



Internally Displaced Persons and Electoral Participation

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**Internally Displaced Persons
and Electoral Participation:
A Brief Overview**

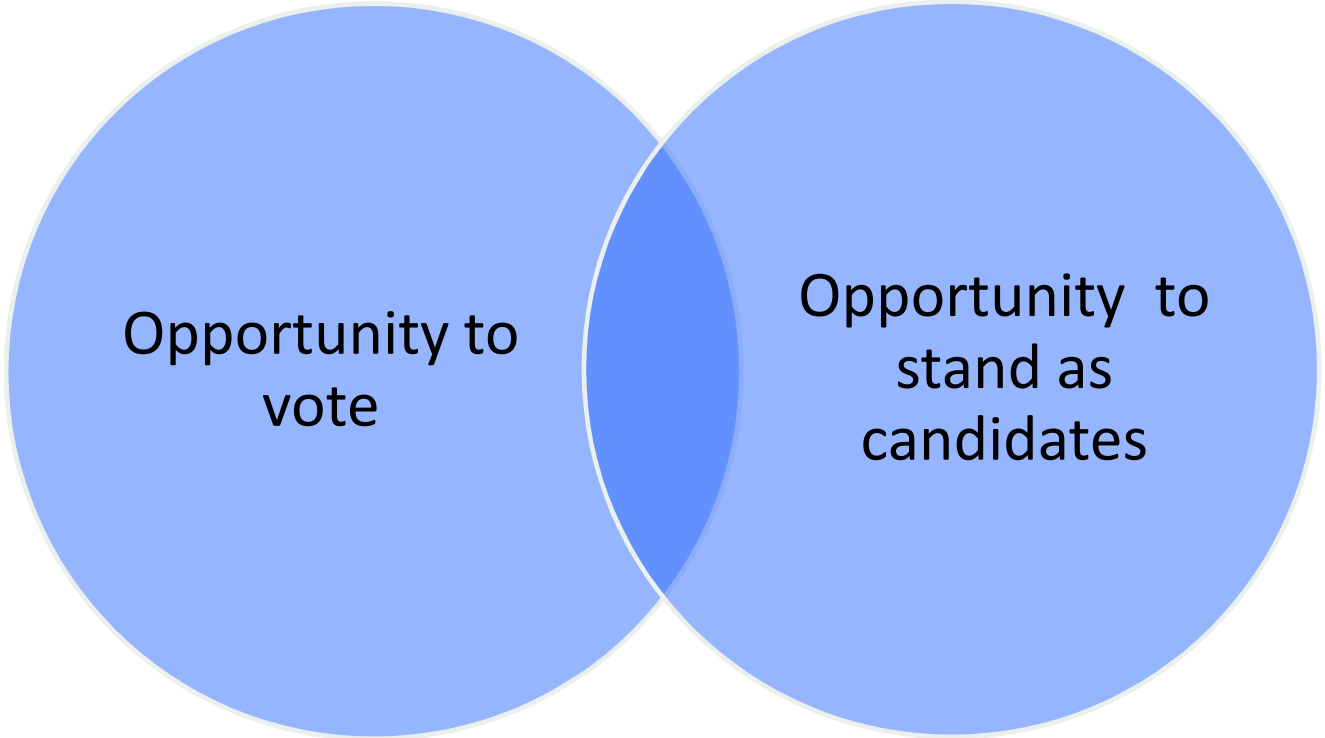
IFES White Paper



Since 1987 IFES has worked in more than 145 countries promoting electoral integrity and supporting citizens' participation in elections, including the under-represented such as IDPs.

September 2016, IFES issued a white paper on IDP electoral participation to promote more attention to this under-addressed issue.

Rights

A Venn diagram consisting of two overlapping light blue circles. The left circle is labeled 'Opportunity to vote' and the right circle is labeled 'Opportunity to stand as candidates'. The overlapping area in the center is a darker shade of blue.

Opportunity to
vote

Opportunity to
stand as
candidates

IDPs should be given the choice



vote for
constituencies
of origin

or current
constituencies



Practical barriers

Documentation requirements

Difficulties in accessing information through regular methods

Marginalized groups frequently overrepresented in IDP populations

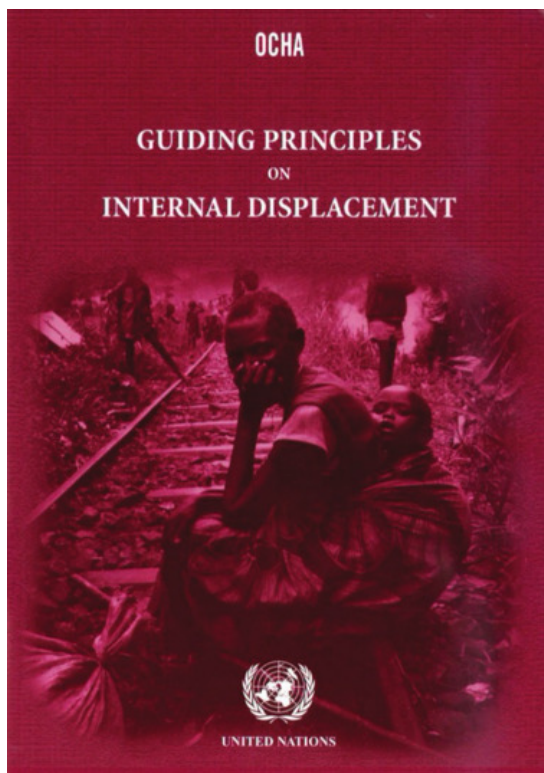


Consensus-based decisions

Development of policies and laws should be undertaken well in advance of an election, to allow time for research, consultations, consideration of different implementation options, consensus-building, and the implementation of changes.

Groups representing IDPs, civil society and the election management body should all be involved.

IFES's White Paper includes 17 recommendations to support the realization of Guiding Principle 22(1):



Principle 22(1) which states that IDPs *“shall not be discriminated against as a result of their displacement in the enjoyment of... the right to vote and to participate in governmental and public affairs, including the right to have access to the means necessary to exercise this right.”*

Principle 29(1) states that IDPs *“who have returned to their homes or places of habitual residence or who have resettled in another part of the country shall not be discriminated against as a result of their having been displaced. They shall have the right to participate fully and equally in public affairs at all levels and have equal access to public services.”*



IDPs' election rights in Ukraine:

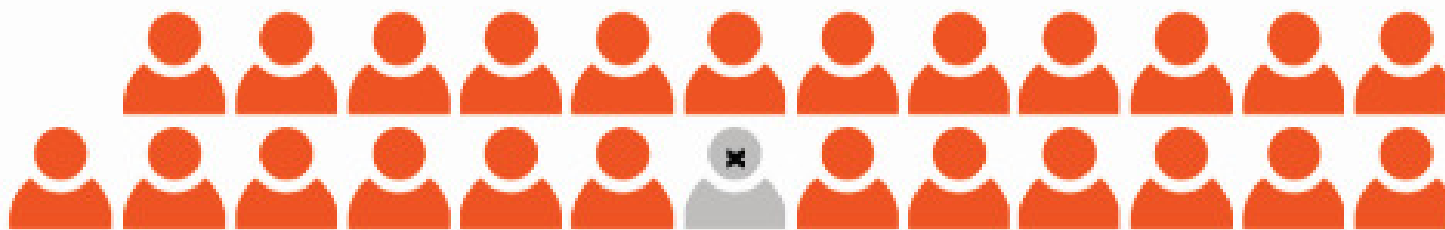
1,519,132
internally displaced persons

from the occupied territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea had their voting rights restricted

as of September 3, 2018, according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine

IDPs' election rights in Ukraine:

4%



Approximately 4% of the Ukrainian electorate are IDPs who are deprived of exercising their full political rights. In Ukraine, persons can participate in local elections only in the constituency of their government registered address which is often different from their actual place of residence.

IDPs' election rights in Ukraine:



Can elect President of Ukraine



Can elect Members of Parliament by Party-list proportional representation system



Can stand as candidates for President, Parliament, Local elections



Can NOT elect Members of Parliament in single-member constituencies



Can NOT elect mayors and members of the local councils



IDPs' election rights in Ukraine:

About 500 000 people had no right to elect a member of parliament in single-member constituencies in the October 2014.

1,345,100 IDPs did not participate in the Local elections 2015 and were not able to elect local councils deputies.



IDPs' election rights in Ukraine:

Aiming to resolve the outlined problem, NGO "GROUP OF INFLUENCE" together with Civil network OPORA and International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) had developed the draft law on **Ensuring Access to the Right to Vote of Internally Displaced Persons and Other Internal Migrants**



On March 27, 2017

24 MPs from different factions signed the draft law No6240 which enables all Ukrainian citizens to vote in their actual place of residence by simplifying voter registration procedures



IDPs' election rights in Ukraine:

The Constitution of Ukraine clearly defines the equality of rights of all citizens, particularly in matters of electoral law. International principles also oblige Ukraine to ensure these rights.

However, the draft law #6240 which would enable all Ukrainian citizens to vote in their actual places of residence by simplifying voter registration procedures currently of **little interest to MPs and requires information and advocacy support.**



IDPs' election rights in Ukraine:

- NGO Group of Influence in partnership with IFES will continue an countrywide advocacy campaign **“EVERY VOTE HAS IMPACT”** to grant IDPs the right to vote on all kind of elections.
- The local governments support such system changes and consider IDPs as the members of their communities. Within advocacy campaign **“EVERY VOTE HAS IMPACT”** local authorities of different cities of Ukraine adopted appeals to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine with a request to vote for Draft Law No.6240 and protect political rights of IDPs at local level.



IDPs' election rights in Ukraine:

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEAzCdAlEm8&t=27s>



Thank you for attention!

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