**PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Press conference**

**“Are the political rights of the internally displaced persons protected?”**

*Almost 4% of Ukrainian voters may be deprived of the right to vote for the fourth time in last two years. Because the unsettled law, for two years internally displaced persons have no possibility to exercise one of the basic constitutional rights of citizens.*

From November until the end of this year will be 438 local election, including in amalgamated communities. According to the Law of Ukraine "On Local Elections”, internally displaced persons once again will be deprived of active voting rights. Thus, legal conflicts will reduce their influence on socio-political life and development of communities they live in. In turn, this may lead to the loss of IDPs interest in participating in the electoral process in general, which threatens the process of internally displaced persons integration in the communities to which they migrated.

**The participants of the event include:**

* Tetiana Durnieva, Executive Director of the Public Holding "Group of Influence”;
* Yuliya Shypilova, Acting Project Manager at IFES Ukraine;
* Oleksandr Kliuzhev, Analyst of the Civil Network OPORA;
* Lyudmila Yankina, Project Coordinator at Center of Information for Human Rights.

In addition, during the press conference, experts will talk about the start of the project "Improvement of Preparation for Elections and Political Participation in Ukraine". It aims to build a strong coalition in the region to advocate for voting rights of IDPs.

**The press conference will be held on November 23 (Wednesday) at 14:00 in the press center of the Information Agency UNIAN at: Kyiv, str. Khreshchatyk, 4, 2nd floor. ATTENTION!** Under the rules of the press center, the entrance to the hall is only after the accreditation and the presentation of editorial card.

As of November 21, 2016, the Ministry of Social Policy have registered 1,664,726 IDPs.

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***Note****: This event is conducted by the Group of Influence through the framework of the Strengthening Electoral Preparedness and Political Participation in Ukraine project, implemented by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) through the support of the UK government. It is part of an ongoing, united effort to strengthen democratic progress in Ukraine, supported by the United States Agency for International Development, Global Affairs Canada, and the UK government. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the UK government, USAID, the United States Government, Global Affairs Canada or the Government of Canada.*