

President of Ukraine  
Volodymyr Zelensky  
c/o. Amnesty International Ukraine  
POB 64  
Kyiv 01019  
UKRAINE

Dear President,

Oksana Mamchenko is one of many survivors of domestic violence in Ukraine. For two decades, she suffered physical and psychological and economic violence from her husband, and so did their children.

Annually, an estimated 1.1 million Ukrainian women suffer from physical, sexual or emotional violence in their families. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, cases of domestic violence have surged. Despite new laws and measures to address gender-based violence, important gaps in protection and lack of implementation are failing survivors.

I therefore urge you to make the necessary legislative changes to ensure that every single instance of domestic violence, including the first incident, is a criminal offence and remove the requirement to prove its "systematic" nature by amending Article 126-1 of the Criminal Code accordingly and in line with international human rights law and standards.

Please ensure Ukraine ratifies the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) with no further delays.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

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