



Organization Activity Report 2024

Nash Svit Center was established in the late 1990s with the following goals:

- 1) Protection of rights and freedoms towards LGBT in Ukraine and improvement of their legal protection, combating discrimination on grounds of SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity).
- 2) Improvement of society's attitudes towards homosexuality and people of homosexual orientation, combating homophobic and transphobic sentiments in the mass consciousness.
- 3) Upbringing of self-consciousness of LGBT as equal and valuable members of society.

Social and political situation & Advocacy

In the fall 2024 LGBTQ issues have officially become a part of Ukraine's Eurointegration agenda – they were mentioned in the European Commission's reports on Ukraine for 2023 and 2024, and the Ukrainian government took them into account in the action plans regarding the process of gaining EU membership. Along with two other LGBTQ activists, a representative of Nash Svit was included in the working (negotiating) group for the preparation of negotiating positions of Ukraine on issues of judicial power and fundamental rights during negotiations with the European Union regarding the conclusion of the Agreement on the accession of Ukraine to the European Union. This group participates in the development of the Roadmap on Ukraine's accession to the EU, and the governmental draft of this document already contains chapter 3.11 on LGBTQ issues including three measures: development and submitting to the Verkhovna Rada a draft law on amendments to the criminal and anti-discrimination legislation explicitly mentioning sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) as protected grounds; introduction of registration of hate crimes on these grounds; development and submitting to the Verkhovna Rada a draft law on civil registered partnership. We proposed also to develop and submit to the parliament amendments to the Family Code removing discrimination of same-sex couples in comparison with unregistered opposite-sex couples that is also recommended in the European Commission's reports.

Nash Svit along with other LGBTQ and human rights organizations is taking part in coordinated advocacy campaign on adoption of Bill 5488 providing for above-mentioned amendments to the criminal and anti-discrimination legislation. It has some support by the government and parliament leadership and is included in current agenda of the Verkhovna Rada. Among all planned legislative decisions regarding protection of LGBTQ rights, its adoption seems most realistic task for now.

In 2024 the Verkhovna Rada hastily adopted Bill 11456 on amendments to the law "On Free Legal Aid" not including victims of hate crimes on SOGI grounds to the list of persons having the right to the free legal help. Advocacy coalition on Bill 5488 believes that this shortcoming can be repaired within consideration of Bill 5488 by the parliament with introduction of the corresponding amendment into its text. This issue is planned to be considered by the Expert Group at the representative of Ukrainian Ombudsman which also includes our representative.

The progress of Bill 9103 (on civil registered partnership available for same-sex couples) in the Verkhovna Rada is blocked by the homophobic majority of the parliamentary Committee on Legal Policy. The initiators of the bill headed by Inna Sovsun MP have developed and introduced in the parliament the alternative Bill 12252 which has to be considered by the parliamentary Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy headed by liberal politicians — that can ensure its introduction at consideration by the plenary session of the parliament. Nash Svit takes part in the advocacy group on this issue though we consider current chances of this document to be adopted as not high.

In May 2025, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Dmytro Lubinets, presented his annual Report to the Parliament on the State of Observance and Protection of Human and Citizen Rights and Freedoms in Ukraine in 2024. After hearing the presentation and answering questions, the people's deputies adopted a resolution in which they took note of the Ombudsman's annual report and recommended that state authorities and local self-government bodies consider the recommendations contained therein and take measures within their competence to implement them.

Section 10.1.1 of the report is specifically dedicated to protecting the right to equality for LGBTQ people. In it, the Ukrainian Ombudsman once again draws attention to the need to adopt a law on civil registered partnership available to same-sex couples, which should protect their rights, eliminate discrimination, implement the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of “Maymulakhin and Markiv v. Ukraine” and relevant recommendations from European and international institutions.

The report also mentions the increase in homo/transphobic aggression, identified according to the results of monitoring by Nash Svit Center in 2024 compared to the data for the previous year. Section 10.1.5 “Committing crimes based on intolerance” indicates that the Verkhovna Rada has not yet considered draft law 5488 on amendments to the Criminal Code and anti-discrimination legislation, aimed at overcoming this problem, as well as the shortcoming of the recently adopted amendments to the law “On Free Legal Aid”, which ignored signs of sexual orientation and gender identity.

In general, we estimate the current political situation on promotion of LGBTQ issues in Ukraine as rather promising but lacking active support by the most important of state bodies — the Office of the President. We believe that the attention to these problems by the Ukraine’s foreign and international allies and partners can push the Ukrainian authorities to more active position and to overcome the homo/transphobic lobby in the Verkhovna Rada as it happened with the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

Discrimination and other violations of LGBTQ rights / Legal aid to victims

During 2024 our monitoring network documented 75 cases of actions based on homophobia / transphobia, discrimination and other violations of human rights on SOGI grounds in Ukraine.

Our experts and activists of the monitoring network provided 98 primary legal consultations to representatives of the LGBTQ community who faced violations of their rights. Nash Svit Center continued to provide secondary legal support in three cases.

Nash Svit Center, as in previous years, was the main provider of information on homophobic and transphobic crimes in Ukraine for the annual reports of the OSCE Office for Democratic Initiatives and Human Rights (ODIHR). In November 2024, the ODIHR published a report on hate crimes in OSCE participating States for 2023, according to which 21 out of 27 cases were documented by our organization's monitoring network.

Media

LGBTQ topics do not play important role in the Ukrainian media but it should be noted that editors and journalists pay duly attention to any important LGBTQ news mostly keeping to professional standards. Against the background of news from the frontline, in fall 2024 the Ukrainian media touched LGBTQ issues more rarely than in the beginning of the year, and the most popular topics did not change: informing on problems of LGBTQ people in Ukraine and legislative proposals to address them.

Evidently manipulative and hostile to LGBTQ people publications were noticed only in few ultraconservative religious media, particularly at the website vsirazom.ua of “Vsi razom!” (All Together!) pro-family movement headed by journalist and Pentecostal preacher Ruslan Kukharchuk. In early 2024, after complaint by Nash Svit, the National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting (the national media regulator) issued a warning to “Vsi razom!” with the prescription to eliminate the violations of Ukrainian legislation which the violator is trying to appeal in the court.

During 2024, 170 publications were posted on the organization's Facebook and Instagram pages, and on the organization's website – 15. Outreach of our pages in social networks amounted 374,998 accounts. Our information, interview with our experts was used in 145 articles on Ukrainian and foreign Internet resources.

Publications

At the beginning of 2025, Nash Svit Center presented its annual report on the situation of LGBTQ people in Ukraine, where we try to outline what the Ukrainian LGBTQ community experienced in the previous year, the current state of affairs with the protection of rights and taking into account the interests of LGBTQ people in our country, how state authorities, politicians, and society reacted to LGBTQ issues. This helps to see the situation in development, identify trends and predict the further course of events — to be neither pessimists nor optimists, but realists.

Struggle for the Future. LGBTQ Situation in Ukraine in 2024

<https://gay.org.ua/publications/Situation-of-LGBT-in-Ukraine-2024-ENG.pdf>

Financial report

Income / Expenses of the non-profit organization in 2024 – 3,633,956 Ukrainian Hryvna.

Sources of funding were grants from Freedom House (USA), The German Marshall Fund of The US, US Embassy in Ukraine, LSVD (Germany) and donations.

Contact details and web-resources

LGBT Human Rights Nash Svit Center

<http://gay.org.ua/>

<https://www.facebook.com/nashsvitcenter/>

<https://www.instagram.com/nashsvitcenter/>

nashsvit@gay.org.ua

(095) 273-03-09 (legal counselling for LGBTQ)

Coordinator of Nash Svit Center: Andriy Maymulakhin