

“«DONNA» Issues SOS Signal”

Natalia Shcherban

Ukrainian civic organization for women with disabilities “Donna Ukraine”, Ukraine

***Corresponding Author:** Natalia Shcherban, Ukrainian civic organization for women with disabilities “Donna Ukraine”, Ukraine.

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This diagnosis dooms thousands of women to fight against death every day, breaks their faiths and destroys their happy families that were such as yesterday yet. It often leaves women without joy of motherhood, takes their full life... This is the breast cancer, which now does not come around even girls of twenty years old.

Women with this terrible disease in Ukraine are left virtually alone, so we have too high mortality because of it. They really need help and attention of the state, and now, because it may be too late tomorrow.



Figure 1:

Many women suffered from oncological diseases are united by Ukrainian public organization “Donna”, which has been created and led by Larysa Yashchenko for almost 20 years. Once doctors declared her a diagnosis of breast cancer and told that she would live a few months. But despite the terrible sentence, she has not only survived winning from illness, but also began to take care of other women with the same trouble. Left alone with a mortal illness, she realized that would not get any help from the authorities, who should have taken care of the problems of such patients. It is necessary to fight and defend the rights and needs of such patients with breast cancer herself. There is the way in which “Donna” appeared, which includes 32 branches in all regions of Ukraine. It unites 142,000 of women.

Thanks to the active role of “Donna” and especially its courageous and tireless leader, since 2011, women suffering from breast cancer have been eligible to received is ability group. Although many people get mostly a third group which does not provide benefits except a minimum pension. Free prosthetics was more or less established. However, severe problems have not solved yet.

Almost a hundred of women from different regions came to Kyiv to the following Congress. They are gathered to appeal to the Ukrainian authorities once again to demand supporting them in overcoming the disease and not to take the last chance for life.

-Unfortunately, many of our friends leave the life though could still live-Larysa Yashchenko says sadly. -If the prevention of breast cancer was on the relevant level in Ukraine, treatments were carried out timely and effective, and most importantly that all this was available to our women, then mortality was not as high. Tell me how is possible to pass chemotherapy with a pension of about USD 48, when the procedure costs USD 200 – 240, and this procedure is carried out more than once?

The rehabilitation should be added to these problems. In fact, it is essential after amputation of the breast. At this time, it may be another problem –lymphatic edema on the operated limbside. The early rehabilitation reduces the occurrence of this complication.

- We, the women with cancer, need to undergo rehabilitation in specially centers created for us, - says Elena Plechun, the head of Zaporizhzhya regional and city branch of the organization “Donna”. –It is necessary to create such conditions in rehab that a woman with no shaming her defect, could be psychologically and physically prepared for later life. Such centers have been functioning in some cities already, particularly in Lutsk, Khmelnytsky, but they should be in each city. For example, we have a large organization in Zaporozhzhya and many women underwent amputation of the breast, so they just need a rehabilitation center.

There are problems with how to get to the hospital. In particular, in Brovary, Kyivregion, hospital oncology department is located in such an awkward place that no transportation goes there. Therefore, women of the local branch of “Donna” raise the question of the route taxi, which would go to the hospital.

Women of “Donna” constantly upholster thresholds of officials’ cabinets, send petitions to various institutions where present their needs and ask for help in overcoming the mortal disease. But despite the fact that our country must fulfill obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons, the wall of indifference and misunderstanding in domestic politics is still very strong. And women with cancer who, in addition to health problems, have to carry on their shoulders the burden of everyday life, are to rely on their own strengths and true courage. They want to live.

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