

PRESS RELEASE

THE ASPS CONDEMNS VILE ACID ATTACK AND URGES PROTECTION FOR ACTIVISTS

Strasbourg 23.11.2018:

The Association of Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe (ASPS) today condemned the horrendous acid attack which led to the death of the Ukrainian local government politician and Human Rights activist **Kateryna Handziuk** earlier this month.

The ASPS which was meeting in Strasbourg for its annual General Assembly called for a thorough investigation of this cowardly crime and said those responsible should be brought to justice and punished.

33 year old **Kateryna Handziuk**, died from complications caused by the severe injuries inflicted on her by the sulphuric acid attack last July. Her case is one of many in Ukraine and elsewhere which are often not subject to a proper police investigation.

Kateryna was an alumni of the Ukrainian School of Political Studies with which she remained closely involved. At the time of the attack she was an advisor to the Mayor of Kherson and had already denounced serious cases of corruption in her region.

The ASPS called on the Authorities in Ukraine and in other Council of Europe countries to afford proper protection to human rights activists and whistleblowers and engage in a constructive dialogue with civil society.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Association of Schools of Political Studies (ASPS)

The Association was set up in July 2008 by the Directors of the Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe to play an enhanced role in the management of their programme, to strengthen links between the Schools and foster their activities.

The first School was set up in Moscow in 1992. Since then other Schools have been established in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Georgia, Greece, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

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