



# Participation of Women in Ukrainian Politics



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## Impact of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity and conflict in the western Ukraine related to women's opportunities in politics

- start of transformation of oligarchic political system into democratic one;
- partial reorientation of masculine discourse from politics into military sphere;
- transformation of values and increased understanding of the importance of gender equality in the society

## Why is it the “wright moment for gender issues”?

- amendments to the electoral legislation offer the opportunities for increased involvement of women in the political activity;
- ongoing constitutional process makes it possible to incorporate the principles of gender equality in the new draft Constitution of Ukraine;
- commencement of the EU – Ukraine AA envisages implementation of a number of EU directives pertaining to non-discrimination and gender equality;
- administrative reform allows to raise the issue of vertical gender segregation in the state executive bodies;
- local government reforming and decentralization provide an opportunity to promote the value of gender equality at the level of regions, districts, individual settlements, and united communities.

## Representation of women in elected bodies in Ukraine

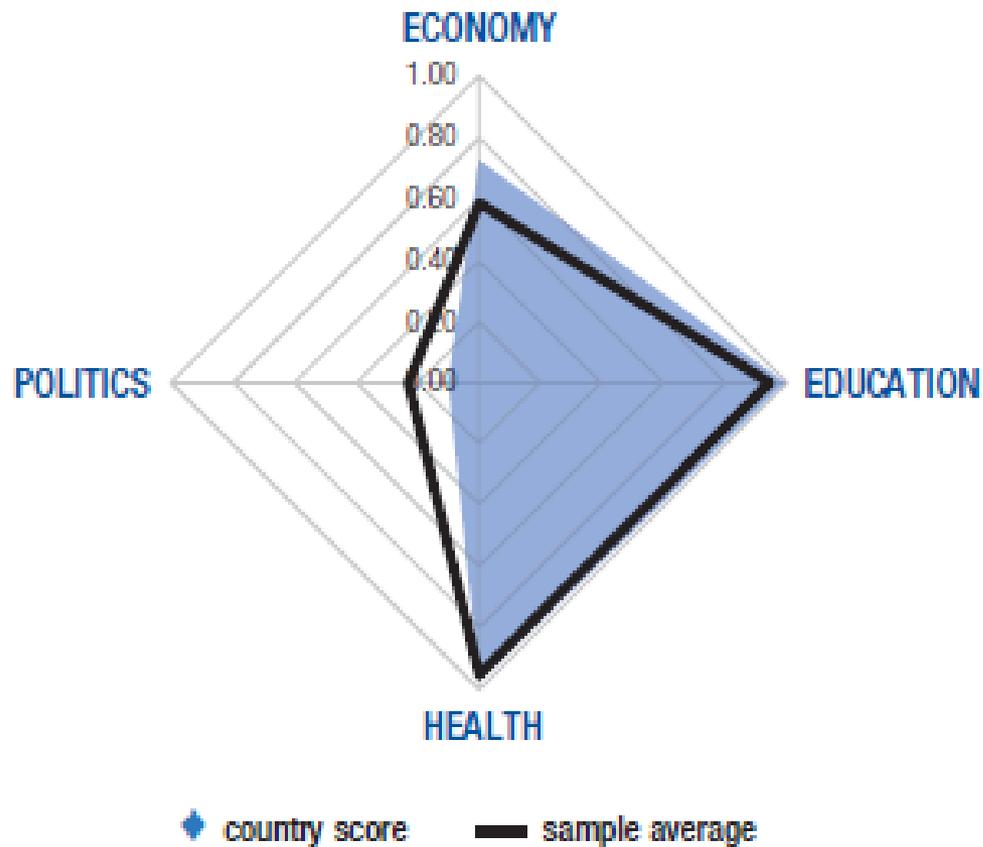
In the **Global Gender Gap Report 2015**, which is prepared by the World Economic Forum, Ukraine ranked **67** in the overall ranking among **145** countries.

## Global Gender Gap Indicators:

- economic opportunities – 40<sup>th</sup> position,
- level of education – 30<sup>th</sup> position,
- health sector – 42<sup>th</sup> position
- political participation – 107<sup>th</sup> position

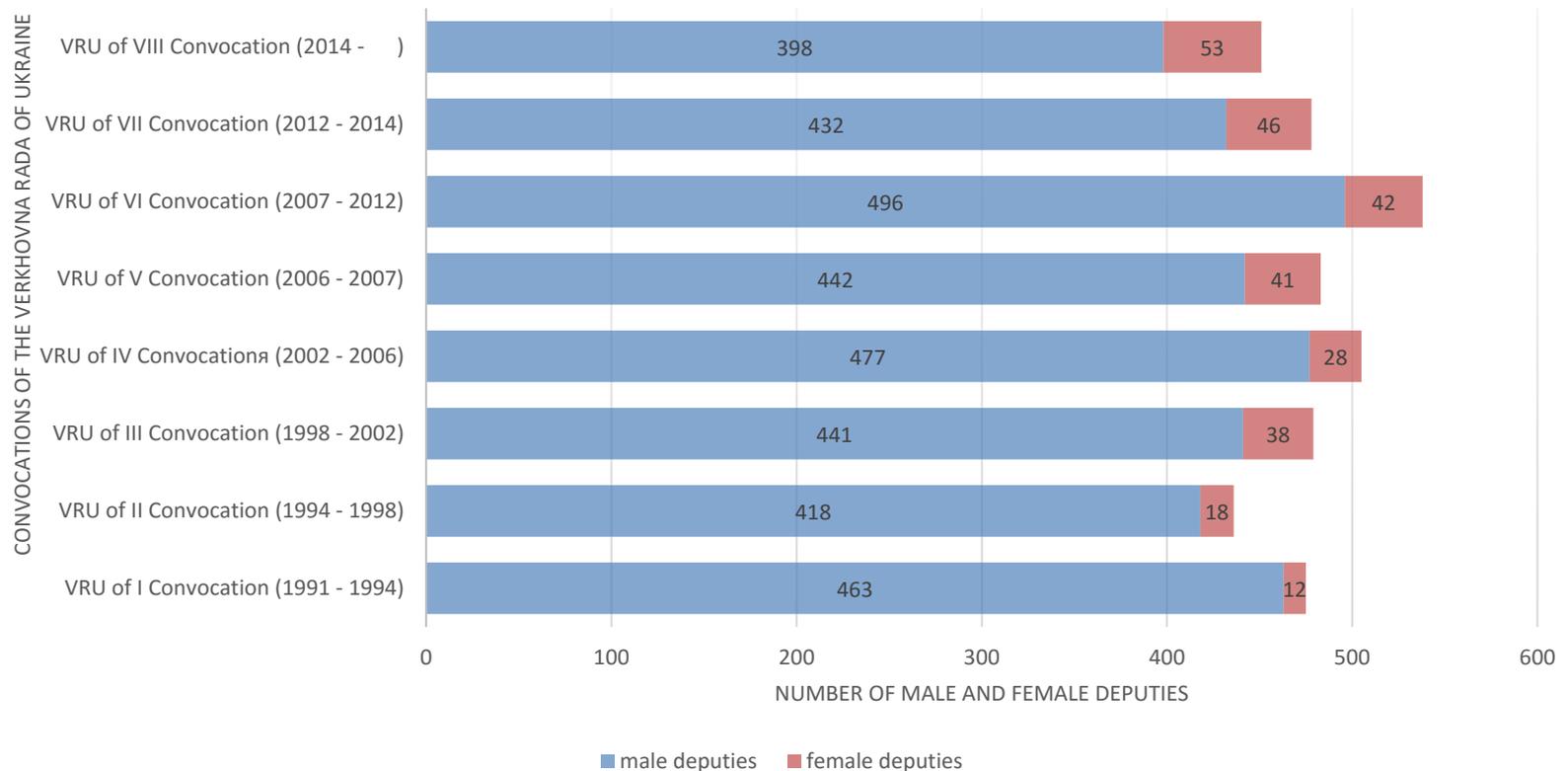
*According to all indicators except political participation, Ukraine occupies positions in the first third of the ranking*

# Global Gender Gap Diagram



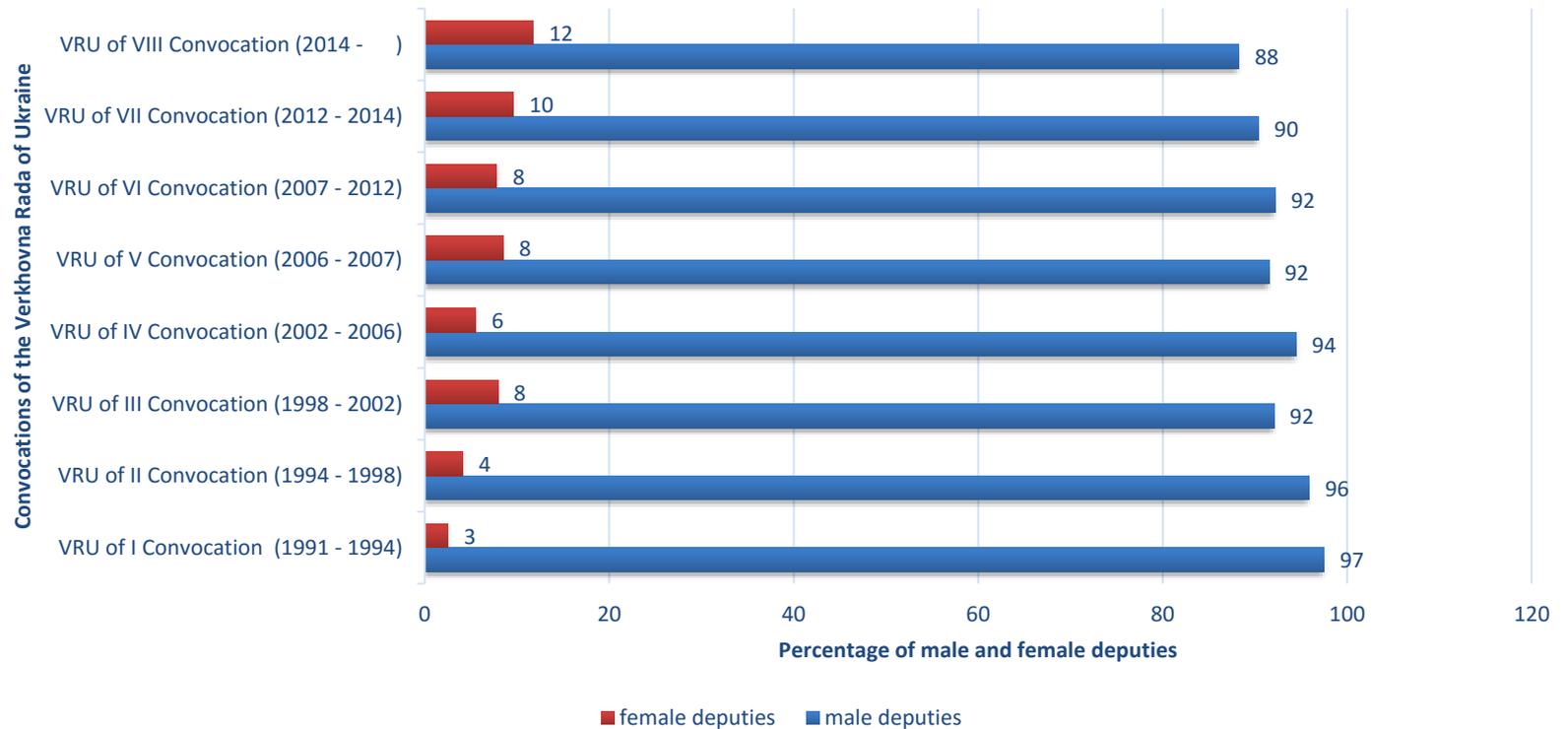
# Gender composition of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

**NUMBER OF MALE AND FEMALE DEPUTIES IN THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE OF DIFFERENT CONVOCATIONS**



# Gender composition of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Percentage of male and female deputies in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of different convocations



## Electoral systems

- majoritarian electoral system
- proportional-majoritarian electoral
- proportional representation
- half open party lists (only local elections 2015)

The **proportional representation** in which Deputies are being elected on party lists should be the most favourable for increasing the representation of women in the Parliament

## Subjects of the election

- only parties
- parties and blocs

**In the blocs, women are less likely to get to the upper part of the electoral list since:**

- bloc of parties are formed just before the elections,
- they have a short-term goal, i. e. to be taken into the Parliament,
- they do not have a single long-term strategy of the institution-building, including the gender trend

# Representation of women in the governing body of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

By 2014, no one woman had held the position of

- Chairman
- First Deputy Chairman or
- Deputy Chairman

# Representation of women in the governing body of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

The VIII Convocation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has been a breakthrough in women representation in the governing body of the Parliament:

- December 4, 2014, **Oksana Syroyid** was elected the Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
- April 14, 2016, **Iryna Gerashchenko** was elected as the First Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

# The work of female Deputies in parliamentary committees

## Quantitative analysis

- in the first two convocations, female Deputies did not headed any Standing Commission
- in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of VIII Convocation, female Deputies had headed 7 committees, thus representing 30% of all committees

# The work of female Deputies in parliamentary committees

## Qualitative analysis

- Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of **I Convocation** followed the Soviet perception of women only in the context of motherhood, thus female Deputies were presented in social and humanitarian committees
- In the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of **VIII Convocation**, female Deputies are represented in various committees, including state forming, security and foreign affairs committees

# The work of female Deputies in parliamentary committees

## Subcommittee on Gender Equality and Non- Discrimination

under the

Committee on Human Rights, National  
Minorities, and International Relations

*At all convocations of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, no one man has ever headed the Gender Subcommittee*

# **Activity of Inter-Factional Union “Equal Opportunities”**

**IFU “Equal Opportunities” had been founded  
in December 2011 in the composition of the  
Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of VI Convocation**

# Activity of Inter-Factional Union “Equal Opportunities”

IFU’s mission in 2001 was determined as **defending of gender equality**, especially in the economic and social areas, including:

- defending equal opportunities for men and women in matters of competition, education, access to medicine, participation in social and political life of Ukraine;
- joint support of draft Laws aimed at protecting children, large families, and mothers, or fathers who are lonely raising one child;
- changes in public attitudes on issues of the gender policy.

# Activity of Inter-Factional Union “Equal Opportunities”

Only in VII Convocation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, a task in the political sphere, including active involvement of women in political life, as well as in developing common legislative initiatives for these issues, has been set for the first time.

*This was one of the reasons for the split in IFU “Equal Opportunities”, and establishment in the spring of 2013 of a separate Inter-Factional Union “Equality” under slogan “For Equal Rights Without Politics”, joined mainly by the Party of Regions and individual Deputies*

## IFU “Equal Opportunities” of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of VIII Convocation

- 49 persons including 12 male and 37 female Deputies (76% are women and 24% are men)
- **headed** by four Co-Chairmen from different parties
- for the first time, the main task was determined to improve the situation of women in society and achieving **equality of women and men in state governing processes**
- the **Public Council On Gender Issues** has been created

## Public Council On Gender Issues

Six thematic groups have been formed:

**Group 1. Political Participation** – Olena Kondratyuk, Co-Chairman of IFU of Bat’kivshchyna.

**Group 2. Security and Peacekeeping** – Mariya Ionova, Co-Chairman of IFU of the BPP.

**Group 3. Gender-Sensitive Parliament** – Olena Sotnyk, a member of IFU of Samopomich.

**Group 4. Expansion of the Rights and Powers in the Economic Sphere** – Alyona Babak, Co-Chairman of IFU of Samopomich.

**Group 5. Ratification and Implementation of the Istanbul Convention** – Iryna Lutsenko, a member of IFU of BPP.

**Group 6. Gender Education** – Svetlana Woytsechovs’ka, Co-Chairman of IFU of the NF.

## Law on gender quotas

The Law of Ukraine “On Local Elections” dated July 14, 2015 has introduced legislative consolidation of gender quotas in the elections at the local level

Why 30% gender quota has not been turned into 30% women’s representation in the local elected bodies:

- the order of placing candidates of the same gender in the electoral list had not been determined;
- a subject that would monitor for enforcing the 30% gender quota, was not determined;
- sanctions for non-compliance with this requirement had not been provided

## Petro Poroshenko Bloc “Solidarity”

- the party faction includes 142 people’s deputies, among them there are 16 women, representing **11%**
- there is a person responsible for gender equality in the party leadership
- pays considerable attention to gender issues and increases the women involvement in the political sphere at the national level
- Iryna Gerashchenko was appointed as the First Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada and Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze was appointed to the position of Vice-Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine
- 18 representatives of the Party (of which 4 male-deputies and 14 female-deputies) are members of the Inter-Faction Union "Equal Opportunities"

## Political Party "People's Front"

- the party faction includes 81 people's deputies, among them there are 11 women, representing **14%**
- 13 representatives of the Party (of which 3 male-deputies and 10 female-deputies) are members of the Inter-Faction Union "Equal Opportunities"
- lack of parties' development strategies in general (party did not participate in the local elections in 2015)

## Political Party "Opposition bloc"

- the party faction includes 43 people's deputies, among them there are 3 women, representing **7%**
- 1 representative of the Party are members of the Inter-Faction Union "Equal Opportunities"
- the issue of gender equality is not on the agenda
- the party has no long-term party development strategy in general

## Political Party "Union "Samopomich"

- the party faction includes 26 people's deputies, among them there are 8 women, representing **31%**
- the party is exclusive parliamentary force that fulfilled the 30% gender quota according to the results of parliamentary elections of 2014
- 5 representatives of the Party are members of the Inter-Faction Union "Equal Opportunities"
- Oksana Syroid was elected as Deputy Chairman of Verkhovna Rada
- in 2015, the Party conducted its members to 15 regional councils, while 8 of them was able to ensure the 30% gender quota

## Radical Party of Oleh Lyashko

- the party faction includes 21 people's deputies, among them there are 3 women, representing **14%**
- 1 representative of the Party are members of the Inter-Faction Union "Equal Opportunities"
- the issue of gender equality is not on agenda

## Political Party “All-Ukrainian Union "Batkivschyna"

- the party faction includes 19 people’s deputies, among them there are 5 women, representing **16%**
- 8 representatives of the Party, including 5 men, are members of the Inter-Faction Union "Equal Opportunities"
- the party tries to implement its own rebranding and renewal according to the challenges of time, pays attention to gender equality and tries to increase the women involvement in politics

## The party (parliamentary group) "Vidrodzhennya"

- the group consists of 23 deputies, among whom there is no woman
- no one deputy is a member of the Inter-Faction Union "Equal Opportunities"
- There is no issue of gender equality in on the agenda, the group is the situational political project of oligarchic type and has no long-term party development strategy in general

## Political party "Democratic Alliance" *(non-parliamentary party)*

- the party has two co-chairpersons, one is the man - Vasil Gatsko, and another one is the woman - Svetlana Zalishchiuk
- the public organization "Democratic Women Alliance"
- the party development is dynamic, the party plans to participate in next elections, both parliamentary and local levels

## Political party "Syla Lyudey" (*non-parliamentary party*)

- according to the elections in 2015 the party got significant representation in local government
- the intra party organization "Association Women's Initiative"
- the party is also actively working on gender policy in the political sphere and women involvement to their ranks

# Thank you!

