A barrier-free society and inclusion are key priorities of the state. The President of Ukraine has repeatedly emphasized the need to introduce a national standard of barrier-free accessibility.

These new requirements apply to urban planning, infrastructure, public spaces, transportation, social and educational systems, and the business environment.

The issue is one of changing mindsets, overcoming stereotypes and discrimination, and creating a society where everyone feels equal and has the same opportunities.

The modern world is changing rapidly, requiring flexibility and the taking of important decisions. Ukrainian society, which is going through difficult times, must adapt to new realities especially quickly, creating accessible spaces for everyone. Millions of Ukrainians have faced physical, mental, and economic hardships: they have lost their homes, health, families, and jobs. Every veteran, person with disabilities, and internally displaced person needs support and provision with conditions for a full life.



In April 2021, Ukraine adopted a National Strategy for Creating a Barrier-Free Ukraine, which was developed as part of First Lady Olena Zelenska's Barrier-free initiative. The strategy is designed to last until 2030 and envisages the removal of six types of barriers: physical, social, civil, digital, informational, educational, and economic.

"Barrier-free is the philosophy of a society without barriers. This concerns the inner readiness to create an environment where everyone feels comfortable...", said Zelenska. The initiative has become a leitmotif for the beginning of the large-scale changes taking place in Ukraine.

Barrier-free accessibility is not just about ramps and elevators, it is the new normal of our lives, and a shared responsibility to future generations. This is a world where everyone is a human being first and foremost, and where diversity, justice and inclusion are respected!

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BARRIER-FREE ACCESSIBILITY

