



February 25, 2019

Contact:

Varvara Podnos
Research Manager
varvara.podnos@sapiens.com.ua

Press release

61% of Ukrainians support the introduction of gender quotas for increasing representation of women in the Verkhovna Rada

According to the data of Info Sapiens Omnibus, in February 2019, 61% of Ukrainians aged over 16 years old would support the introduction of gender quotas for increasing women's representation in the Verkhovna Rada, while 22% were not in favour.

Women support gender quotas more than men – 67% vs. 52%. Also, the highest support for gender quotas is observed in the West and the North. The respondents aged 16-19 years old are less likely to support gender quotas than other age groups – there is the highest percentage of the responses "hard to answer" among them.

Assessments of the changes in the law on rape that came into effect in January 2019, were divided: 31% support the fact that sex without consent should be considered rape, 36% do not support it, and 32% can not evaluate them. Again, women are more likely to support the changes in the laws on rape than men, 34% vs. 29%. The highest support for this change is in the West and in Kyiv. Also, the support for this change decreases with age.

At the same time, 60% advocate for the prohibition of sex with a person under 16 years of age, as stated in the amendment to the Criminal Code in March 2018, and 15% do not support this change. 64% of women and 56% of men are in favour of this amendment. This change is most often supported by the citizens of the West. Among the age groups, this amendment is less likely to be supported by those aged 16-19 years old and over 60, but not due to high levels of disagreement, but because of higher proportion of the responses "hard to answer".

There are no significant differences by education for all three questions.

'We are pleased that 61% of the population support gender quotas, although the focus groups show that a significant proportion of the population agrees with the importance of this issue only after we have presented the statistical data in the question,' Inna Volosevich, Deputy Director of Info Sapiens, comments. – 'Therefore, it is very useful to raise awareness on why we need "quotes instead of flowers" for March 8th.

The attitude to the changes in the law on rape is ambivalent, probably due to much mockery in the media regarding the "vouchers on sex": 31% supports the fact that sex without consent should be considered rape, and 36% do not support it. It's a pity that a third of society does not support the protection of the rights of rape victims and that it has become a popular theme for jokes. The clarifications of this law given by lawyers and public figures, had not reached at least 32% of the population who could not assess whether they supported or

did not support this amendment to the law. At the same time, 60% support the prohibition of sex with a person under 16 years of age, as established by this amendment to the Criminal Code'

According to Tamara Martseniuk, PhD in Sociology, Associate Professor at University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine), consultant of Info Sapiens, and the author of the article "International experience in introducing gender quotas and Ukrainian realities", *'The results of this public opinion survey have once again shown that ordinary Ukrainians have much more positive attitude towards the introduction of gender quotas than the representatives of Ukrainian politics, especially deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the leaders of political parties. Moreover, women are as always more likely than men, to support the idea of introducing gender quotas, since they are more aware of gender stereotypes and understand the obstacles associated with the phenomenon of "glass ceiling" in general and in politics in particular.'*

The article "International experience in introducing gender quotas and Ukrainian realities" is available here <https://genderindetail.org.ua/season-topic/polityka/mizhnarodniy-dosvid-zaprovadzhennya-gendernih-kvot-ta-ukrainski-realii-134924.html>

Tables

Distribution by gender

At present, there are 12% of women in the Verkhovna Rada. In order to increase the representation of women in the Verkhovna Rada, some parties introduce quotas in order to have no less than 40% of women or at least half of the candidates (for example, at least 2 women for every 5 men). Do you support this practice?

	Male	Female	Total
Yes	20%	32%	27%
Rather yes	32%	35%	34%
Rather no	16%	11%	14%
No	10%	7%	8%
Hard to answer	22%	15%	18%

In the past, rape was considered an act of sexual assault committed with threats or use of force. Now, according to the new law, the injured party must prove that she did not consent to sex. What is your attitude to such changes in the legislation?

	Male	Female	Total
Totally support	12%	20%	16%
Rather support	17%	14%	15%
Rather don't support	18%	18%	18%
Don't support at all	18%	17%	18%
Hard to answer	34%	31%	32%

In the past, the law prohibited sex with a "person who has not reached sexual maturity" without defining the criteria for sexual maturity, while the new law prohibits sex with a person aged under 16 years old. What is your attitude to such changes in the legislation?

	Male	Female	Total
Totally support	24%	36%	30%
Rather support	32%	28%	30%
Rather don't support	8%	9%	9%
Don't support at all	7%	5%	6%
Hard to answer	29%	23%	26%

Distribution by age

At present, there are 12% of women in the Verkhovna Rada. In order to increase the representation of women in the Verkhovna Rada, some parties introduce quotas in order to have no less than 40% of women or at least half of the candidates (for example, at least 2 women for every 5 men). Do you support this practice?

	16-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Total
Yes	21%	24%	25%	26%	29%	29%	27%
Rather yes	31%	37%	34%	34%	34%	31%	34%
Rather no	16%	13%	14%	13%	13%	14%	14%
No	9%	7%	8%	9%	7%	9%	8%
Hard to answer	23%	20%	19%	18%	16%	17%	18%

In the past, rape was considered an act of sexual assault committed with threats or use of force. Now, according to the new law, the injured party must prove that she did not consent to sex. What is your attitude to such changes in the legislation?

	16-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Total
Totally support	28%	17%	21%	17%	16%	10%	16%
Rather support	9%	19%	19%	15%	14%	12%	15%
Rather don't support	12%	26%	19%	19%	17%	14%	18%
Don't support at all	13%	21%	14%	21%	19%	17%	18%
Hard to answer	38%	17%	26%	29%	35%	47%	32%

In the past, the law prohibited sex with a "person who has not reached sexual maturity" without defining the criteria for sexual maturity, while the new law prohibits sex with a person aged under 16 years old. What is your attitude to such changes in the legislation?

	16-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Total
Totally support	38%	32%	28%	31%	32%	28%	30%
Rather support	14%	36%	34%	34%	26%	27%	30%
Rather don't support	11%	10%	8%	7%	13%	5%	9%
Don't support at all	4%	6%	8%	7%	4%	4%	6%
Hard to answer	34%	16%	22%	21%	25%	37%	26%
N	50	165	189	164	178	254	1000

Distribution by region

At present, there are 12% of women in the Verkhovna Rada. In order to increase the representation of women in the Verkhovna Rada, some parties introduce quotas in order to have no less than 40% of women or at least half of the candidates (for example, at least 2 women for every 5 men). Do you support this practice?

	Kyiv	North	West	Center	South	East	Total
Yes	25%	36%	39%	14%	29%	20%	27%
Rather yes	38%	33%	26%	36%	38%	36%	34%
Rather no	15%	7%	12%	22%	8%	13%	14%
No	6%	6%	9%	10%	6%	9%	8%
Hard to answer	17%	17%	15%	18%	20%	22%	18%

In the past, rape was considered an act of sexual assault committed with threats or use of force. Now, according to the new law, the injured party must prove that she did not consent to sex. What is your attitude to such changes in the legislation?

	Kyiv	North	West	Center	South	East	Total
Totally support	12%	10%	38%	11%	10%	6%	16%
Rather support	36%	15%	18%	11%	11%	11%	15%
Rather don't support	18%	9%	19%	21%	23%	15%	18%
Don't support at all	4%	35%	5%	25%	11%	25%	18%
Hard to answer	31%	30%	21%	32%	44%	43%	32%

**Info Sapiens
(Інфо Сапієнс)**

34 L.Ukrainki Blvd., 2nd entrance, 6th floor
Kyiv, Ukraine, 01133
Тел.: + 38 (044) 299 74 31
<https://www.sapiens.com.ua/>
<https://www.facebook.com/InfoSapiensLLC/>



In the past, the law prohibited sex with a "person who has not reached sexual maturity" without defining the criteria for sexual maturity, while the new law prohibits sex with a person aged under 16 years old. What is your attitude to such changes in the legislation?

	Kyiv	North	West	Center	South	East	Total
Totally support	18%	42%	47%	13%	23%	38%	30%
Rather support	46%	23%	29%	39%	23%	18%	30%
Rather don't support	14%	3%	3%	13%	16%	3%	9%
Don't support at all	3%	4%	3%	6%	7%	9%	6%
Hard to answer	19%	28%	18%	28%	31%	31%	26%

About the survey

Info Sapiens Omnibus involves 1,000 individuals aged 16+. Sample is representative for the population of Ukraine by gender, age, size of settlement and region. Autonomous Republic of Crimea and occupied areas of Donbas were excluded from the sample. The theoretical margin of error is 3.2%. The fieldwork took place on 1-14 of February, 2019.

About Info Sapiens

Research agency Info Sapiens specializes in public opinion polls, behavioral studies and secondary data analysis. Our team complies with the ICC/ESOMAR International Code of Marketing and Social Research Practice.

Info Sapiens provides fieldwork for GfK Ukraine projects and also independently conducts research projects, namely social and political surveys. More information about the company and its services is available on the [website](#) or [facebook page](#).