



of dissatisfaction with pay levels among Ukrainian women, the level of professional satisfaction with their work was generally very high. This, the report states, demonstrates the potential for Ukrainian



women to contribute significantly to the revival of the national economy.

But unless the state of their health improves, this potential may never be realised. A full 30% of Ukrainian women expressed dissatisfaction with the state of their health.

Ukraine is among the leading countries in Europe for abortions today. According to the survey, 51% of Ukrainian women have

WOMEN'S DAY IN UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT

In support of the United Nations convention on the elimination of discrimination against women, July 11, 1995 was designated «Women's Day» in Ukraine's Parliament. It was the first time that the formidable problems facing women were openly discussed on such a high level. As senior representatives of the President's Administration, government, and diplomatic corps read one prepared speech after another, many of the female reporters and deputies present at the session were unimpressed, and even uncomfortable. The dismal statistics were rattled off: 70% unemployment among women; a mere 4.2% of all elected Deputies are female, representing 52% of the population, without a single female minister, ambassador or political party leader in Ukraine today. While speaker after speaker lamented the situation, many of the women present openly dismissed the proceedings as a waste of time, stating that some of the discussions reminded them of earlier times when empty token gestures and meaningless quotas were dictated from above and never really addressed the problems at hand.

had at least one abortion in their life, and 30% of women have constant problems with protection from unwanted pregnancies. This was particularly true among women with secondary and incomplete secondary education. More than 2% of women have chronic gynecological diseases, some of which result from frequent abortions. Forty seven per cent of respondents attributed Ukraine's high abortion statistic to the low level of sexual literacy of their partners, while another 30% blamed the unavailability of contraceptives.


Feminism and the women's movement remains unknown to the majority of Ukrainian women, although two thirds of respondents supported feminist ideas when they were explained. Similarly, 80% did



had not heard about the UN Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women or other UN documents. With 95% of property in Ukraine state controlled, one third of respondents do not see any possibility to privatize anything. However, 25% said they would privatize their apartments, the same 25% their land. Eighteen per cent would buy shares of an enterprise or trust.

Olena Podoleva, Ph.D., and Head of the Social Policy Department of the Institute of Public Administration and Local Government (IPALG), Cabinet of Ministers, Ukraine, states that, "The revival of Ukrainian state demands creating conditions that will help to increase women's social-political activity, ... and solve the wide range of problems connected with women's position in society ... (a) first step has been taken through the launch of the women's Executive Development Program, which was designed and delivered in Ukraine by IPALG in cooperation with the Canadian Centre for Management Development." (in Ottawa)

In addition to the survey undertaken by the Ukrainian Center for Women's Studies, the Ukrainian government has submitted its own National Report to the Beijing



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conference. It states the need for a systematic state policy towards women including both improvement of the social infrastructure as well as professional advancement of women under the conditions of transition to a market economy. ●