



Digest IRF

September 2015

Online course: Women and men: gender for all

In the Ukrainian society women's wages are on average 30% lower than men's salary! Even nowadays in Ukraine there is a list of several hundred jobs prohibited for women! However, in some areas it is Ukrainian men who are discriminated!

This and other topics will be discussed during the course which is designed for a wide audience: students, civil society activists, think tanks experts, HR experts, all who seek to understand gender issues. Together we will learn how to professionally analyze events and social phenomena from a gender perspective, how to avoid discrimination, how to better understand our rights and ways to protect them. You will also be presented arguments in support of the formation of public policies from a position of non-discrimination and gender equality, which can be effectively used in public debates. Also for most active trainees we plan to give gifts such as books and magazines on gender issues.

The course will feature the following well-known Ukrainian experts and public activists as guests:

- **Iryna Slavinska**, journalist of the Ukrainian Public Radio and the Ukrainian Pravda.
- **Olena Bogdanova**, expert.
- **Olga Vesnyanka**, journalist, expert on gender and human rights issues.
- **Rostyslav Semkiv**, director of Smoloskyp publishing house.
- **Maria Berlinska**, master of history (Kyiv Mohyla Academy NaUKMA), director of Aero Intelligence Support Center, volunteer in the ATO area.
- **Artem Chapai**, journalist, writer.

[Registration](#)

[See more](#)

Presentation of a new Strategic Advisory Group



On September 4, 2015, the presentation of a new Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) took place with an aim to finalize the draft law on the National Commission performing the state regulation in the energy and utilities sector. The members of this SAG are representatives of interested factions of the Verkhovna Rada, international associations of regulators, Energy

Community Groups, the European Commission support groups for Ukraine, embassies as well as Ukrainian experts in the field of energy and regulations.

[See more](#)

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More news is on irf.ua



First specialized department of palliative care for ATO members

24 hour supervision, operative care and technology not inferior to that of the world famous clinics. However, the most impressive is the fact that it was volunteers who built the clinic department. For example, they found and transported special beds from Germany. The new department was created from scratch in a little more than six months. During this time hundreds joined this initiative, and the project has become widely known in public.

As a result of this teamwork, they managed to establish not only wards with monitors and medical ventilators but also decent conditions for patients and their family members. That is why the project aiming to create this clinic department is called «Dignity».

Contacts: Wounded Warrior Aid Center
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[See more](#)

Internship at think tanks

International Renaissance Foundation in partnership with the Think Tank Foundation (TTF) under the financial support of the Embassy of Sweden in Ukraine (SIDA) announce a contest «INTERNSHIP OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AT THINK TANKS» (hereinafter referred to as the «contest») within the framework of the *Think Tank Support Initiative* in Ukraine.

The contest is aimed to attract university graduates to the work in think tanks; to popularize think tanks and analytical research practice among university graduates; to attract young generation of analysts to work for think tanks; to popularize the practice of internship for students on the basis of non-governmental organizations.

[Details & application form](#)

Corporate equality and human dignity

Using the recent experience of the American advocacy organizations, AUCO «Fulcrum» in cooperation with partner organizations established the corporate equality index.

Ukrainian corporate equality index is the national survey of corporate policies, rules and practices of private companies to prohibit discrimination in the workplace and support equality and diversity. The index involves a study of anti-discrimination on grounds of gender, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity. The index includes a survey of major employers of Ukraine. Those companies that scored 100 points fall into the register of «Best Jobs».

[See more](#)



Monument that split Mukachevo

In early September in Mukachevo, town with the largest in Ukraine Roma community of seven thousand persons, a massive monument to a Roma-janitor was established. This provoked diametrically opposite reactions among residents and civic activists.

Olga Zhmurko, Director of the *Roma Program Initiative* of the International Renaissance Foundation: «The monument in Mukachevo has been established to perpetuate in metal a stereotype about the Roma. The argument that it is the Roma who sweep the streets today does not hold water. First of all let us think why these people cannot apply for another job? Do they have a full access to education? Can their families give them at least minimal social and economic opportunities? In addition, this monument simply negates the efforts and contribution to the

development of local communities of those Roma who got education or are getting education (today there are more than 300 scholars and graduates of the Roma Education Fund in Ukraine), mastering the trade and by their own examples fighting the discrimination and prejudices towards their ethnicity».

[See more](#)



Supported projects

«Fair and transparent local elections – 2015»

The purpose of the contest is to promote fair election campaign and the conscious choice of citizens in the elections to local authorities in 2015.

[The results of the contest](#)

«Institutional Support to Regional Think Tanks»

The contest is aimed to develop the institutional capacity of regional think tanks and organizations working in the field of analytics. Within the framework of the contest organizations will be provided mini-grants for the development of a comprehensive medium-term strategy of their activity, streamlining the management, review of the charter and making the necessary changes to it, working out internal rules and procedures, audits, bringing the financial system of the organization in compliance with the international standards, etc.

[The results of the contest](#)

«The New Countdown»

The purpose of the program is to promote the employment of IDPs by creating opportunities for starting up and developing by them of their own businesses Project participants: internally displaced persons from Donetsk and Lugansk regions, Crimea and Sevastopol who intend to start, or to continue, their own businesses.

[Lviv](#)

[Kharkiv](#)

«Stop corruption: public action in Odessa region»

The International Renaissance Foundation jointly with the Odessa Regional State Administration initiate a contest of ideas and projects to develop and implement new mechanisms of public control in combatting corruption in the Odessa region

[The results of the contest](#)

«Stop corruption: public action in Lviv region»

Being aware of the risks and dangers of corruption for the civil society and the state, the International Renaissance Foundation together with the Lviv Regional State Administration announced the contest «Stop corruption: public action in the Lviv region». The contest was aimed at promoting joint anti-corruption initiatives of the public and the authorities in the Lviv region that will have a systemic effect to reduce and overcome the corruption in the region.

[The results of the contest](#)



Irma Vitovska presents a charity art project «Oscar and the Lady in Pink»

For the first time in Ukraine actress Irma Vitovska, the band «Ocean Elzy», stage director Rostyslav Derzhypilsky, artist Andriy Yarmolenko, choreographer Olga Semyoshkina unite their efforts to work on charity theater project «*Oscar and the Lady in Pink*» based on the novel by a world famous classic of the contemporary world literature Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt. The purpose of the project is to draw attention of the Ukrainian society to a mega serious social problem of availability of

palliative care for terminally ill Ukrainian children.

The premiere of «*Oscar and the Lady in Pink*» is scheduled for October 11, 2015 (in the premises of the Kyiv National Operetta Theater). The author, world famous writer Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt, is also invited to the show.

[See more](#)

Ideas from the Rada: confiscation of property of Yanukovych & Co. What will Europe say?

The draft law «*On Specific Conditions of Special Property Confiscation*» registered by the Verkhovna Rada was already highlighted by the European Pravda. Critical findings of the editorial, namely, that the draft law may lead to the opposite result, such as legalization of property of the previous government representatives in the European Court for Human Rights, outraged the authors of this document, whereas their supporters maintain that the draft law still corresponds to the European law standards.

So it is time to present the position of lawyers.

An analysis of the draft law was conducted by the Parliamentary Expert Group on European Integration (PEG), the impartiality of which would never raise doubts of anyone.

The work of this expert group became possible owing to financing by the international donors; the experts analyze the draft bills submitted by the Members of Parliament and look for provisions that may hinder the process of the European integration of Ukraine or, vice versa, confirm that a particular bill is «European».

[See more](#)

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