



**45th session on the United Nations Human Rights Council
Geneva, 14 September - 6 October 2020
Item 10: Interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner on Ukraine**

Madam President,

The International Catholic Child Bureau and Women Consortium of Ukraine would like to thank the High Commissioner for her oral update on Ukraine.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Ukrainian Children

6% of COVID-19 cases in Ukraine are children¹. 10.327 children have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 5.100 have recovered. One child under 9 died in Chernivtsi region according to UNICEF. Women Consortium of Ukraine received a lot of calls and testimonies related to domestic violence, violence against children which remains high and to the distress of mothers who have children with disabilities seeking for assistance.

6 years of conflict in Eastern Ukraine have destroyed or severely weakened child protection system in that part of the country where children and teachers in many educational facilities continue to suffer everyday violence. The protection gap has been deepened by the COVID-19 pandemic for children facing violence.

We call on Ukraine to dedicate specific counseling and protection programs to fight violence against children in all settings.

Ukraine's candidacy to the Human Rights Council 2021-2023

Ukraine was three times a member of the Human Rights Council [2006-2008, 2009-2011 and 2018-2020]² and is seeking reelection for 2021-2023. Ukraine has taken some positive steps for its previous terms. We call on the country to renew and extend its commitments and pledges so that no Ukrainian child is left behind and:

1. Take all necessary, practical and prompt steps to ensure the harmonization of the domestic legislation with the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention), including the effective implementation of its article 35 on interviews of sexual abuse victims (developing interview rooms all over the country, specific training to professionals to conduct interviews, etc.);
2. Develop long-term care, support, counseling and protection programs for families where children suffered violence, ill-treatment and neglect.

Thank you Madam President.

¹ As of 1st September 2020 according to UNICEF assessment of the situation, "UNICEF Flash Report - COVID-19 Impact on Children in Ukraine", 15 September 2020.

² UN Doc. A/72/500