

# 2023

## Annual Report





# The 2023 Year in Brief.

**9103**

the number of the **draft law on civil partnerships** in Ukraine, registered in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

**for 9 months**

the team of the NGO Fulcrum UA, NGO LGBT Military for Equal Rights, and the team of MP Inna Sovsun **worked together on the text of the draft law 9103**

**135K**

campaign coverage and views of panel discussions at the **Forum of Allies "BAM!" 2023** (business / activism / media)

**47K**

views of the music video for TUCHA's manifesto song "Sleyerka" in **support of equal rights and civil partnerships**

**25K**

views of three stories about **LGBTIQ+ military** published in our social media together with the NGO "LGBT Military for Equal Rights"

**91K**

views of the video **about the LGBTIQ+ military** on our Instagram page alone

**7 & 128K**

**7 collaborations** with YouTube bloggers and **128 000 views** of content created in cooperation with YouTube bloggers

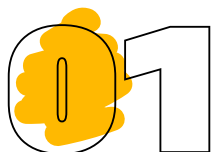
**3 & 57K**

**3 new seasons of the "iTochka"** podcast with **57 000 listenings** in total

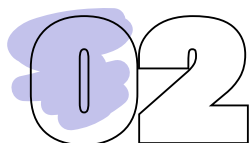
**570**

registered for the **online course on mental health**, "Care Point."

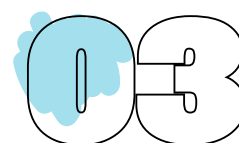
# Content.



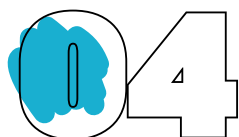
Advocacy campaign on civil partnerships in Ukraine



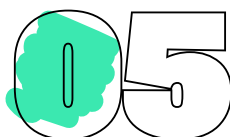
Participation of NGO Fulcrum UA in international events and representation of the interests of the LGBTIQ+ community at meetings in international embassies



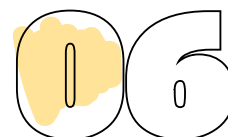
Fulcrum UA joined the Council on Human Rights, Gender Equality, and Diversity at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine



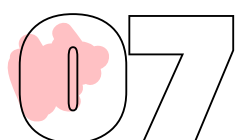
Project "Care Point"



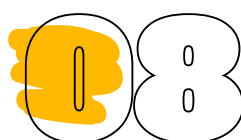
A new enrollment for the "Start from Scratch" program + Ukraine's first large national survey of the LGBTIQ+ community on (non) discrimination in the workplace and an inclusive labor market



Psychological counseling sessions for LGBTIQ+ and allies + live broadcasts with a psychotherapist about relevant and practical issues.



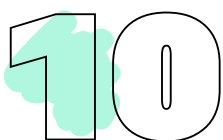
Forum of Allies "BAM!" (business/activism/media)



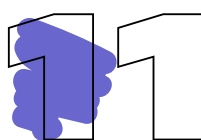
A special season of our podcast "iTochka" about the faces of Ukrainian activism in times of war



Two seasons of a podcast about cinematography and human rights



Monthly digests of the most important news and events in the field of human rights



Health direction

# Advocacy campaign on civil partnerships in Ukraine:

## Draft law 9103 was registered



The most important achievement is that as a result of our work, for the first time in the history of Ukraine, a draft law was registered that makes the institution of civil partnerships possible.

**In March 2023**, MP Inna Sovsun submitted a draft law, "On the Institute of Registered Partnerships," to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The draft law was assigned the number 9103.

The teams of MP Inna Sovsun, NGO Fulcrum UA, and NGO LGBT Military for Equal Rights worked on the draft law together for nine months. Registered partnerships are a new institution for those who cannot or don't want to get married. Military and civilian, same-sex and different-sex couples can use it. The draft law will help same-sex couples define mutual rights and obligations, property ownership, inheritance, social protection, and rights in the event of the death or disappearance of a partner.

## Draft law 9103 was supported by 4 Committees of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

As of **the end of 2023**, draft law 9103 was supported by four Committees of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

The Committee on Youth and Sports was the first to support the draft law: 3 votes in favor, 1 abstention, 1 against. The Committee on European Integration was the second to support the draft law unanimously, with six votes in favor. The Committee on Digital Transformation was the third committee to support draft law 9103: 6 out of 6 members voted in favor. The fourth committee was the Committee on Social Policy and Veterans' Rights: five votes in favor, three abstentions, and zero votes against.

The main committee — the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Legal Policy and Justice — has not yet supported the draft law 9103.

## Draft law 9103 was supported by the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, and the European Parliament

**In October 2023**, in response to an official appeal from MP Inna Sovsun, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine announced their support for draft law 9103 with comments and amendments. Previously, both the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Defense were against the draft law, which blocked its further progress in parliament.

The Ministry of Justice was supposed to develop an alternative draft law on civil partnerships. And it seems to have done so. However, this process has not been sufficiently transparent, and the LGBTIQ+ community and its allies have not been involved in all stages of its development despite their willingness to provide suggestions and professional expert opinions. But later, the Ministry of Justice changed its position: now it is ready to support draft law 9103 and prepare amendments for the second reading.



**Міністерство оборони підтримало законопроект 9103 про реєстровані партнерства**

Міністерство юстиції також готове підтримати законопроект 9103 та готує до нього правки до другого читання



In addition, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine also supported draft law 9103.

As a result of our work, members of the European Parliament wrote [an open letter](#) to our government and the President asking him to support draft law 9103.

In their appeal, MEPs emphasize: "Not having the right to inherit, visit the hospital or make decisions about medical care, or bury your partner during the war is unbearable, which is why the legal possibility to register a partnership officially is extremely important for LGBTIQ+ military people and their partners."

They also note: "Adopting the draft law, and thus giving same-sex couples the legal recognition and protection they deserve, would be not only a strong sign of commitment ahead of Ukraine's EU accession negotiations but also a pillar against the anti-liberal ideology that fuels Russia's aggressive military strategy in Ukraine."

## A roundtable discussion on civil partnerships and the draft law 9103 with MPs of Ukraine

In the summer, NGO Fulcrum UA and the Inter-Factional Deputy Association "Equal Opportunities" in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine held a roundtable discussion on civil partnerships with the financial support of the European Union. We talked about the obstacles to accepting civil partnerships. This meeting helped the MPs consolidate their efforts to attract the votes of other MPs who are still neutral.

### The event was attended by:

- MPs of Ukraine Inna Sovsun, Dmytro Hurin, Olena Shuliak, Maria Mezentseva, Iryna Nikorak, Oleksii Zhmerenetsky, Mykola Stefanchuk;
- Liudmyla Suhak, Deputy Minister of Justice for European Integration;
- Mykhailo Spasov, representative of the Commissioner for Equal Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities of Political and Religious Views;
- Zorian Kis, Second Secretary of the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine;
- Representatives of the civil society sector, including LGBTIQ+ military personnel



## Instructions: how to write letters to MPs and urge them to support draft law 9103


We also encouraged Ukrainians to write letters to MPs urging them to support draft law 9103. Because most MPs look at how many letters they receive in their mail in favor and how many are against. And when they receive hundreds of letters "Against," our votes "For" are lost among this information noise. Therefore, it is essential to involve everyone.

So we created a short instruction on how to do this: we prepared templates of letters and collected the email addresses of MPs.

**Пишемо листи народним депутатам**

І закликаємо їх підтримати законопроект №9103 «Про інститут реєстрованих партнерств»

Як? Тримайте коротку інструкцію.



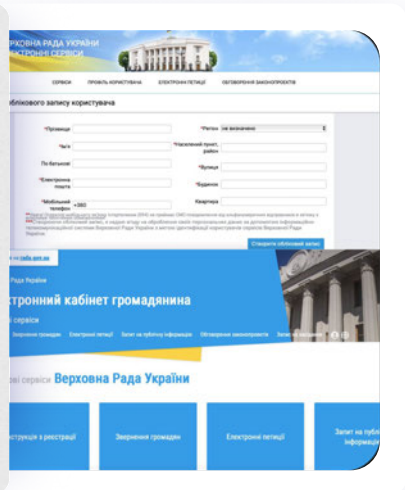
**Варіант 1: Листи за допомогою електронної системи звернень громадян**

**Реєстрація**

Зареєструйтесь на порталі Верховної Ради або увійдіть в електронний кабінет громадянина, якщо ви вже зареєстровані (дивіться інструкції на сайті).

**Інформація**

Увійдіть у розділ СЕРВИСИ → ЗВЕРНЕННЯ ГРОМАДЯН → ІНФОРМАЦІЯ і ознайомтесь із вимогами до письмових звернень громадян.



**Шаблони листів**

Завантажте собі один із шаблонів листів (лінк даємо в пості та сторіс), внесіть свої дані і збережіть як word чи pdf. Ви можете написати власне звернення згідно вимог, про які ми згадували на минулому слайді.

**Прикріпити лист**

У розділі СЕРВИСИ оберіть → ЗВЕРНЕННЯ ГРОМАДЯН → СТВОРИТИ ЗВЕРНЕННЯ, заповніть відповідні поля форми та прикріпіть файл звернення. Зверніть увагу: в полі ТЕМАТИКА ЗВЕРНЕННЯ оберіть пункт «Забезпечення дотримання законності та охорони правопорядку, реалізація прав і свобод громадян...»



**Варіант 2: Індивідуальні листи народним депутатам**


Індивідуальні листи можна надсилати на робочі електронні адреси народпелів. Ці адреси доступні за посиланням у пості та у закріплених сторіс на нашій сторінці.

Станом на зараз найперше треба звернутися до таких комітетів:

- Комітет з питань гуманітарної та інформаційної політики;
- Комітет з питань здоров'я нації, медичної допомоги та медичного страхування.

І, звісно, це головний комітет — Комітет з питань правової політики.

Воруючи лист, підберіть також аргументи, і стосуються сфери діяльності комітету, до якого звертаєтесь, і найбільше наголосуйте на них. Наприклад, якщо це Комітет з питань манітарної та інформаційної політики, пишіть про те, що прийняття законопроекту №9103 важливе для протидії російській інформації та маніпуляціям про ЛГБТК+ ідеї.



## Media appearances and support of 9103 by Ukrainian celebrities

The draft law 9103 gained a broad resonance, and we received extensive media coverage and dozens of materials supporting civil partnerships in Ukraine in national and international media. We also achieved incredible support among Ukrainian celebrities and musicians who supported partnerships and draft law 9103.





## The report of the European Commission, which positively noted the registration of the draft law 9103

On November 8, 2023, the European Commission released a report recommending the start of negotiations on Ukraine's accession to the European Union. The report states that Ukraine has made significant progress in fulfilling critical tasks that will facilitate the country's accession to the EU. The document also emphasizes areas requiring further reforms and the need for this process.



In particular, the European Commission noted positive changes in Ukraine regarding the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community. However, the report emphasizes the need for further changes to ensure human rights. These include amendments to the Family Code of Ukraine to ensure and protect the rights of same-sex couples, inclusion of SOGI as a punishable offense for hate crimes, etc.

The European Commission also positively noted the draft law 9103 on civil partnerships, which the Ukrainian government pledged to adopt by the end of 2023.

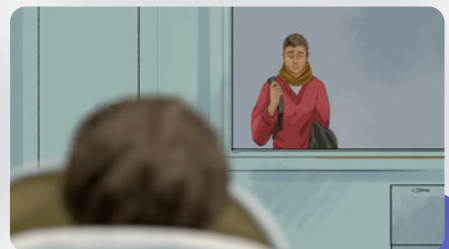
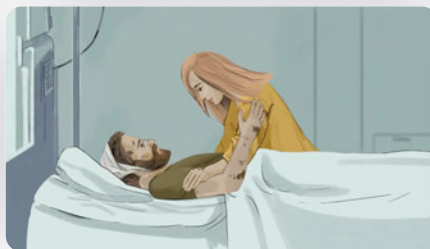
## Release of a video about the LGBTIQ+ military

[WATCH THE VIDEO HERE](#)

In February 2023, we released a video in support of civil partnerships created in cooperation with the most prominent media holding company in Ukraine — Starlight Media.

The video reminds us of the restrictions on the rights and opportunities faced by unmarried couples, including same-sex couples. The problem becomes even more acute when one or both of the partners are at the frontline, risking their health and lives every day for the sake of our freedom 🇺🇦

Same-sex couples currently don't have the right to joint property, inheritance of their partner's property by law, the right to access their loved ones in intensive care, the right to recognize and bury their loved ones, and the right not to testify against each other.





## A series of publications on civil partnerships in Europe

Since April 2023, we have launched a first-of-its-kind series of publications on the experience of introducing civil partnerships in European countries and how Ukraine can learn from this experience. In these publications, we explored the historical and political context of adopting civil partnerships in European countries, the difficulties and obstacles this process faced, and the benefits citizens of these countries received after adopting civil partnerships.

As part of this series, we have released 9 publications outlining the experience of Estonia, Italy, Slovenia, Denmark, Montenegro, Germany, Sweden, Andorra, and the United Kingdom. We called this series of publications "Tour of European Civil Partnerships."

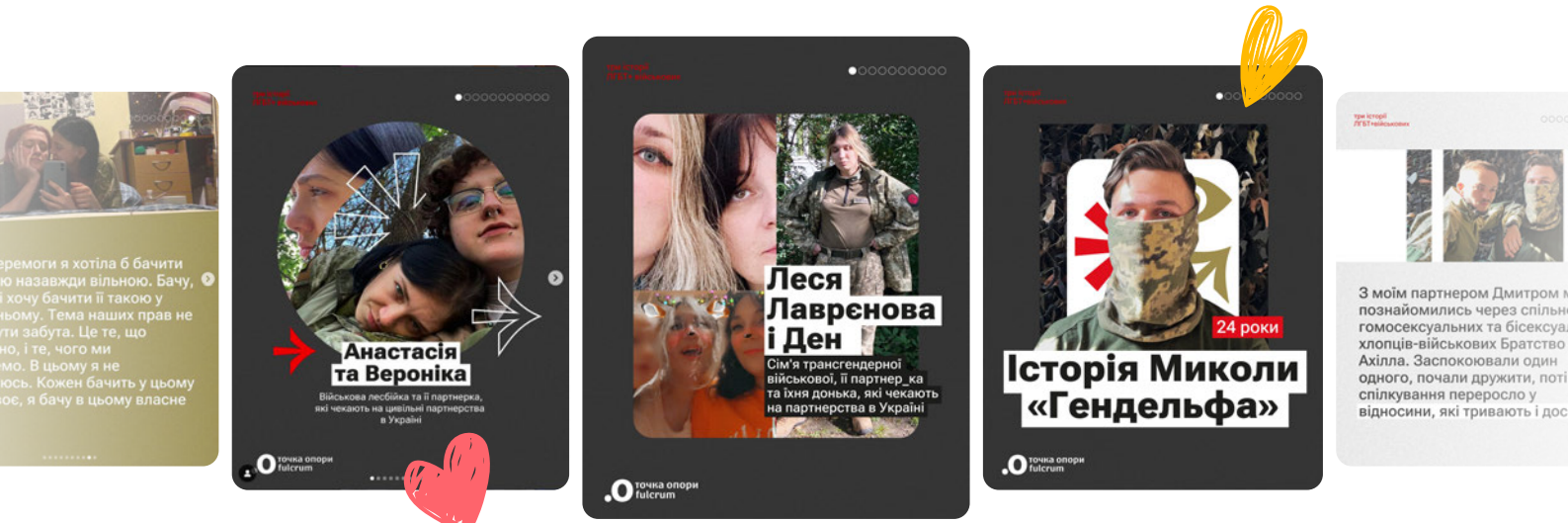
It was vital for us to study the experience of European countries because Ukraine has long been on a course of European integration, and to become a full member of the EU, Ukraine needs to work, among other things, on improving its legislation to ensure equal rights for all citizens of the country.



## A series of publications about the LGBTIQ+ military

Throughout the year, in cooperation with the NGO Ukrainian LGBTIQ+ Military for Equal Rights, we published a series of interviews with LGBTIQ+ military people and their partners. They shared their experience of serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. They also shared their experience of living in a country that doesn't accept them because of their sexual orientation and gender identity, in a country where they don't have equal rights.

With this series of publications, we wanted to emphasize the importance and urgency of adopting the draft law 9103 on civil partnerships. Every day in Ukraine, both military and civilian people who have families and partners die, but not all of them have the opportunity to provide their partners with social protection because, according to Ukrainian law, these people are formally strangers to each other.



## A music video for TUCHA's manifesto song "Sleyerka"

We made a bright creative collaboration with musician and blogger TUCHA, who wrote a manifesto song, "Sleyerka," to support equal rights and civil partnerships.

We are always looking for creative and bold ways to advocate human rights. We are happy when we find people who share the same values as us, which leads to such cooperation ❤️

[WATCH THE VIDEO HERE](#)

Behind the music video scenes, there is a great creative team, and TUCHA mentions everyone by name at the end of the video and in the description. And we thank everyone who contributed to creating this song and music video.



## Cooperation with YouTube bloggers in advocacy for civil partnerships

We also made several effective collaborations with YouTube bloggers. They created videos on their YouTube channel revealing the importance of equal rights for all people in Ukraine, including LGBTIQ+, and called for support for civil partnerships in Ukraine. What bloggers talked about in their videos: the story of the emergence of the LGBTIQ+ rights movement, the myths, and stereotypes faced by the LGBTIQ+ community, examples of how these stereotypes are used in Ukrainian comedy TV shows, how LGBTQ+ people have changed world music and where does Ukraine fit on this map and so on.



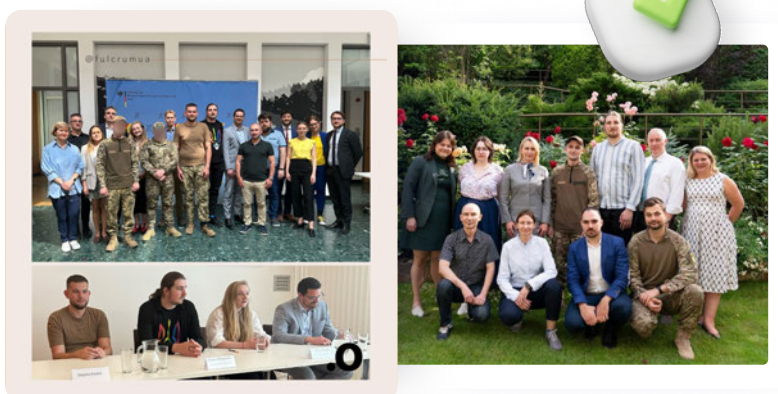
## A panel discussion on civil partnerships at the SUNNY BUNNY Kyiv International Film Festival

Fulcrum UA also partnered with the SUNNY BUNNY Kyiv International Film Festival. In particular, we organized and conducted a panel discussion on why Ukraine needs civil partnerships during a full-scale war and the prospects of draft law 9103.





# Participation of NGO Fulcrum UA in international events and representation of the interests of the LGBTIQ+ community at meetings in international embassies.



Our efforts in advocating for equal rights and civil partnerships received much international support. We visited the embassies of Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, Great Britain, and the United States, and everyone expressed their support, as did representatives of the European Union.

Our Executive Director, Tania Kasian, attended the **ILGA-Europe international conference in Slovenia**, annually bringing together LGBTIQ+ activists from different countries. This year's conference participants discussed the challenges of today when the lives and rights of LGBTIQ+ people in Europe and Central Asia are becoming increasingly important.

Tania participated in the discussion with human rights activists from Italy, Poland, and Turkey. She talked about how we continue to work during a full-scale war, how we work on advocating for civilian partnerships, how we look for allies, and why we need to work with them.







Also, Tania represented Ukraine at a **European Commission** meeting focused on **supporting LGBTIQ+ rights and Ukraine's European integration**. It was a meeting with the EU candidate countries (Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia) supported by ILGA-Europe. "We emphasized that Ukraine needs the support of its European partners to adopt draft **law 9103** on registered partnerships and draft law 5488 on amendments to the Criminal Code to combat discrimination. And, of course, we discussed the need for systematic support for Ukraine in the context of the war. After all, we are convinced that partnership with the EU should consider not only aspects of European integration but also cooperation in matters of security and sovereignty of our country," Tania Kasian commented at the meeting.

Our Executive Director, Tania Kasian, was on the **Pride Heroes list!** The **European External Action Service** and other international institutions and organizations have created the Pride Heroes campaign for Pride Month. The campaign aimed to recognize the incredible work of those who dedicate their lives to promoting the rights of LGBTIQ+ people, who work tirelessly to fight for the right of everyone to be accessible to be who they are, who draw attention to diversity and contribute to the development of a society of tolerance and respect.



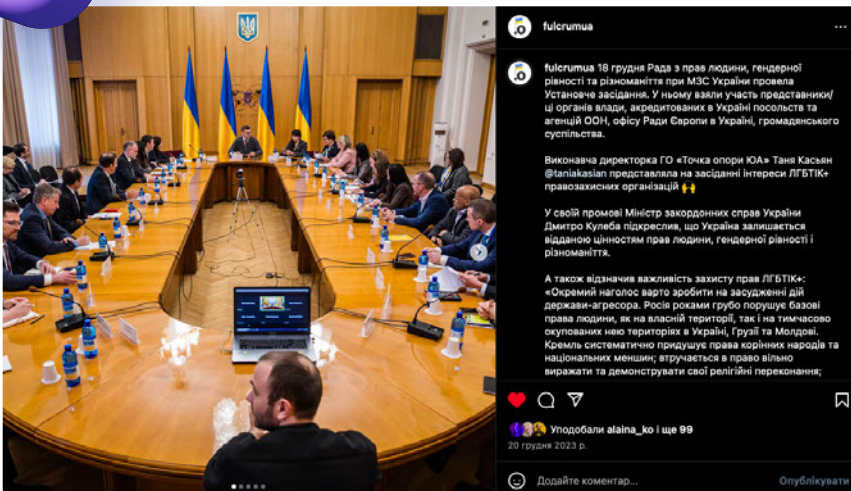
Tania also took part in creating the documentary project "The Illusion of Equality" as a human rights activist and ally of LGBTIQ+ people. In particular, Tanya explained the terminology related to LGBTIQ+ and emphasized the benefits of adopting draft law 9103 on registered partnerships, which will apply not only to same-sex couples.

"The Illusion of Equality" is a documentary created by Ukrainian Suspilne Broadcasting: in it, LGBTIQ+ military and medical personnel, together with their partners, share stories of their daily struggle for fundamental human rights.

# Fulcrum UA joined the Council on Human Rights, Gender Equality, & Diversity at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

In November 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine announced the launch of the **Council for Human Rights, Gender Equality, and Diversity**. The goal is to coordinate and unite the efforts of civil society, the business community, and our international partners. The Council includes well-known human rights activists, civil society representatives, and international partners. The interests of LGBTIQ+ human rights organizations are represented on the Council by NGO Fulcrum UA and Gender Stream.

In December, the Council held its first meeting, attended by representatives of state authorities, UN embassies, and agencies accredited in Ukraine.



# Project "Care Point".

In 2023, we launched a large project called "Care Point" with the financial support of the Center for Disaster Philanthropy and the informational support of the European Business Association. The project aims to help Ukrainian businesses build inclusive psychological support for their teams during the war.



## Project participants will receive a Care-to-Business Case — a set of tools for psychological assistance to employees. What is included in this Care-to-Business Case:

**01** A **guidebook with recommendations** for the practical use of various psychological techniques proposed by experts;

**02** A **series of educational lectures** in which experts explain how to create a program to support the mental health of their teams;

**03** **Workshops** involving experts in the field of inclusive psychological assistance;

**04** **Intervention** — exchange of experience to improve professional skills and work efficiency within teams;

**05** **Supervision** — psychologist's assistance aimed at working with professional difficulties and improving the organization of teams

More information about the project — is on the website

[MORE INFO HERE](#)







Before the start of the project, we, together with the NGO “CAT-UA: Communication Analysis Team – Ukraine,” conducted a study on “Attitudes of Ukrainians towards their mental health during the war.”

The purpose of the study was to find out how Ukrainians speak about their mental health and mental health in general during a full-scale war with Russia. The key question was how the attitude of Ukrainians towards taking care of their mental health and their willingness to seek help from psychologists has changed over the year since **February 24, 2022**.

To conduct the study, a sample of open publications and comments in personal profiles of various social media was formed and collected using the YouScan monitoring system, which had the most significant coverage and was written between **February 24, 2022**, and **February 24, 2023**. The total sample amounted to **2.8 million posts**.



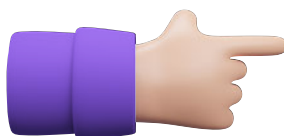
**RESULTS OF STUDY HERE**



Based on the data obtained during the study, we have started working on a guidebook entitled "Work-Care: How to Maintain Employees' Mental Health. Tips for Employers" with recommendations for psychological techniques.

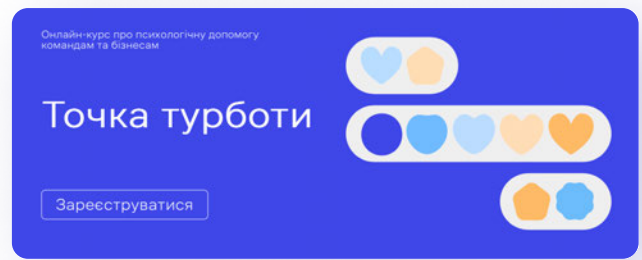
The practical guidebook is designed for HR managers, HR department heads, organizational psychologists, and anyone interested in building a mental health service for organizations. The guidebook is about mental health and is designed to help increase employee productivity. It contains sections describing how to build a system of care for employees' mental health, why it is crucial for business, how to work on inclusion for different social groups, and how to communicate ethically with employees.

**We presented the guidebook in the autumn. It is available for review and free download**



**FREE GUIDEBOOK**

Also, as part of the "Care Point" project, we have presented an online educational course on psychological assistance to teams and businesses. We developed the online course together with the EdEra online education studio with the financial support of the Center for Disaster Philanthropy.



### The course includes three modules:

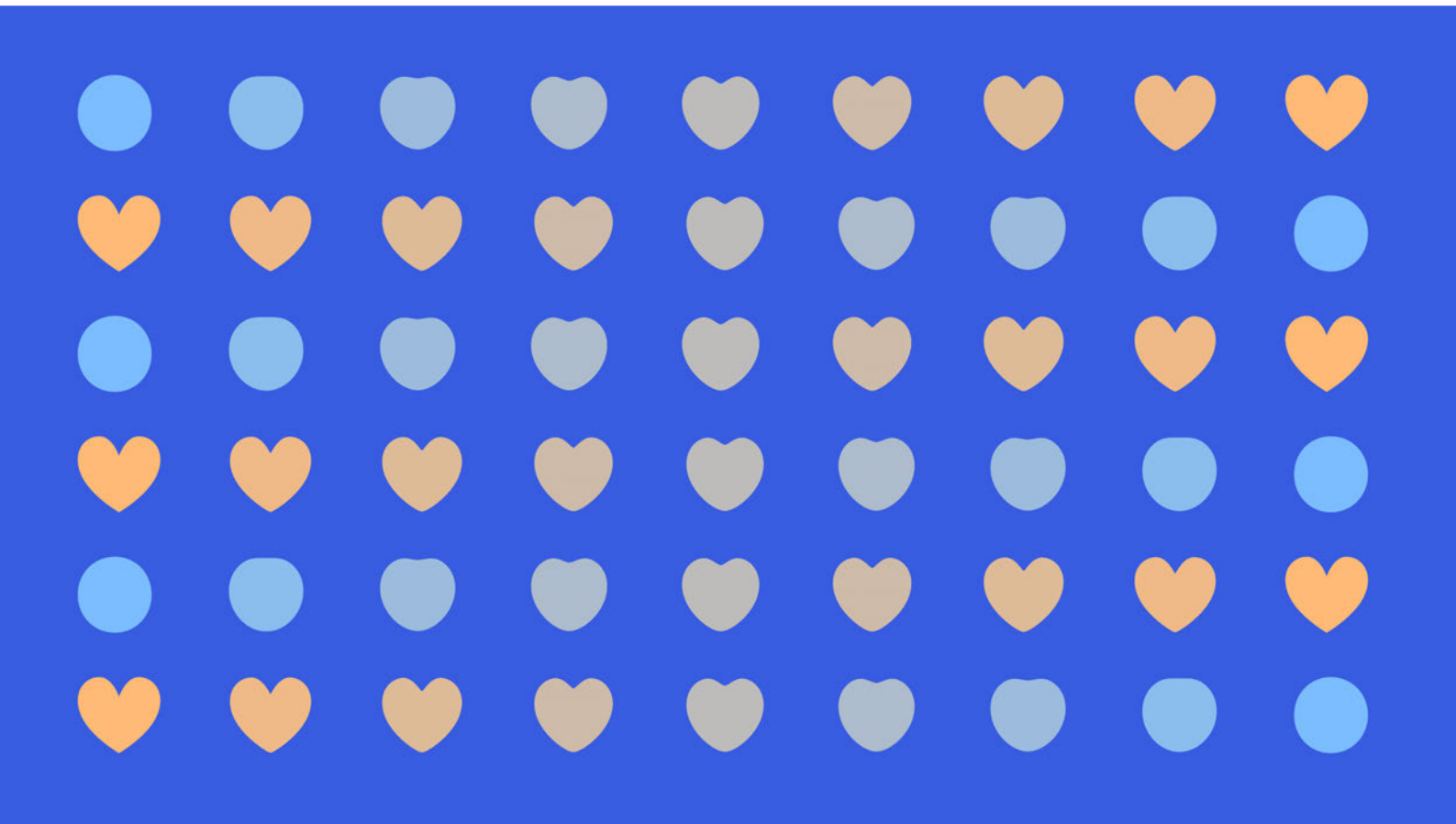
**Building** a psychological service in the organization

**Inclusion and barrier-free** care for employees' mental health

**Effective and sensitive** communication in the organisation

The course experts who shared their knowledge and experience were specialists who had previously worked on creating a guidebook with tips for employers on ensuring mental health for organizations and companies.

[FIND ONLINE COURSE HERE](#)



# A new enrollment for the “Start from Scratch” program + Ukraine's first large national survey of the LGBTIQ+ community on (non) discrimination in the workplace and an inclusive labor market.

In the autumn of 2023, we started a new enrollment for the “Start from Scratch” program. The goal is to help LGBTIQ+ and allies who have suffered as a result of Russia's war against Ukraine and lost their jobs. During a free consultation with a career counselor, participants were helped to determine their motivation and desired career paths. They could also take a free online course at an IT school or learn English.

For people who had lost their jobs, it was an excellent chance to acquire new skills and find a new job or to improve their CV with a recruiter to increase the likelihood of successful employment. People who live in uncertainty and don't understand what to do and how to live their lives can understand their situation and draw up a roadmap for their future career development.



As of the **end of 2023**, we had **37 participants** in total. We have already held **27 consultations**. Of these, **19** chose to consult with a career counselor and choose a professional course of study.

The most popular courses among the participants are those in the IT engineering field: Front-End and Python. Internet marketing and project management are popular among non-engineering courses.

## Our team is inspired and motivated by the fact that:

**01** This year, we increased the number of schools to cover more possible areas of study (there were 2, and now there are 7)

**02** Compared to last year, this year, more participants were interested in learning and improving English for better communication at work, cooperation with foreigners, or writing grants to implement new ideas and projects.

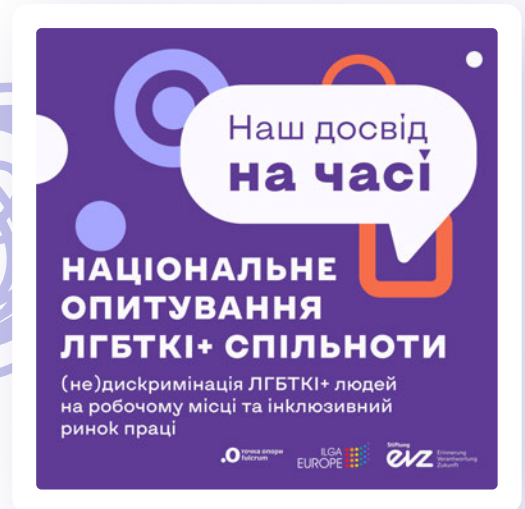


In addition to the fact that many LGBTQ+ in Ukraine have previously faced difficulties in finding employment due to homophobia, transphobia, and prejudice from employers or colleagues, this has now been compounded by the problems caused by the full-scale war. That is why we actively help those who need it.

Therefore, during this period, we conducted Ukraine's first large national survey of the LGBTQ+ community on (non)discrimination in the workplace and an inclusive labor market. The purpose of the study was to obtain data for further advocacy of the rights of LGBTQ+ in Ukraine and to develop policies and recommendations for the Ukrainian government and businesses to make the Ukrainian labor market more inclusive.

The research consisted of two stages: a survey and in-depth interviews. The survey included, among other things, questions about homophobic or transphobic language against LGBTQ+ at work; about discrimination, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia during job search or interviews; and about the presence or absence of policies or other documents on inclusion and non-discrimination in companies.

The survey was completed by 168 people, of whom 40 took part in in-depth individual interviews.



In particular, the study showed a generally low awareness of participants about the existing legal mechanisms of protection against discrimination in Ukraine on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as a low level of trust in state institutions, including the police, government, and judiciary.

**More information about the study results is available in English and Ukrainian**

[FIND OUT MORE HERE \(EN\)](#)

[FIND OUT MORE HERE \(UA\)](#)

# Psychological counseling sessions for LGBTQ+ and allies + live broadcasts with a psychotherapist about relevant & practical issues.

So, in December, we announced an additional opportunity for LGBTQ+ and allies — free-of-charge psychological counseling. Our friendly psychologists could help find support points, motivation, and internal resources for change.

Four friendly psychologists provided psychological counseling. Interestingly, this time, two psychologists from the LGBTQ+ community were among them, for whom this project was an important practical step to improving their professional skills.

At the same time, we launched a series of live broadcasts on our Instagram with psychotherapist Maria Fabrycheva on such issues:

fear of change & adaptation in a new place

emotional & cognitive fatigue

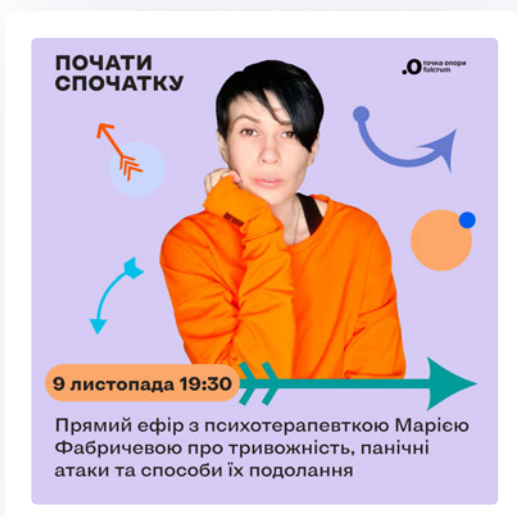
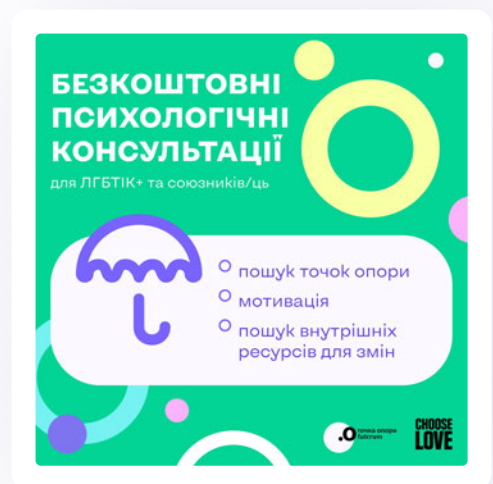
anxiety & panic attacks

loss of confidence & control

the split of opinions & coexistence of people with different views & opinions

the search for meaning & fulfilment in life & understanding where to go next

emotional & professional burnout



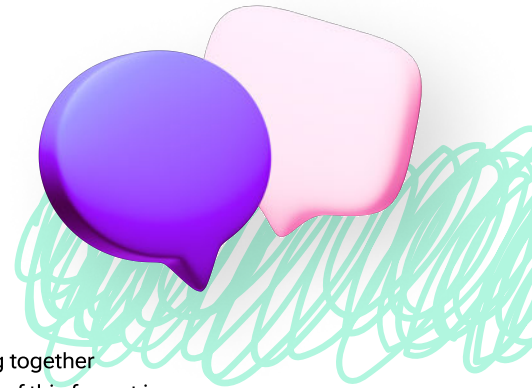
Executive Director of NGO Fulcrum UA Tania Kasian hosted six live broadcasts with Maria Fabrycheva, which we keep on our Instagram page. In addition, the viewers could ask Maria questions, which the host voiced during the conversation. Also, the guest of the broadcast, psychotherapist Maria Fabrycheva, shared helpful materials on the topic of the broadcast and a selection of literature — all of which we also published separately in Instagram stories and left in highlights, **which can be viewed here:**

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

We also published the recordings of these broadcasts in audio format on our podcast platforms to expand the audience and allow more people to listen to these conversations and find something valuable and helpful for them.



# Forum of Allies “BAM!”



In September, we held our fourth Forum of Allies “BAM!” (business/activism/media), bringing together activists and representatives of business and the public sector, politics, and media. The event of this format is unique for Ukraine, as it brings together representatives of different industries and initiates the intersection of varying information bubbles for a common goal — to talk about the current state and future of diversity, inclusion, and tolerance in Ukrainian society.

In 2023, at the Forum of Allies “BAM!” with invited speakers, we sought answers to many questions, including:

**Why** is a healthy future for businesses impossible without diversity and inclusion?

**Why** is introducing civil partnerships and adopting draft law No. 9103 more important than it might seem at first glance?

**Why** do inclusive communications define our lives, and what challenges do we face after the war?

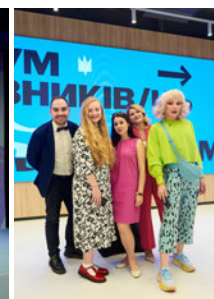
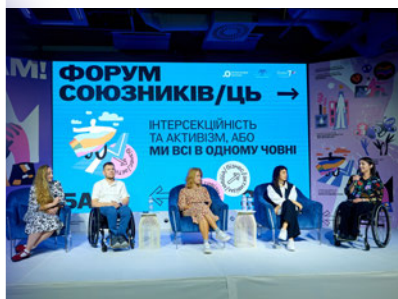
**How** did the full-scale invasion of February 24, 2022, change activism and how to not only understand intersectionality but also build it?

**How** to use your publicity to support LGBTIQ+, and how not to harm the community and their struggle for their rights?

**More than 135 thousand people were engaged in the online campaign around the Forum and watched the online broadcasts of the panel discussions.**

Also, during the panel discussion with bloggers about how to use their publicity to support LGBTIQ+, the music video for the song "Sleyerka" by singer and blogger Tucha was presented for the first time. The music video was created because we collaborated with her to support the draft law on civil partnerships.

We thank our speakers, partners, and allies, without whom this event would not have been possible. We also thank our audience, who inspire us to create such projects.



# A special season of our podcast “iTochka” about the faces of Ukrainian activism in times of war.

From May to September, our podcast “iTochka” about values and human rights was running a special season about the faces of Ukrainian activism in times of war. In each episode, the author and host of the podcast, Tania Kasian, talked to human rights defenders, activists, and volunteers about how they help vulnerable and discriminated groups of people.

The special season featured **12 episodes** with the following guests:

Liudmyla Yankina (ZMINA Human Rights Center), Kostia Andriiv (“Gender Zed” Charitable Foundation), Alevtina Shvetsova (manager of cultural projects about Mariupol), Anzhelika Belova (NGO Romney’s Voice), Anna Orekhova (NGO INSCIENCE), Olha Poliakova (NGO Gender Stream), Inna Matiushenko (Foundation for Supporting Adult Cancer Patients “Inspiration Family”), Denys Minin (NGO “We Will Take You Out! ”), Daryna Zarzhytska (Sebto Media), Lisa Kuzmenko (NGO Women in Media), Uliana Pcholkina (NGO Active Rehabilitation Group), Olena Shevchenko (NGO Insight and “Women’s March” initiative).

Follow this link to find all episodes of the special season about the faces of Ukrainian activism:

Here you can read the text versions of the interviews:

Here you can listen to the “iTochka” podcast on any podcast platform

[ALL EPISODES](#)

[TEXT VERSIONS](#)

[“iTOCHKA” PODCAST](#)



# Two seasons of a podcast about cinematography and human rights.

During the year, our “iTochka” podcast released two seasons about cinematography and human rights, in which we talked about how movies and TV shows portray the topics of gender equality, discrimination, sexual education, diversity and inclusion, and LGBTQI+ rights.

You can listen to the “iTochka” podcast on any podcast platform

ITOCHKA PODCAST

In the second season, we released 5 episodes of the podcast on the following topics:

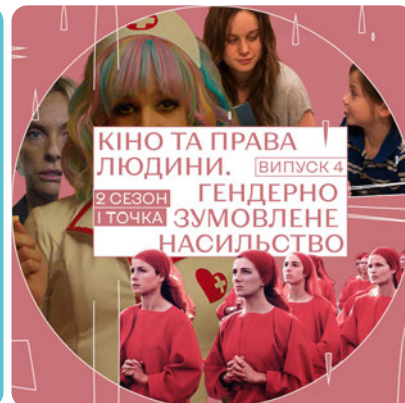
indigenous peoples — who they are and what the indigenous peoples of Ukraine and the United States have in common

why hate speech is so dangerous and where the line between intolerance and violence lies

what it means to live in an inclusive society, and how to learn to think without barriers

why gender-based violence is called this way and how it has been portrayed in movies before

why justice and honesty win

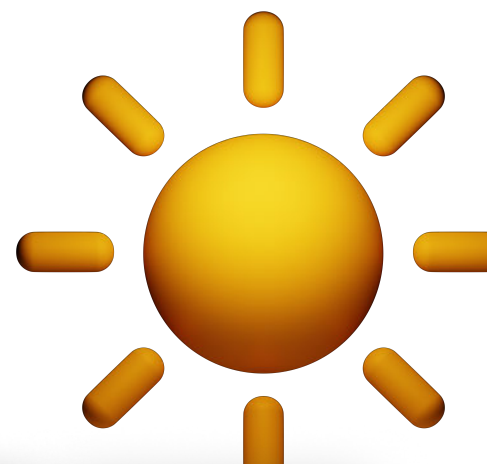




# Monthly digests of the most important news and events in the field of human rights

In the summer, we launched a monthly digest of the most important human rights events and news on our social media platforms. The purpose of the digest is to monitor and summarize significant changes for LGBTQ+ and representatives of other vulnerable and discriminated groups in Ukraine and around the world. This allows us to see the progress (or regression) in implementing equality and inclusion policies in countries, companies, and organizations worldwide and to compare the experience of these countries and Ukraine in particular.

This digest also allows us to highlight specific problems related to protecting the rights of vulnerable and discriminated groups of people and gaps in legislation, motivating the community to call on decision-makers to take visible and specific steps to change the situation for the better.

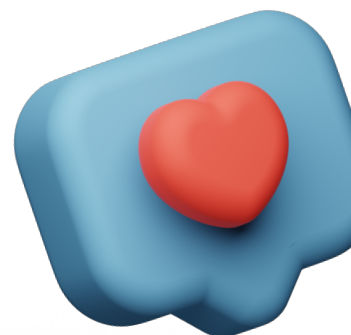


**Грудень минає: підсумуємо, що сталося важливого у сфері прав людини в Україні та світі протягом грудня 2023**

Папа Римський, голова католицької церкви, дав дозвіл римо-католицьким священникам благословляти одностатеві пари. Разом із тим церква, як і раніше, вважає одностатеві відносини «об'єктивно гріховними» і не визнає одностатевих шлюбів. «Доктрина стосовно шлюбу не змінюється, і благословення не означає схвалення союзу» — зауважив понтифік. Усе це відбувається на тлі того, що популярність церкви в Європі поступово падає, в тому числі і через підтримку церквою гомофобії.

Кабінет міністрів Таїланду схвалив проєкт закону про рівність шлюбів, а парламент розгляне його вже в грудні. Про це пише Reuters. Тут ідеться не про партнерства, а саме про шлюби, і гомосексуальні пари зможуть отримати рівні права з гетеросексуальними. Якщо законопроект схвалить у парламенті й він отримає королівську згоду, Таїланд стане третьою країною в Азії, де визнають одностатеві шлюби. Наразі в цей перелік входять тільки Тайвань і Непал.

18 грудня Рада з прав людини, гендерної рівності та різноманіття при МЗС України провела Установче засідання. У ньому взяли участь представники/ці органи влади, кредиторів в Україні посольств та агенцій ООН, офісу Ради Європи в Україні, громадянського суспільства. У своїй промові Міністр закордонних справ України Дмитро Кулеба підкреслив, що Україна залишається відданою цінностям прав людини, гендерної рівності і різноманіття. А також відзначив важливість захисту прав ЛГБТК+.



# Health direction

Throughout the year, we continued to send out HIV, hepatitis B, C, and syphilis testing kits to Ukrainians, as well as referring them to a friendly doctor who would advise and help them take the test in his friendly office.

**Піклування про своє здоров'я завжди на часі.**  
Замовляй бокс для самотестування на ВІЛ, сифіліс, гепатити С і В. Твій «Дружній Лікар»

**безкоштовно**

**Здоров'я понад усе.**  
Запишись на консультацію до Дружнього Лікаря і пройди тест на ВІЛ, сифіліс, гепатити С і В.

**безкоштовно**

## We thank our partners for their consistent support!

