

**Statement  
of Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine  
Mr. Kolomiets Viacheslav  
Conference on the Council of Europe Strategy  
for the Rights of the Child 2012-2015**

**Your Royal Highness,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear participants,**

First of all I would like to inform you about the activities and measures taken by Ukraine in this year with aim to strengthening of ensure of the children rights. These activities are closely corresponding to the implementation of the commitments by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as in wide dimension to bringing of national legislation to conformity with European standards.

In February 2011 Ukraine ratified the European Convention on the Adoption of Children (revised).

In May 2011 President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich approved the concept of criminal justice for juveniles.

The Law of Ukraine "On action against trafficking in human beings" was adopted in September 2011. This Law brought national legislation into conformity with international law, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

A joint project of the Council of Europe and the European Union on strengthening of the rights of women and children in Ukraine was successfully completed in this year.

I would like to draw a special attention to outcome of the International conference "Combating violence against children: from isolated actions to integrated strategies" which was held in Kyiv in May 2011 in the framework of Ukrainian Chairmanship in the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

This Conference made a significant practical contribution to the strengthening of children protection's mechanisms in our country. In particular, its results facilitated achieving such important goal as the awareness the Ukrainian society to the problem of violence against children.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to inform you about the protection of the most vulnerable social categories of children in Ukraine.

Despite the positive trend of lowering the number of orphans and children deprived of parental care in recent years, the fact that the proportion of such

children in the general child population is still about 1.2 percent is a subject of our concern.

However, at the present stage the three of four children of this category, have already brought up in families of Ukrainians.

In recent years Ukraine has kept a steady tendency of lowering the number of homeless and neglected children. Since 2005, this number dropped more than twice.

Taking into account the positive developments in the situation of children who fell into the difficult life circumstances, state authorities and civil society organizations in Ukraine also have a clear understanding of existing problems. Without solving these problems we cannot achieve a qualitative progress in creating a real effective system of the protection rights of children belonging to vulnerable groups.

One of the priorities of the Government of Ukraine is developing standards for the provision of services for orphans and children deprived of parental care as well as children in vulnerable situations.

In this regard we consider it necessary to emphasize the practical importance of the provision concerning the technical assistance to member states in the implementation of existing Council of Europe standards, with a focus on developing holistic children's rights strategies, contained in the draft Strategy on the rights of the child 2012-2015.

**Dear participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of the Government of Ukraine I have the honor to express our general support to the Council of Europe Strategy on the rights of the child 2012-2015.

Thank you for your attention.