



**46th Session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 22 February – 23 March 2021
Item 10. Interactive Dialogue on the High-Commissioner Report on Ukraine**

Madame President,

The International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE) and Women's Consortium of Ukraine (WCU) welcome the update provided by the High Commissioner on the human rights situation in Ukraine.

As pointed out by many OHCHR updates on Ukraine, the COVID-19 has negatively impacted the economic and social rights of families who lost a significant part of their incomes. This dire situation led to increased family tensions and the ensuing domestic violence severely affected children in households. In addition, the lack of access to online learning due to the lack of finances and appropriate technology devices alongside the restrictive measures adopted, professionals and NGO taking care of children have noticed a deterioration of both their physical and mental health. **We call on the Authorities to implement proactive programs to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 so that no family and no child is left behind.**

Our organizations are alarmed by the sexual harassment phenomenon experienced by girls on public transportation and in the street. They are often victims of a wide range of offenses of a sexual nature that happen, on buses and trains, as well as at bus stops and train stations. A 13 year-old girl harassed said: "It is so scary to be a girl in a men's world". **Concrete steps, including a specific legislation, are required to protect girls from these offenses.**

We call on Ukraine, as a member of the Human Rights Council, to join the Global Partnership to end violence against children. Becoming a pathfinding State will provide a genuine momentum to implement recent laws and policies addressing violence against children.

Thank you Madame President