by the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation in cooperation with the Human Rights Information Centre and with support from the United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine. Data for 2018 compared with the human rights baseline study that was carried out in 2016 using the same methodology. The publication is important for a wide range of audiences, in particular representatives of national and local authorities, journalists from national and local media outlets, researchers and educators, as well as representatives of civil society and international organizations.

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The opinions, conclusions or recommendations are those of the authors and compilers of this study and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the United Nations Development Programme or other United Nations agencies.

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# METHODOLOGY

17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS

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ЗАРАДИ СТІЙКОГО  
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8 ГІДНА ПРАЦЯ  
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12 ВІДПОВІДАЛЬНЕ  
СПОЖИВАННЯ



17 ПАРТНЕРСТВО  
ЗАРАДИ СТІЙКОГО  
РОЗВИТКУ

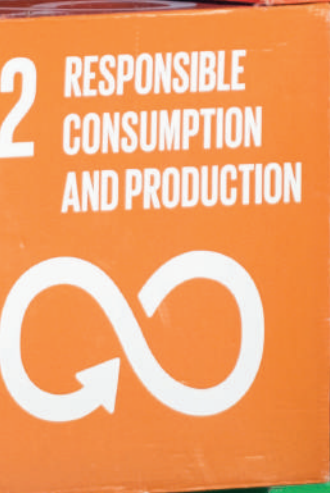


11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



11 СТАЙКІ  
МІСТІ





The human rights baseline study in Ukraine<sup>1</sup> was conducted in 2016 by the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation and the Human Rights Information Centre with the support of the United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine and in cooperation with the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. To understand the dynamics, trends and overall situation, the same team conducted the next round of the “What Ukrainians Know and Think of Human Rights: a Progress Study” survey in 2018.

The survey’s goal is study trends in the perceptions, ideas, and knowledge of human rights and fundamental freedoms in society at large, and among specific target groups, between 2016 and 2018. This, in turn, will enable the design of more effective strategies and tactics for human rights education campaigns, advocacy, developing formal and informal human rights education, and shaping evidence-based approaches and priorities in donor-supported human rights activities.

The topics of the surveys included: views on the values which serve as the foundations for human rights; opinions on the most pressing human rights issues; use of human rights protection mechanisms; identification effective channels for raising awareness of human rights and mechanisms for human rights education.

**The survey is based on the findings of a nationwide representative survey of the adult population of Ukraine conducted on 11-24 July 2018 by the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation and the Ukrainian Sociology Service company in cooperation with the Human Rights Information Centre and commissioned by UNDP Ukraine.**

**In total, 1,998 respondents were interviewed who were selected to be representative for Ukraine’s population for parameters such as age, sex, education, property status, type of settlement and region. The polling took place in all oblasts of Ukraine, and the city of Kyiv, except for the non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The margin of error does not exceed 2.2 per cent<sup>2</sup>.**

The regional breakdown of oblasts is as follows:

**West:** Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Volyn, Zakarpattia, Khmelnytskyi, Rivne, Chernivtsi and Ternopil oblasts;

**Centre:** Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Chernihiv, Sumy, Cherkasy, Kirovohrad, Poltava and Kyiv oblasts, and the city of Kyiv;

**South:** Odesa, Mykolayiv and Kherson oblasts;

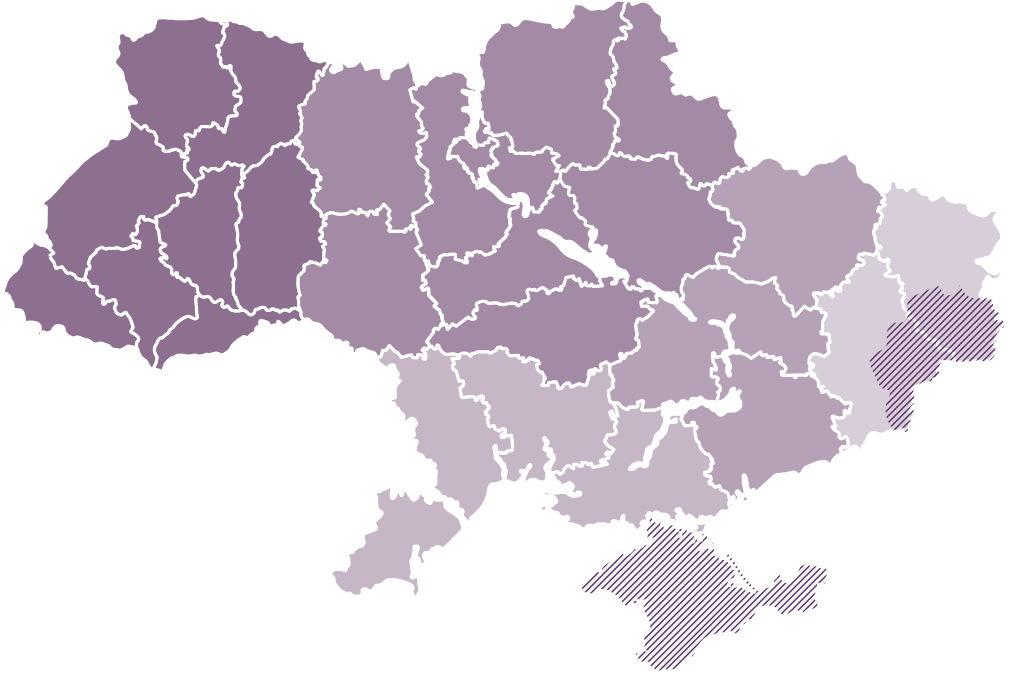
**East:** Kharkiv, Dnipro and Zaporizhia oblasts;

**Donbas:** the government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

<sup>1</sup>T. Pechonchuk (ed.), What Ukrainians Know and Think about Human Rights: Nation-wide Research / [I. Bekeshkina, T. Pechonchuk V. Yavorskiy, et al.]; Kyiv, 2017, at <http://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/library/recovery-and-peacebuilding/humanrightsresearch.html>

<sup>2</sup>In addition to the national sample, a sub-sample was created of 580 respondents aged 18-29. On the basis of this, a representative sample of Ukrainian youth aged under 30 was developed (N=1,071). The margin of error does not exceed 3.1 per cent.

Data is provided in comparison with the findings of previous nationwide poll conducted between 22 October and 6 November 2016. A total of 2,002 respondents in all regions of Ukraine and the city of Kyiv, except for Crimea and the non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, were polled. The margin of error did not exceed 2.2 per cent.





# SUMMARY





## VALUE-BASED DIMENSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

This sociological survey, conducted by the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation and the Ukrainian Sociology Service, has found that Ukrainians the right to life, it seems, enjoys a higher priority than social rights, 85 per cent of Ukrainians stated this. The right to life was accompanied by the right to social security, right to fair trial, the right to work, right to housing, right to education.

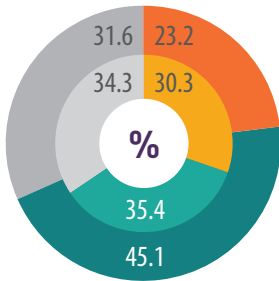
### TOP-10 THE MOST IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS (%)\*



\* Respondents may choose more than one answer. Responses are presented according to the decrease in the frequency of mentioning in 2018 poll.

Notwithstanding high level of poverty in Ukraine and economic crisis more Ukrainians prioritize rights and freedoms then in 2016. In the question of the priority of freedom and rights or material well-being 45 per cent of population (vs 35 per cent in 2016) stated readiness even to tolerate certain financial difficulties but ensure personal freedoms and safeguards.

## FREEDOM OR PROSPERITY? (%)



	2016	2018	
	30.3%	23.2%	In exchange for my well-being, I am ready to partially cede my rights and civil liberties to the State
	35.4%	45.1%	To ensure my personal freedom and the safeguarding of civil rights, I am prepared to tolerate certain financial difficulties
	34.3%	31.6%	Hard to say

As in survey of 2016 freedom, justice and dignity – the foundations of human rights – continue to rank among the value priorities of Ukrainians. Freedom was ranked highest (86 per cent of respondents reported it to be the most important value). Justice was ranked second (70 per cent), and security third (67 per cent). Over the past two years, security lost its second rank to justice. The high importance attributed to freedom and justice makes Ukraine different from neighboring post-Soviet countries. To a certain extent, this explains why Ukrainians do not accept non-democratic governance and various forms of pressure from the government.

## ASSESSMENT OF VALUE PRIORITIES (%)

(% OF THOSE WHO MARKED AS THE MOST IMPORTANT VALUE)\*

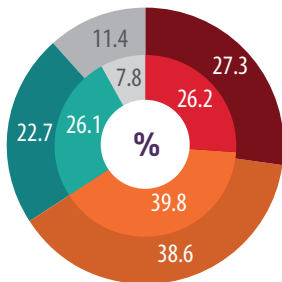


\* responses ranked relevant to the priorities of 2018

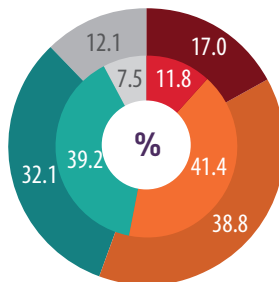
# DISCRIMINATION AND TOLERANCE CHALLENGES

Ukrainians ranked equality as one of the priority values at the same time, the value of tolerance is only important to every fourth Ukrainian. The readiness of the population to restrict the rights of vulnerable populations remains quite substantial, and is almost unchanged over the past two years. As many as 66 per cent of respondents believe that restrict the rights of persons with drug addictions can be restricted, 56 per cent justify restricting the rights of former convicts, and 51 per cent are ready to restrict the rights of people with unpopular political views. Intolerance of the Roma and LGBT communities are also high (47 per cent each).

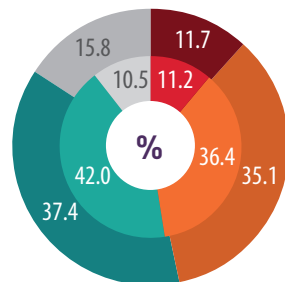
## ASSESSMENT OF THE POSSIBILITY OF RESTRICTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CERTAIN SOCIAL GROUPS (%)



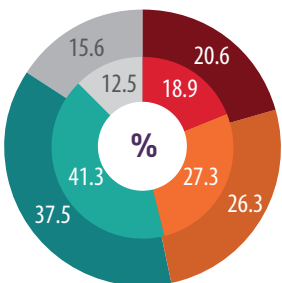
DRUG ADDICTS



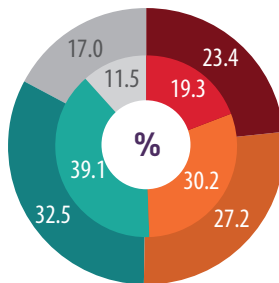
EX-PRISONERS



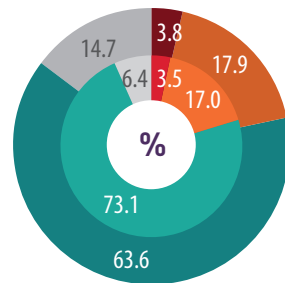
ROMA



LGBT



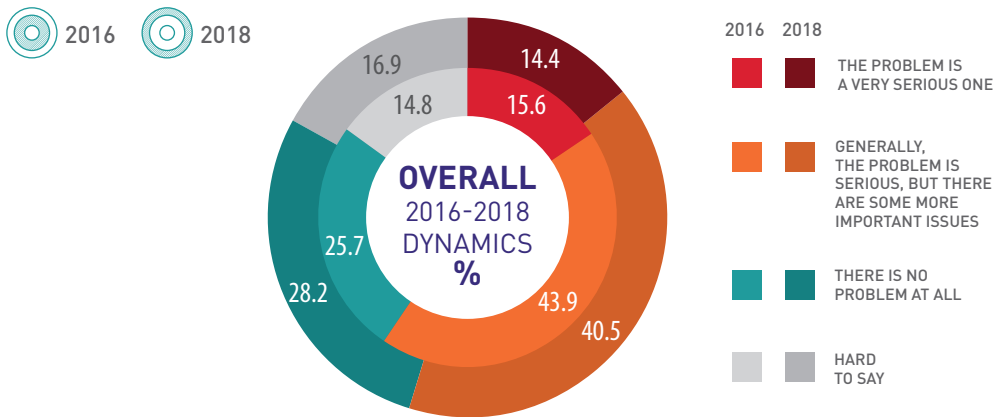
PEOPLE WITH CERTAIN POLITICAL OPINIONS



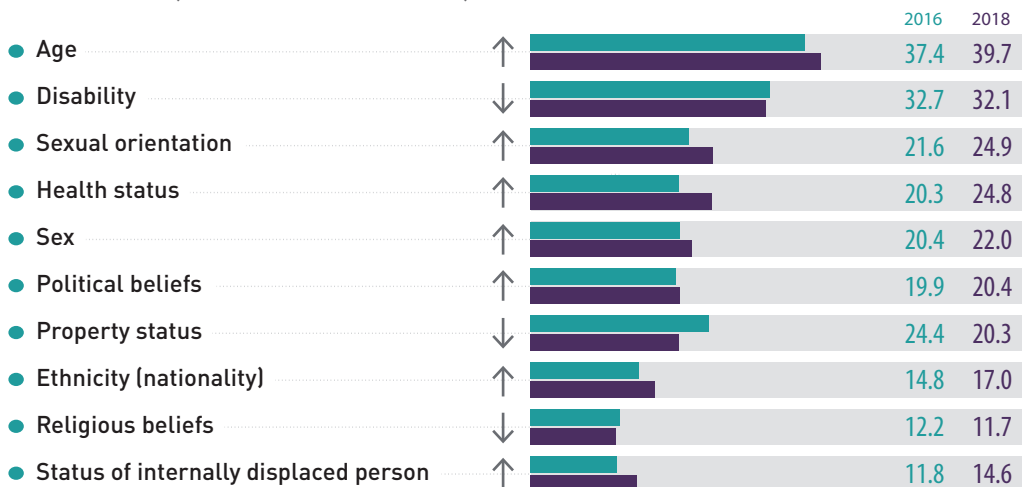
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Meanwhile, perceptions of discrimination are quite widespread in Ukrainian society, with 55 per cent of respondents believing that it exists. According to the respondents, the most common reasons for discrimination are age (40 per cent), disability (32 per cent), sexual orientation (24 per cent), health status (25 per cent) and sex (25 per cent). Also, every fifth respondent believes that there discrimination occurs in Ukraine on the basis of political views and property status.

## ASSESSMENT OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM OF DISCRIMINATION IN THE UKRAINIAN SOCIETY (%)

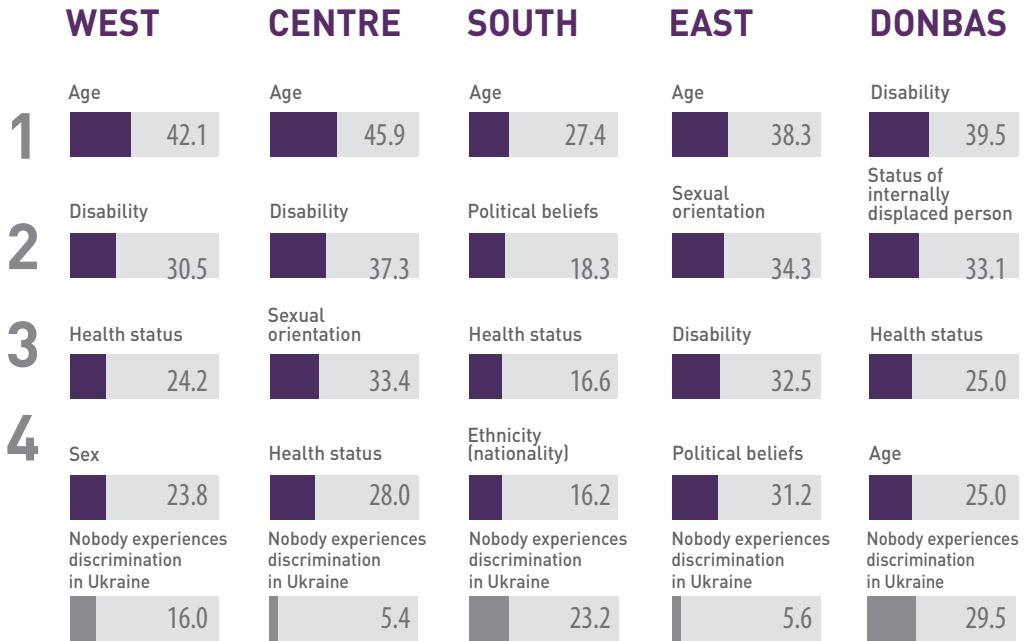


## ASSESSMENT OF THE 10 MOST COMMON GROUNDS OF DISCRIMINATION IN UKRAINE (% OF ALL RESPONDENTS)<sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup> Answers are ranked in order of decreasing frequency of selection of different grounds among all respondents in 2018

## ASSESSMENT OF 5 THE MOST COMMON GROUNDS OF DISCRIMINATION IN UKRAINE (REGIONAL BREAKDOWN, %)

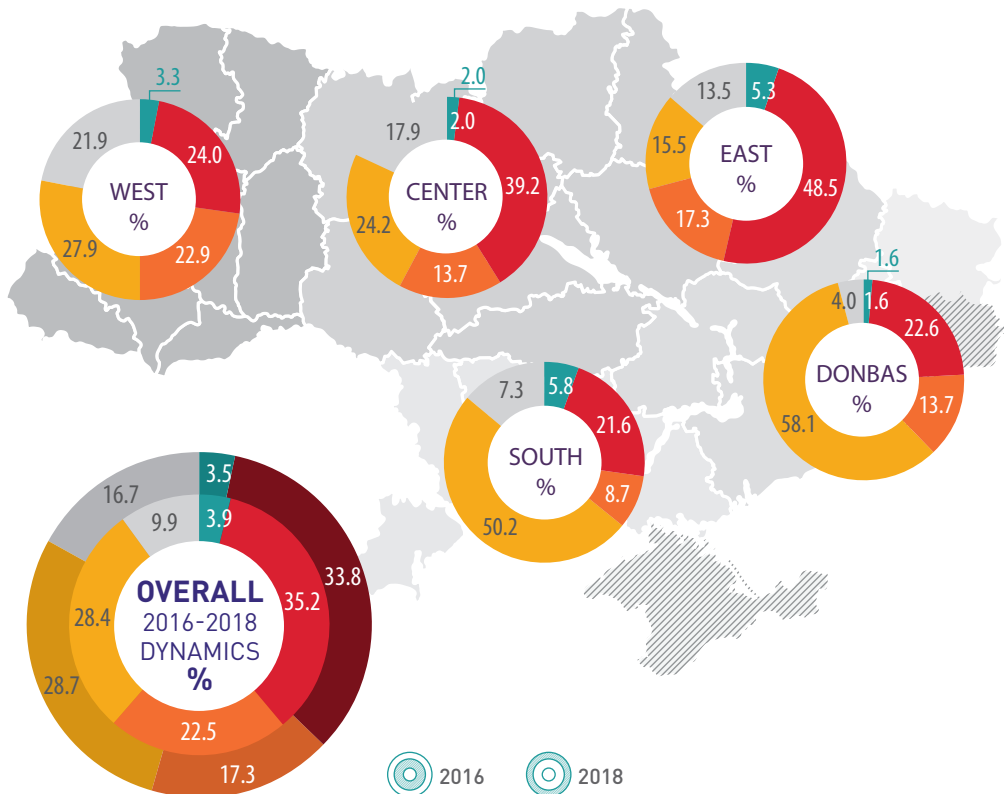


# ASSESSMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN UKRAINE

Ukrainians remain pessimistic about changes in the human rights situation since the Revolution of Dignity in 2014. Only 4 per cent believe that the situation in this field has improved, while 34 per cent indicated that the situation was clearly worse, and 29 per cent believe there has been no change.

## ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRESS WITH OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN UKRAINE SINCE THE EUROMAIDAN, NATIONWIDE (%)

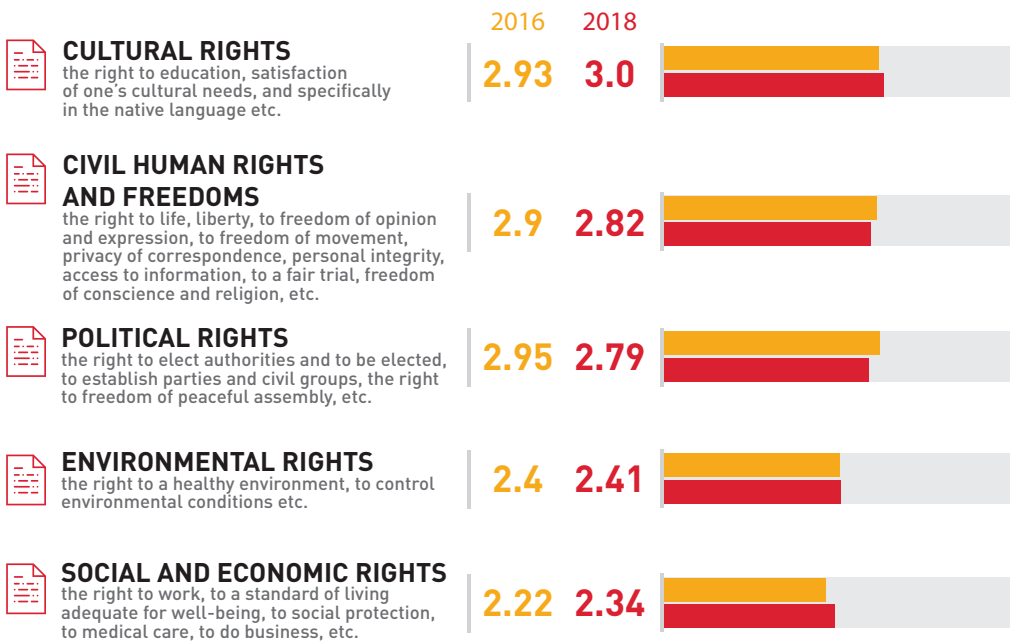
- THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED
- THE SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED
- FOR SOME HUMAN RIGHTS THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED; FOR OTHERS IT HAS DETERIORATED
- NOTHING HAS REALLY CHANGED
- HARD TO SAY



The overall perception index of the observance of various human rights fluctuates between 2 and 3 points on a 5-point scale. As in 2016 relatively higher grades were given to observance of political, cultural rights and basic civil rights<sup>4</sup>, while the lowest scores were saved for observance of social and economic rights.

## ASSESSMENT OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

(5-SCALE SCORING SYSTEM, WHERE 1 INDICATED A VERY POOR OBSERVANCE, AND 5 – VERY GOOD OBSERVANCE)



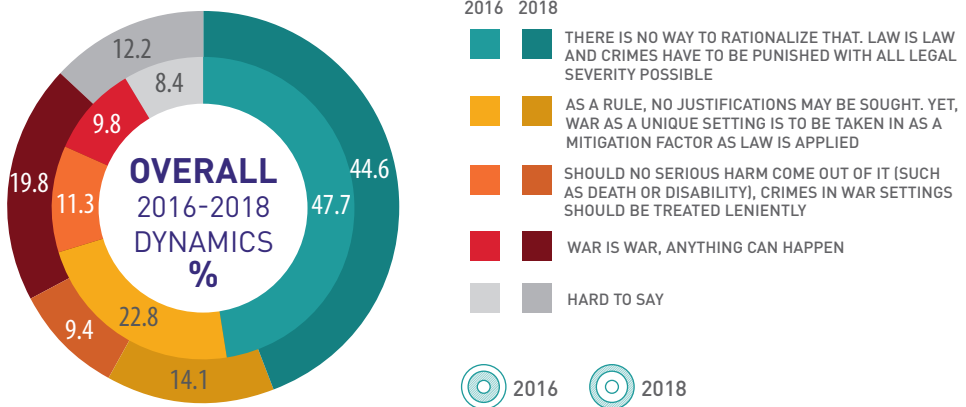
<sup>4</sup>Shush rights as the right to life, the right to liberty, freedom of speech and belief, freedom of movement, the right to the confidentiality of correspondence, the right to security of person, access to information, the right to a fair trial, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, etc.



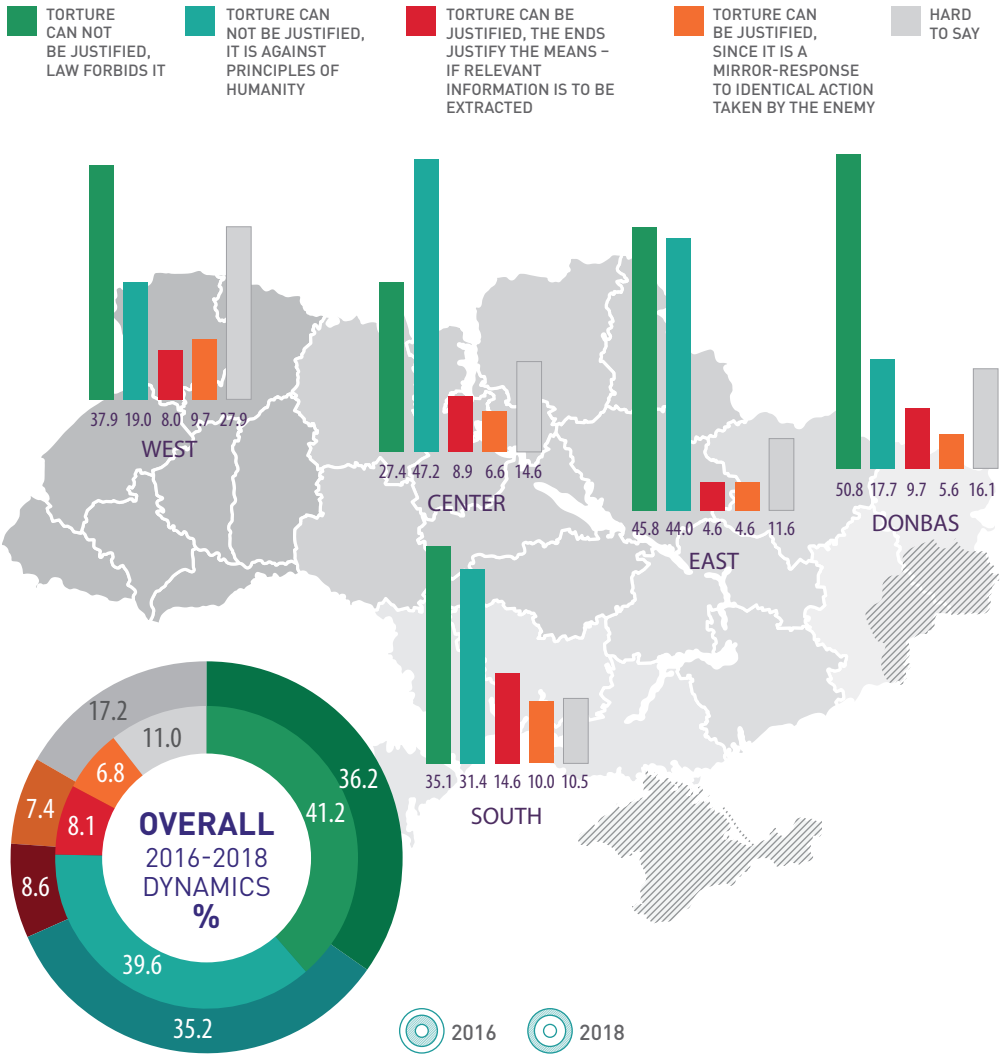
# THE IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON PERCEPTION, TOLERANCE AND VALUES

The armed conflict in eastern Ukraine continues to affect people’s attitudes towards observance of human rights. It is alarming that a large share of Ukrainians are still ready to justify illegal methods to achieve a seemingly “good” goal. Moreover, the farther the person is from the conflict area, the higher the level of acceptance of such methods. As many as 44 per cent report that the crimes committed by Ukrainian military personnel and members of volunteer battalions may be justified during hostilities, while 45 per cent are strongly against such a justification. Meanwhile, two thirds of the respondents opposed using torture against enemies during the hostilities, while every tenth respondent believes torture is justified.

## JUSTIFYING CRIMES PERPETRATED THROUGHOUT CONFLICT BY UKRAINIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL AND VOLUNTEER BATTALION COMBATANTS: PERCEPTIONS OF THE SOCIETY (%)



## PERCEPTIONS OF TORTURE APPLIED TO ENEMIES THROUGHOUT MILITARY CONFLICT (%)\*

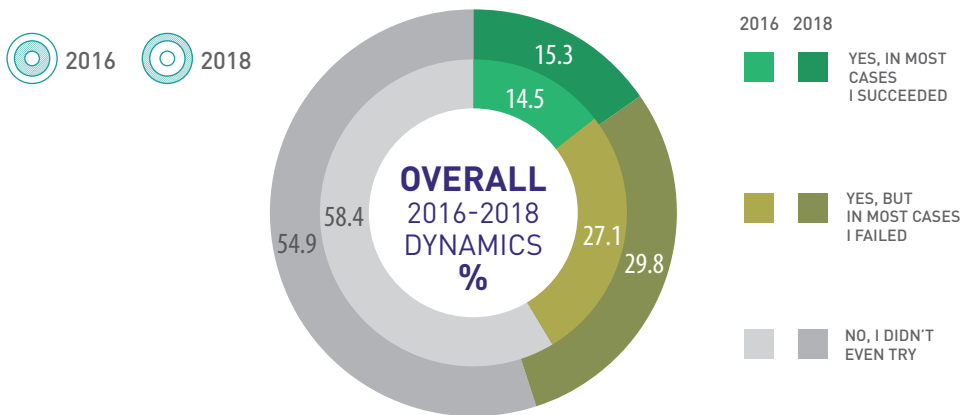


\*Respondents may choose more than one answer.

# PERCEPTIONS AND ACTIVITY TO PROTECT OWN RIGHTS

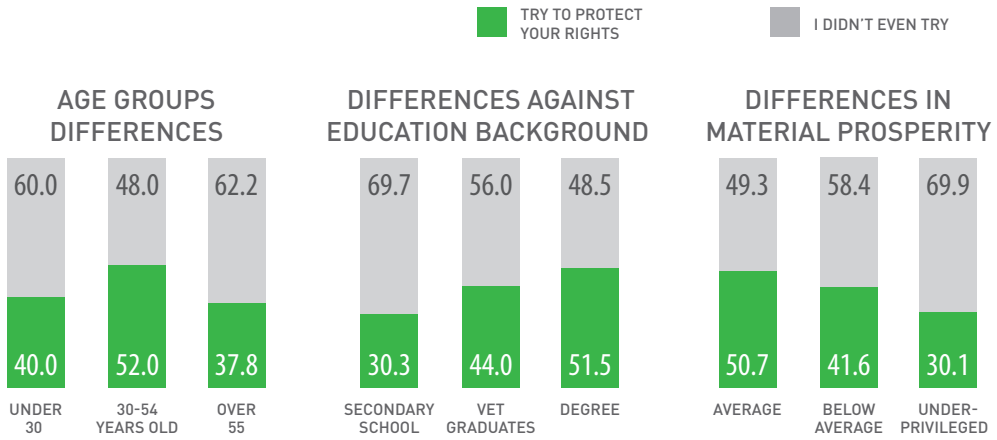
According to the study, less than half of Ukrainians have ever tried to defend their rights. Most people feel helpless. This suggests a serious crisis of public trust in the Government and mechanisms to protect human rights. As many as 55 per cent of those whose rights had been violated reported that they never tried to defend them. The rate of passivity and despair concerning protecting their rights is most critical in the southern region where 73,4 per cent of respondents said they had never tried to defend their rights.

## IF YOUR RIGHTS WERE VIOLATED, DID YOU TRY TO PROTECT THEM? (%)\*

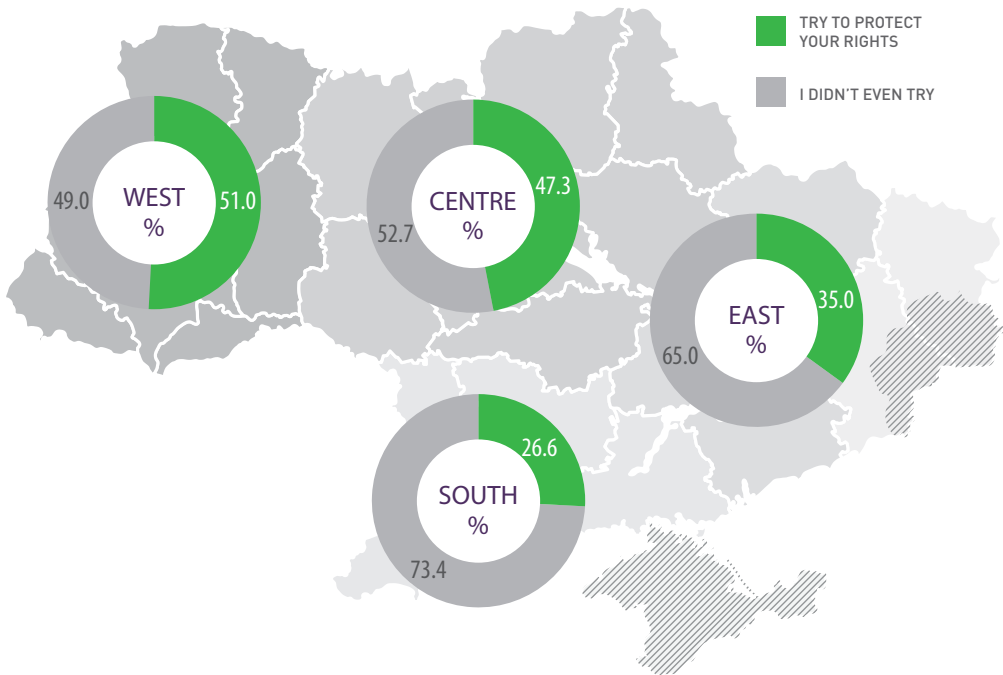


\* Percent of individuals, whose rights were violated

## GROUPS DIFFERENCES (%)\*



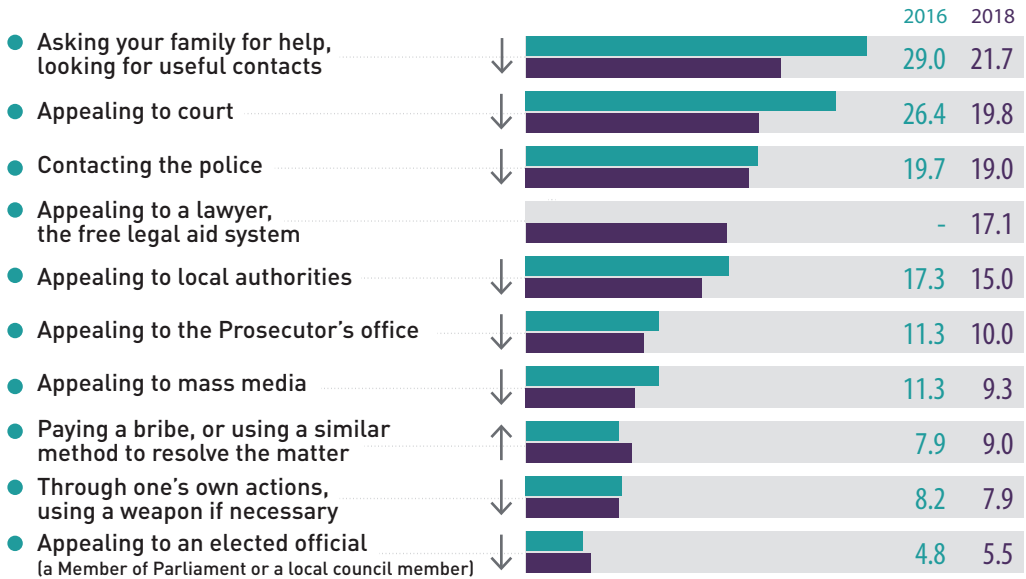
## REGIONAL BREAKDOWN (%)\*



\* Percent of individuals, whose rights were violated

When it comes to how the respondents tried to protect their rights, social contacts (family members and acquaintances) along with applying to courts were mentioned the most (22 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively). Other frequently mentioned means included contacting the police (19 per cent), contacting an lawyer (17 per cent), and contacting local authorities (15 per cent).

### TOP-10 REMEDIES UKRAINIANS USE TO PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS (%)\*

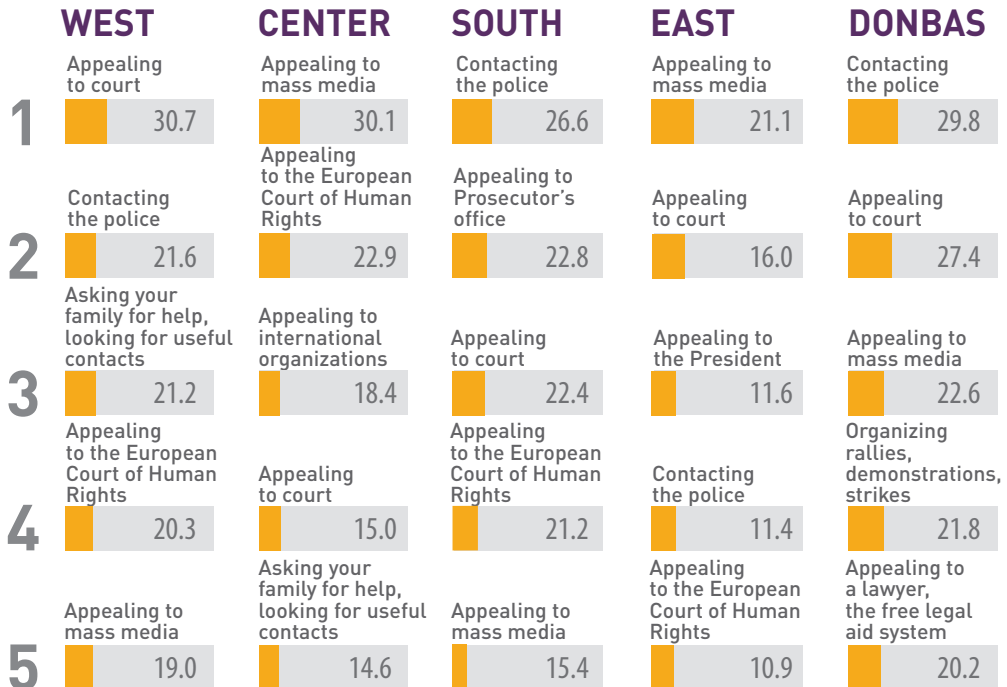


At the same time, contacting the mass media was perceived as the most efficient method way to defend human rights (23 per cent of respondents). Other frequently mentioned methods were applying to national courts (21 per cent), applying to the European Court of Human Rights (19 per cent), contacting the police (18 per cent), contacting a prosecutor's office (15 per cent), and social contacts (15 per cent). Meanwhile, 23 per cent of respondents believe that there are no effective means to protect human rights in Ukraine.

## OPINIONS ON THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO SEEK REDRESS IN UKRAINE (%)\*



## REGION-SPECIFIC (%) \*

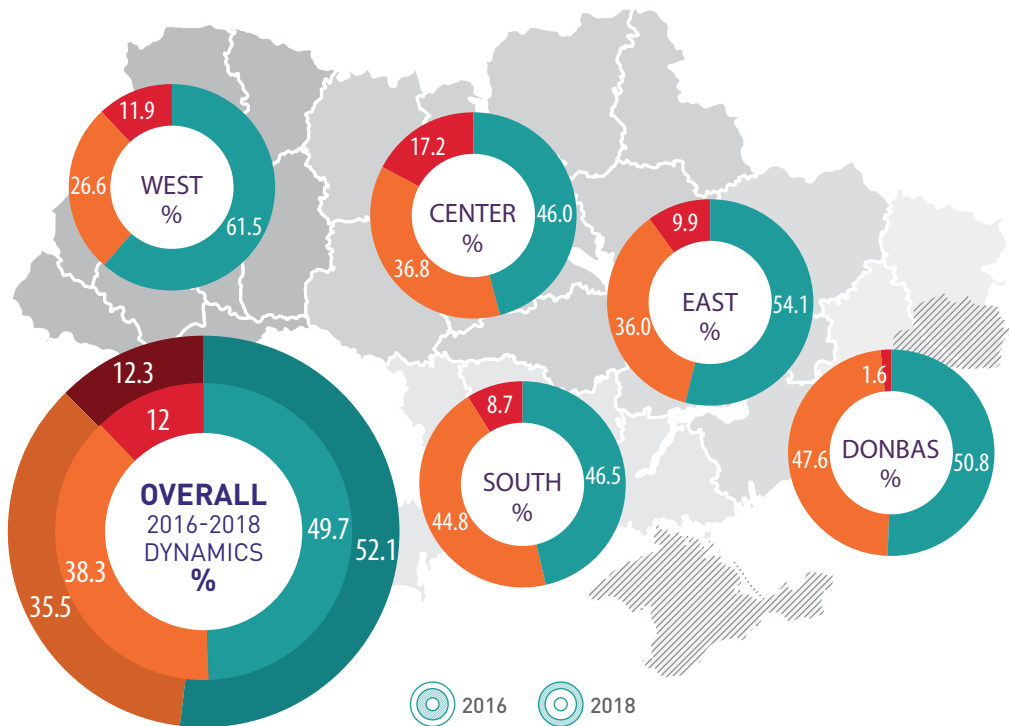


\*% of all responses. Responses are presented according to the decrease in the frequency of mentioning in 2018 poll.

The elevated level of support for implementing acts of people’s own administration of justice (mob law) is alarming. As many as 36 per cent respondents believe that a mob law is acceptable in certain cases, and 12 per cent say that a mob law is absolutely justified and acceptable. Only half of respondents stress that it is unacceptable. No significant changes have been observed with regard to this issue since November 2016.

## VIEWS ON ENCOURAGING ADMINISTER JUSTICE BY PEOPLE THEMSELVES (%)

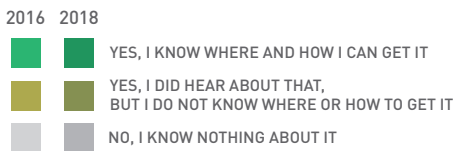
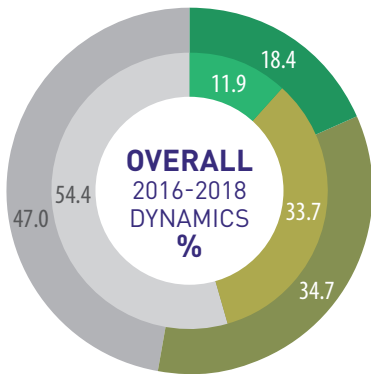
- I FIND MOB LAW UNACCEPTABLE UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES
- GENERALLY, MOB LAW IS UNACCEPTABLE, BUT IN SOME CASES IT MAY BE JUSTIFIED
- I BELIEVE THAT IN OUR CASE MOB LAW IS THE ONLY WAY TO PUNISH OFFENDERS



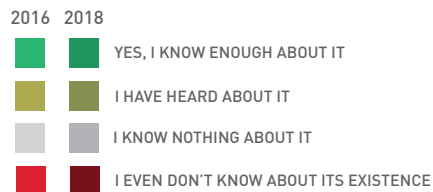
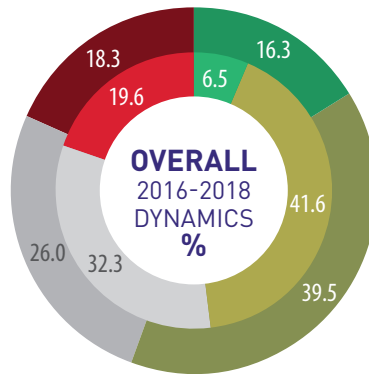
# ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION MECHANISMS

Notwithstanding civil society stepping up since 2014, NGOs still do not enjoy broad support from Ukrainians. The absolute majority of Ukrainians do not participate in NGO activities. As many as 78 per cent of respondents reported that they did not belong to any NGO, while less than 10 per cent were members of political parties or NGOs or participated in a volunteer movement. Public awareness of opportunities to receive legal assistance from the state is quite low. Half of the respondents – 47 per cent – are not aware of it. At the same time, the proportion of respondents who said they had received free legal aid from the state has doubled to 10 per cent from 5 per cent in 2016.

## DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE FREE LEGAL AID FROM THE STATE (%)



## DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE WORK OF THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OMBUDSPERSON)? (%)



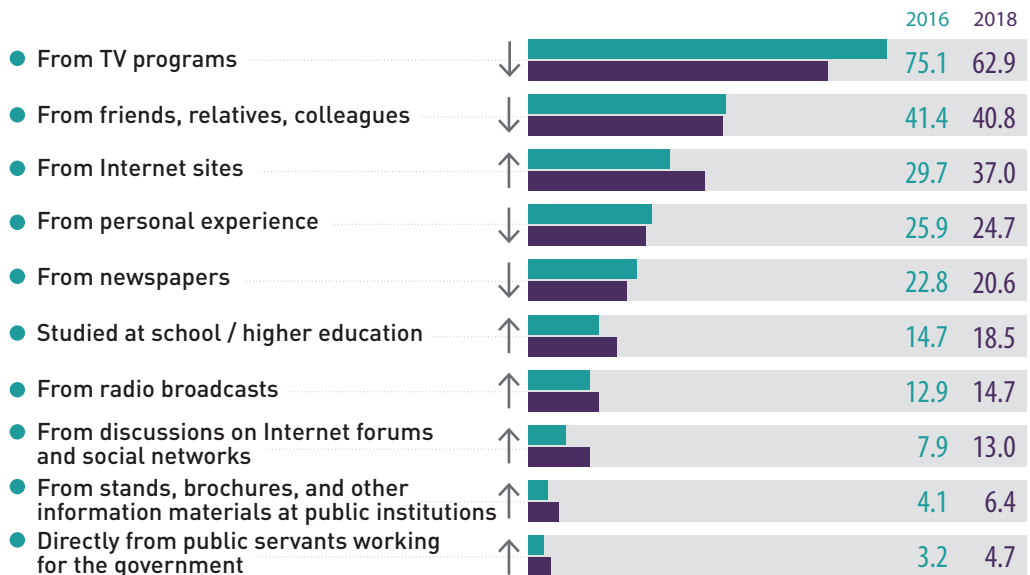
Public awareness of the activities of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights is also quite low. As few as 16 per cent respondents have a good level of awareness of them, 39 per cent have only heard something about them, and the others know nothing about these activities.



## SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

Television remains clearly the most significant source of information about human rights, with two thirds of respondents receiving information from it. Friends, family members and colleagues are the second most mentioned source (41 per cent). The internet was ranked third, and mentioned by 37 per cent respondents. Since November 2016, this share has increased by 7 per cent. The proportions from sources such as education facilities and social networks are also increasing (by 4 and 5 per cent respectively).

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE STATUS OF THEIR OBSERVANCE, METHODS OF PROTECTION (%)



# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS





This survey echoed the vast majority of the results of the first survey of how Ukrainians understand human rights. While it shows trends in certain perceptions, most of the views and attitudes did not change over two years: public awareness of human rights remains suboptimal, and people continue not to understand discrimination and the close correlation between equality and tolerance. The survey also revealed negative perceptions of current observance of rights and the course of reforms, as well as an overwhelming unwillingness in the population to defend their violated rights and advocate for their civic beliefs.

Summarizing our two studies – the 2016 human rights baseline survey and this human rights progress survey – we would like to emphasize certain trends and key conclusions in this field.

## UKRAINIAN PEOPLE SHOW QUITE A HIGH LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VALUES, ALTHOUGH...

...the survey identified a significant gap in core values. The top values are freedom, justice, dignity and equality, but tolerance (which is virtually the reverse side of equality) is an outsider in the rating of values. Meanwhile, many people prioritize values that to some extent can be perceived as antithetical to human rights (such as morality and security).

In general, the findings on priority values are almost unchanged over the two years. Once again they prove the importance of educating about these values from school, as it is more difficult to change the attitudes of adults. Therefore, the teaching of human rights in secondary and higher education needs to be expanded, and other subjects should be also taught taking account of human rights. This will create the basis for modifying values in the long run and promoting democracy as a form of governance.

## TWO THIRDS OF PEOPLE PRIORITIZE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS, AND THIS IS NOT SURPRISING...

...given the high poverty rate in Ukraine. Slightly more than half the population have incomes lower than the effective minimum subsistence level, and every fourth Ukrainian lives in extreme poverty.

One concern is that the general public are not fully aware of the primacy of fundamental rights and freedoms. This is what gives fertile soil to populists who promise prosperity and other economic benefits, regardless of whether there the government has money for this.

Prioritizing social and economic rights also indicates high expectations of citizens from the state. In a democratic society, a person wants mechanisms to help the country develop its economy and

enable a person to become economically independent. This is yet another proof of the value gap in Ukraine – some people have already started enjoying free development and self-sufficiency, while among the others, a Soviet habit of expecting everything from the government still prevails. These groups advocate for mutually exclusive paths of national development: this is a potential source of persistent ideological conflicts.

Meanwhile, today's politicians and the government – particularly during the pre-election year – are continuing to declare a focus on addressing economic problems and raising living standards, while neglecting the importance and priority of protecting human rights. Indeed, reforms have been slow (lack of progress in implementing the National Human Rights Strategy is a vivid example), or even declared “untimely” (such as refusal to ratify the Rome Statute and the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), not finding solutions to pay the pensions of Ukrainian citizens on the occupied territories, and so on).

At the same time, the 2018 study showed positive dynamics in terms of an increased share of respondents who prioritize freedom and who would not give in their rights even if facing financial challenges. Therefore – and especially on the eve of elections – more effective reforms are necessary to uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms, and advocacy is needed aimed at ensuring respect for human rights while making political and security decisions in the country.

## OVER HALF THE PEOPLE CONSIDER DISCRIMINATION TO BE A PROBLEM, AND EVERY FOURTH UKRAINIAN FACES DISCRIMINATION PERSONALLY, WHILE...

... 50-60 per cent of Ukrainians tend to approve of restricting the rights of persons with drug addiction, former convicts, persons with unpopular political views, Roma individuals and LGBT persons. Moreover, the readiness to restrict the rights of these populations has increased. This is alarming, especially in the context of recent attacks against Roma settlements and the LGBT community.

There is no simple solution to this problem. An integrated approach should be developed involving both the government and non-government actors. On the one hand, a balanced educational approach is necessary to promote the importance of values such as equality and tolerance, while on the other hand, a special focus should be placed on those who can have a direct impact on people's attitudes: teachers and journalists, politicians and public officials.

The government's policy for preventing conflicts and effective investigation of human rights violations should also be an integral element of this solution, as the desire to take justice into one's own hands is mostly due to people's despair about the way the law enforcement system is functioning.

## **PEOPLE HAVE TO DEVELOP AGENCY AND TRY TO PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS ON THEIR OWN, BECAUSE...**

...in any country, the level of observance of human rights is proportional to the level of civic activism and advocacy for human rights. No governments that simply give rights and freedoms: this is always preceded by a long struggle. Therefore, it is important to engage as many people as possible in protecting their rights in a legal way. The more people do this, the sooner Ukraine will build a genuine democracy with effective mechanisms for protecting human rights. The overwhelmingly prevalent passive attitudes of citizens create a strong basis for undemocratic activities by the government and risks of moving away from democracy.

The survey shows that less than half of Ukrainians have ever tried to defend their rights. Most people are in despair. This indicates a serious crisis of public trust in the government and mechanisms to protect human rights. This crisis is well-grounded, as only a third of the minority of Ukrainians who have ever tried to defend their rights believes that they were successful. In other words, the problem is not only the poor image of protection mechanisms, but also to a large extent the real problems in their functioning.

Moreover, public awareness of the activities of human rights organizations – while increasing – is still suboptimal. Media that shared positive cases and success stories, and human rights organizations that delivered advocacy and awareness-raising could be instrumental in encouraging Ukrainians to protect their rights.

## **MASS MEDIA REMAIN BOTH THE MAIN SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOL TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT...**

...awareness-raising, let alone human rights activism, is not a key function of the media, but rather a spin-off of their activities. Thus, a critical priority – especially for the human rights community – is to educate journalists about human rights, to mainstream human rights-based approach in reporting, prevention of manipulation, and so on. Indeed, high levels of trust to journalists impose high responsibility on them.

On the other hand, the survey shows the crisis of formal education system that can teach mathematics or other sciences, but hardly does any teaching about human rights and the rules of functioning of a democratic state. The media can only close the gap in knowledge in response to demands of the people. Thus, it is necessary to revise public education at various levels and ensure that teaching practices are based on respect for human rights and democratic values.

## UKRAINIANS IN ALL REGIONS GENERALLY HAVE SIMILAR APPROACHES AND VISION ABOUT VALUES AND PROBLEMS LINKED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS, ALTHOUGH...

... the problems, solutions and even top sources of information in any region have specificities caused by a range of factors, particularly the effects of the conflict. The survey proves that the perceived trends in most regions – except for Donbas – are almost the same and close to the national average. At the same time, the poll also proved that the public opinion in Donbas is not only very different from other regions – this, unfortunately, is the natural effect of negative experiences of violations of rights – but it has also drastically changed over a short period of time (for example, when it comes to perception of the efficiency of human rights protection mechanisms).

Therefore, the survey findings are yet another argument for a decentralized approach to regional policy and project planning. In particular, regional human rights plans based on specific regional problems and guided by national reforms and strategies could be a viable tool. Moreover, given the unstable situation in Donbas, it is high time to start developing long-term solutions for this region, as security and resilience are impossible without observance of human rights.

## UKRAINIAN WOMEN ARE MORE TOLERANT, AND UKRAINIAN MEN MORE READY TO TAKE ACTIVE MEASURES, ...

... while no significant gender differences in terms of values and perception of human rights observance were identified, some trends are worth highlighting. Women showed greater commitment than men to values associated with human rights, were more tolerant of other population groups, and were less supportive of radical ways of upholding rights, use of weapons and lynch law: for example, more women than men condemn the attacks against the Roma camps. At the same time, they are less successful at defending their rights, and thus more hopeless about the need to actually defend them. The analysis of personal experience – namely of the illegal actions that the respondents faced – shows that men more often report violations of their rights in almost all cases, including discrimination.

These findings confirm the conclusions and recommendations repeatedly documented by international and non-governmental organizations urging the mainstreaming of gender into policy making, and also raise public awareness in order to counter stereotypes about the roles of men and women in public life.



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