

## LAW

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### **INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE GENDER VECTOR OF UKRAINE IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD: ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ASPECTS**

**Abstract.** This paper examines the role of international norms in shaping the gender vector of Ukraine in the post-war period, with a focus on analyzing the social, economic, and political aspects. The study highlights the significance of international norms in influencing gender equality policies and practices in Ukraine and explores the implications of these norms on various dimensions of Ukrainian society.

The analysis begins with an overview of the post-war period in Ukraine, highlighting the challenges and opportunities faced by the country in terms of gender equality. Then it delves into the role of international norms in shaping the gender agenda in Ukraine, in particular those established by international agreements and conventions. The article analyzes how international norms have influenced the legislative and political framework, institutional mechanisms, and public discourse on gender equality in Ukraine. Furthermore, the study explores the social aspects of the gender vector in Ukraine, including changes in societal attitudes and cultural norms toward gender roles and expectations. It investigates the impact of international norms on empowering women, promoting gender mainstreaming, and combating gender-based violence in Ukrainian society.

The economic dimension of the gender vector is also analyzed, focusing on the influence of international norms on women's participation in the labor market, access to economic opportunities, and the gender wage gap. The paper examines the role of international norms in promoting gender-responsive budgeting, entrepreneurship, and women's empowerment through economic initiatives. Finally, the political aspect of the gender vector is explored, examining the impact of international norms on women's political representation, participation in decision-making processes, and the creation of gender-sensitive governance structures. The study assesses the extent to which international norms have influenced political reforms and the integration of a gender perspective in political institutions and practices.

Overall, this analysis demonstrates the significant role played by international norms in shaping the gender vector of Ukraine in the post-war period. It underscores the importance of aligning national policies and practices with international standards to achieve gender equality. The findings of this study contribute to a better understanding of the complex interplay between international norms and the gender dynamics in post-war societies, offering insights for

policymakers, researchers, and advocates working towards advancing gender equality in Ukraine and beyond.

**Keywords:** *international norms, gender vector, Ukraine, the post-war period, social aspects, economic aspects, political aspects, gender equality.*

**Introduction.** The post-war period in Ukraine presents a critical juncture for addressing gender equality and promoting women's rights in the country. In the aftermath of conflict and instability, the reconstruction and development processes offer an opportunity to reevaluate social, economic, and political structures through a gender lens. The scientific problem addressed in this paper revolves around understanding the role of international norms in shaping the gender vector of Ukraine during this transformative phase.

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a key driver of sustainable development and social progress. Recognizing this, the international community has established a wide range of norms, principles, and frameworks to guide countries in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. These international norms, rooted in various agreements and conventions, encompass diverse areas such as human rights, labor rights, political participation, and social inclusion.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** NGO working group on women, peace, and security presented a gender analysis of the situation in Ukraine in April 2022, focusing on the disproportionate impact of the conflict on women and girls, particularly those from marginalized groups.

They also provided a list of recommendations to address the consequences (NGO working group on women, peace and security, 2022). UN organization "UN Women" dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women highlighted several key points regarding gender equality and the impact of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine from 2020 to 2022 (UN Women – Europe and Central Asia, n.d.).

**The purpose of the article.** Analyze the role of international norms in shaping the gender vector of Ukraine in the post-war period, specifically focusing on the social, economic, and political aspects. Highlight exactly how international norms influence the policy and practice of gender equality in Ukraine, and investigate this influence on various dimensions of Ukrainian society. By examining the interplay between international norms and gender dynamics in post-war societies, the article seeks to provide insights for policymakers, researchers and advocates working towards advancing gender equality in Ukraine and beyond.

**Formulation of the main material.** The conflict in Ukraine has not only caused immense human suffering and economic devastation but has also had far-reaching implications for gender equality in the country. In the post-war period, it becomes crucial to examine the role of international norms in shaping the gender landscape of Ukraine. This article aims to analyze the social, economic, and political aspects of Ukraine's gender vector, considering the influence of international norms and the challenges that lie ahead.

The mechanism for implementing gender equality ensures equal rights and opportunities for all individuals, regardless of gender, without any restrictions or privileges. It includes methods such as creating and enforcing laws that prevent discrimination, monitoring compliance with anti-discrimination requirements, providing channels for reporting and addressing discrimination, supporting

motherhood and childhood, implementing measures for labor protection and women's health, and evaluating the effectiveness and legality of state authorities' actions (Rezvorovych, 2021).

In order to address the challenges that lie ahead, Ukraine must continue to align its policies and practices with international norms on gender equality. This involves not only enacting and enforcing legislation that protects the rights of all individuals, regardless of gender, but also working towards changing societal attitudes and norms that perpetuate gender inequality. It is crucial for the government and civil society organizations to collaborate in implementing comprehensive strategies that promote gender equality and empower women economically, socially, and politically.

The economic consequences of the conflict have had a profound impact on gender equality in Ukraine. The disruption of economic flows, the destruction of infrastructure, and the decline in GDP have affected women's economic participation and worsened gender disparities. Efforts should be made to restore the economy in a gender-responsive manner by ensuring equal access to employment opportunities, entrepreneurship, and financial resources. The international community can provide support through development programs that prioritize women's economic empowerment and promote inclusive growth.

The impacts of war are disproportionately felt by specific vulnerable groups, namely women, children, and individuals with disabilities. Since the initiation of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the United Nations has confirmed the tragic deaths of at least 2,296 women and girls as of the beginning of 2023. However, the actual number is expected to be significantly higher. Among the 7.9 million people who have been compelled to seek refuge in other countries, women and their children make up 90 percent of this population. Within Ukraine itself, 68 percent of internally displaced individuals are women, many of whom have experienced the loss of their homes and jobs, while lacking access to essential social services and protection. One year into the conflict, the dire situation resulted in 7.8 million women and 2 million girls requiring urgent assistance in the country (UN Women – Europe and Central Asia, n.d.).

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a key driver of social and economic development. Ukraine can create a more inclusive and equitable environment for women, enabling them to fully participate and thrive in the economy:

1. Establish policies and initiatives aimed at achieving gender equality in the labor market. Encourage employers to adopt fair compensation practices, eliminating any wage gaps based on gender. Eliminate discriminatory hiring practices and foster an inclusive work environment that accommodates the diverse needs of women, including providing maternity leave and supporting access to affordable childcare services.
2. Develop programs that enable women entrepreneurs to access funding, receive business training, and benefit from mentorship opportunities. Provide specific assistance and resources tailored to women-owned businesses, such as access to markets, networks, and support services.
3. Promote financial literacy and equal access to banking, credit, insurance, and tailored financial services to empower women economically.
4. Rebuild and prioritize essential social services, including schools, healthcare facilities, and support services, considering the specific needs of

women, children, and individuals with disabilities.

5. Provide comprehensive assistance, including housing, healthcare, legal aid, and psychosocial support, to internally displaced women. Address their specific challenges and ensure their participation in decision-making processes.

6. Prioritize gender-responsive budgeting to allocate resources equitably, address women's needs, and evaluate the impact on gender equality.

By implementing these recommendations, Ukraine can make significant progress in promoting gender equality in economic aspects and ensure that women are empowered to actively participate in and benefit from the country's economic recovery and development.

In the aftermath of the conflict, Ukraine faces significant social challenges that impact gender equality. Displacement, trauma, and the breakdown of social structures have disproportionately affected women and girls, particularly those from marginalized groups. International norms, such as the Istanbul Convention, provide a framework for addressing violence against women and domestic violence. The Convention represents a pioneering European measure designed to address gender-based violence effectively. Its primary objective is to establish legal frameworks that prevent such violence, ensure the protection of victims, and impose appropriate penalties on perpetrators. The Convention outlines clear guidelines and obligations for countries to proactively prevent and combat violence targeting women and domestic settings (European Disability Forum, 2022). The ratification of the convention by Ukraine demonstrates a commitment to protecting women's rights and fostering a safe society for all.

Gender-based violence is exacerbated in conflict-affected areas due to factors like insecurity, weakened rule of law, widespread impunity, distrust in occupying authorities, and the stigma surrounding disclosing incidents of sexual violence (Women in Ukraine face grave risks as Russia's full-scale invasion enters its second year, 2023). During conflicts, women and girls are at a higher risk of experiencing gender-based violence including being killed, tortured, sexually assaulted, and forced into marriage. Sexual violence is often used as a deliberate strategy in warfare, primarily targeting women and girls. However, it's important to note that men and boys can also be victims of sexual violence, particularly in situations of detention. Moreover, post-conflict societies witness a surge in gender-based violence due to factors such as the breakdown of the rule of law, easy access to weapons, disrupted social and family structures, and the normalization of such violence, which further exacerbates pre-existing discrimination. Additionally, trafficking is intensified during and after conflicts due to political, economic, and social upheavals, heightened violence, and increased militarization (United Nation Human Rights, n.d.).

There is a need for comprehensive measures to address the specific social aspects in the post-war period. Following recommendations highlight key areas for Ukraine to focus on, including access to justice, support services, prevention and awareness, and international cooperation:

1. Ukraine should place a high priority on establishing dedicated courts or tribunals that specifically deal with cases of gender-based violence. These specialized judicial bodies would ensure that survivors of such violence can access justice in a fair and timely manner. It is crucial to provide legal aid and support services to victims, adopt a survivor-centered approach throughout the legal process, and actively address the problem of impunity by ensuring that

perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

2. Ukraine must make significant investments in holistic support services for survivors of gender-based violence. It is essential to establish and secure funding for shelters, counseling centers, and helplines that offer immediate aid, psychological support, and rehabilitation programs. These vital services should be easily accessible to all survivors, irrespective of their geographical location or socio-economic status, with special attention given to marginalized communities that are at higher risk.

3. Ukraine should prioritize the implementation of nationwide awareness campaigns aimed at challenging and changing societal norms and stereotypes that contribute to gender-based violence. Educational initiatives should be introduced in schools, universities, and communities to foster gender equality, promote respect, and encourage non-violent approaches to conflict resolution. It is crucial to incorporate comprehensive sexual education programs that address topics such as consent, healthy relationships, and violence prevention.

4. Ukraine should actively seek and foster international cooperation, collaborating with other countries that have experienced similar post-conflict challenges. By engaging with international organizations, civil society groups, and regional initiatives, Ukraine can access valuable support, resources, and expertise in addressing gender-based violence and advancing gender equality.

By implementing these recommendations, Ukraine can make significant progress in addressing the social challenges faced by women and girls in the aftermath of the conflict. By prioritizing gender equality, promoting women's rights, and ensuring access to justice and support services, Ukraine can build a safer and more inclusive society for all its citizens.

Women's rights are often overlooked and marginalized in Ukraine, as well as in many other parts of the world. A notable instance is the limited opportunities available to women in Ukraine to actively participate in political affairs, thereby hindering their ability to shape and advocate for their own priorities and concerns (Kachynska, 2018). Political participation and representation of women remain critical aspects of gender equality in post-war Ukraine. Despite some progress, women's political participation still lags behind international standards. Enhancing women's presence in decision-making positions is crucial for promoting inclusive governance and ensuring that women's voices are heard in post-war reconstruction efforts. International norms, such as United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, call for women's meaningful participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes. This document highlights the crucial involvement of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian responses, and post-conflict reconstruction. It emphasizes the equal participation of women in all endeavors related to maintaining peace and security. A primary objective of the resolution is to enhance the representation of women in UN peace and security initiatives, while also integrating gender perspectives.

It explicitly calls for concrete actions to safeguard women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse in times of armed conflict (Office of the special adviser on gender, n.d). Strengthening the implementation of such norms can contribute to a more inclusive political landscape in Ukraine. Women are active agents in both war and peace; they can

be both victims and perpetrators of violence, as well as agents of change in peaceful conflict resolution. Women contribute to human security in their local communities, as well as at national, regional, and international levels (The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, n.d).

The promotion of gender equality and women's rights is a crucial aspect of post-war recovery in Ukraine. Despite the progress made, women continue to face significant challenges in political participation and representation. This set of recommendations aims to address these issues by prioritizing women's political empowerment, enforcing gender equality legislation, challenging gender stereotypes, creating support networks, promoting inclusive decision-making processes, and seeking international cooperation:

1. Ukraine should place a strong emphasis on promoting and increasing women's political participation and representation across all levels of governance. To achieve this, it is crucial to implement measures such as introducing gender quotas or targets for political party candidate lists. Furthermore, empowering women's leadership within political parties and establishing mentorship and training programs will provide the necessary resources and support for women to actively engage in political affairs.

To further enhance women's political participation and representation in Ukraine, it is recommended to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of the existing gender quota of 70/30 for political party candidate lists. This should be accompanied by empowering women's leadership within political parties through mentorship programs and creating opportunities for them to participate in decision-making processes. Additionally, capacity building and training programs should be developed, focusing on political leadership and skills specific to women. Promoting a gender-sensitive political culture, sharing best practices, and conducting research and data collection will contribute to creating a more inclusive and equitable political landscape in Ukraine (Anisimova, 2023).

2. Ukraine must prioritize the effective enforcement of gender equality legislation to ensure equal opportunities for women in political participation. This entails addressing discriminatory practices and removing barriers that hinder women's access to decision-making positions. To monitor progress and identify areas requiring improvement, it is crucial to establish robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms. By doing so, Ukraine can proactively work towards creating a more inclusive political environment that upholds gender equality.

3. Ukraine should undertake nationwide awareness campaigns aimed at challenging and transforming gender stereotypes, while highlighting the significance of women's political participation. It is essential to implement educational programs in schools and universities that foster gender equality values and inspire young women to actively engage in politics. Collaborating with civil society organizations and the media can play a pivotal role in reshaping societal attitudes, recognizing the valuable contributions of women in political spheres, and promoting a culture that values gender equality.

4. Ukraine should establish robust support networks and platforms that promote collaboration and the exchange of information among women in politics. These networks can serve as valuable sources of mentorship, peer support, and skill development opportunities. By creating a supportive environment, women in politics can overcome challenges, share their experiences, and collectively advocate for policies and initiatives that prioritize

gender equality. These networks play a crucial role in empowering women and fostering a strong community of female leaders in political spheres.

5. Ukraine should actively promote inclusive and participatory decision-making processes that embrace diverse perspectives, including those of women and marginalized groups. It is crucial to foster dialogue and consultation with women's organizations and civil society groups, ensuring that their voices are not only heard but also incorporated into post-war reconstruction efforts and policymaking. By prioritizing inclusivity, Ukraine can create more effective and equitable policies that address the needs and aspirations of all segments of society, contributing to a more sustainable and inclusive post-war landscape.

6. Ukraine should actively seek and foster international cooperation to enhance women's political participation in the post-war period. This can be achieved through collaborations with international organizations, donors, and regional initiatives. By leveraging these partnerships, Ukraine can access valuable resources, expertise, and best practices that support women's political empowerment and advance gender equality. Engaging with the international community will contribute to the exchange of knowledge and experiences, fostering a more inclusive and effective approach to promoting women's rights in the political sphere.

By implementing these recommendations, Ukraine can work towards creating a more inclusive and representative political landscape, where women's voices are heard, their concerns are addressed, and their active participation in decision-making processes is valued. This will contribute to a more equitable and gender-responsive post-war society.

Despite the Russian invasion in 2022, the Ukrainian government remained committed to gender-responsive budgeting. They prioritized gender equality even during the management of public finances in the crisis. The Ministry of Finance consistently requested gender-responsive budget proposals from line ministries, ensuring fair distribution of limited crisis funds. The government's dedication is reinforced by the State Strategy for equal rights and opportunities, along with its operational implementation plan. Challenges in integrating gender analysis into financial processes are being addressed through combined finance and gender expertise. These efforts set the stage for the effective application of gender-responsive budgeting in the post-war recovery and reconstruction (Meyer, 2023).

Looking ahead to the post-war recovery and reconstruction phase, the government's dedication to gender-responsive budgeting will be crucial. By applying gender analysis to the allocation of resources during this phase, the government can ensure that the specific needs and priorities of women and marginalized groups are not overlooked. This approach will contribute to a more inclusive and equitable recovery process, fostering social cohesion and sustainable development.

Overall, the Ukrainian government's unwavering commitment to gender-responsive budgeting during the crisis exemplifies its determination to promote gender equality and prioritize the well-being of all citizens, even in challenging circumstances. By incorporating gender considerations into financial decision-making, the government sets the stage for a more inclusive and just society, both during the crisis and in the subsequent recovery and reconstruction efforts.

**Conclusions.** The conflict in Ukraine has had significant and far-reaching

implications for gender equality in the country. The economic consequences of the conflict have worsened gender disparities, affecting women's economic participation and access to employment opportunities. The war has disproportionately impacted vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and individuals with disabilities, resulting in tragic deaths, displacement, and loss of essential social services. The breakdown of social structures and the prevalence of violence against women pose significant social challenges that hinder gender equality. International norms and frameworks, such as the Istanbul Convention and UN Security Council Resolution 1325, provide guidelines and obligations for addressing gender-based violence, protecting women's rights, and promoting women's meaningful participation in decision-making processes. The ratification of the Istanbul Convention demonstrates Ukraine's commitment to fostering a safe society and preventing violence against women.

Despite the challenges, the Ukrainian government has shown dedication to gender equality by prioritizing gender-responsive budgeting and integrating gender analysis into financial processes even during the crisis. This commitment sets a foundation for effectively applying gender-responsive approaches in the post-war recovery and reconstruction efforts. Moving forward, it is crucial to continue implementing and strengthening international norms and frameworks, address the root causes of gender inequality, support women's economic empowerment, ensure the provision of essential social services, and promote women's meaningful participation in political affairs. By addressing these challenges and supporting gender equality, Ukraine can build a more inclusive and resilient society in the aftermath of the conflict.

Furthermore, the post-war period in Ukraine presents an opportunity to address the underlying societal factors that perpetuate gender inequality. It is essential to recognize that gender equality is not just a matter of laws and policies but also involves changing social norms and attitudes. Efforts should be made to challenge traditional gender roles and stereotypes that limit women's opportunities and hinder their full participation in various spheres of life.

Additionally, the empowerment of women in economic and entrepreneurial activities is essential for sustainable development and gender equality. This can be achieved through targeted interventions, such as providing access to financial resources, promoting entrepreneurship training, and creating supportive environments for women to start and grow businesses. The international community can play a significant role in supporting these efforts by providing technical assistance, financial resources, and capacity building.

*Conflict of Interest and other Ethics Statements*

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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**Кристина РЕЗВОРОВИЧ**

### **МІЖНАРОДНІ НОРМИ ТА ЇХНЯ РОЛЬ ЩОДО ФОРМУВАННЯ ГЕНДЕРНОГО ВЕКТОРА УКРАЇНИ В ПІСЛЯВОЄННИЙ ПЕРІОД: АНАЛІЗ СОЦІАЛЬНИХ, ЕКОНОМІЧНИХ І ПОЛІТИЧНИХ АСПЕКТІВ**

**Анотація.** В цій роботі розглядається роль міжнародних норм у формуванні гендерного вектора України в післявоєнний період з акцентом на аналізі соціальних, економічних і політичних аспектів. Дослідження підкреслює значення міжнародних норм для впливу на політику й практику гендерної рівності в Україні й розглядає питання, як ці норми відбиваються на різних аспектах життя українського суспільства.

Аналіз починається з огляду повоєнного періоду в Україні, з висвітлення викликів і можливостей, з якими стикається країна у сфері гендерної рівності. Потім ми заглиблюємось у роль міжнародних норм у формуванні гендерного порядку денного в Україні, зокрема тих, що встановлені міжнародними угодами й конвенціями. В статті проаналізовано, як міжнародні норми вплинули на законодавчу й політичну базу, інституційні механізми й публічний дискурс про гендерну рівність в Україні.

Крім того, дослідження вивчає соціальні аспекти гендерного вектора в Україні, в тому числі й зміни ставлення суспільства й культурних норм, в яких зафіксовано гендерні ролі й очікування. Відстежується вплив міжнародних норм на розширення прав і можливостей жінок, просування гендерного мейнстрімінгу й боротьбу з гендерним насильством в українському суспільстві.

Проаналізовано також економічний вимір гендерного вектора з акцентом на впливі міжнародних норм на участь жінок на ринку праці, на доступ до економічних можливостей і гендерний розрив в оплаті праці. Досліджується їхня роль у просуванні гендерно-орієнтованого бюджетування, підприємництва й розширення прав і можливостей жінок завдяки економічним ініціативам.

Насамкінець розглядається політичний аспект гендерного вектору – вплив міжнародних норм на політичне представництво жінок, їхню участь у процесах прийняття рішень і створення гендерно-чутливих управлінських структур. У розвідці оцінюється ступінь впливу міжнародних норм на політичні реформи й інтеграцію гендерної перспективи в політичні інститути і практики.

Загалом цей аналіз демонструє значну роль міжнародних норм у формуванні гендерного вектору України в післявоєнний період. Він підкреслює важливість погодження національної політики й практик з міжнародними стандартами для

досягнення гендерної рівності. Результати цього дослідження сприяють кращому розумінню складного взаємозв'язку між гендерною динамікою й міжнародними нормами в повоєнних суспільствах, пропонуючи інформацію для політиків, дослідників й активістів, які працюють над просуванням гендерної рівності в Україні й за її межами.

**Ключові слова:** міжнародні норми, гендерний вектор, Україна, післявоєнний період, соціальні аспекти, економічні аспекти, політичні аспекти, гендерна рівність.

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## THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL STANDARDS AND SOCIAL GUARANTEES ON IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF CITIZENS: LEGAL ANALYSIS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES

**Abstract.** This article makes an essential contribution to the understanding and analysis of social standards and guarantees in an international legal context, focusing on theoretical and legal aspects. The experience of two influential regions – the European Union and the United States of America – in the context of ensuring social standards and guarantees is considered in detail. The article conducts a comparative analysis of the state's role in ensuring social standards. It demonstrates how the EU and the US develop their systems, providing citizens access to education, healthcare, and other social services. Particular attention is paid to the functioning of healthcare systems in both regions. Key aspects that help to ensure efficient and equal provision of medical services to citizens are identified. The article analyzes in detail measures designed to

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