



### Research in online violence against women candidates for the post of President of Ukraine

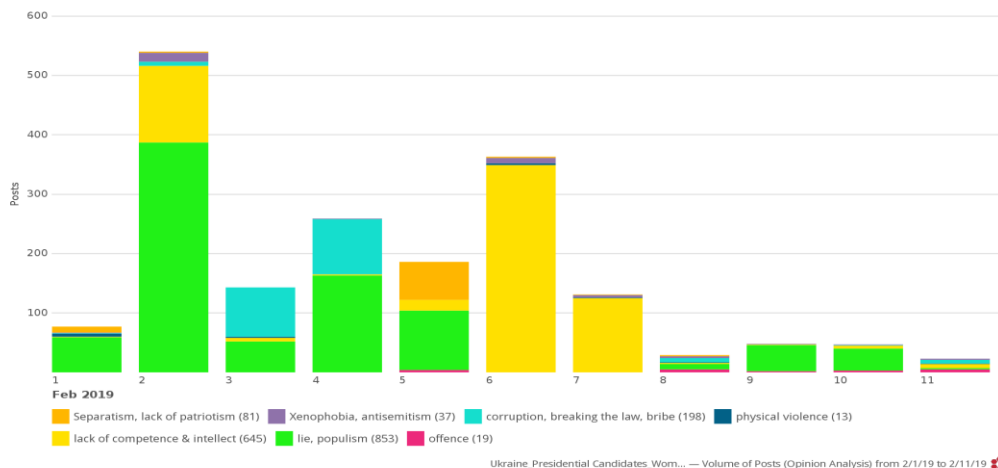
On February 1, 2019, the process of registering candidates for the post of President of Ukraine officially ended. 44 candidates were registered (40 men and 4 women).

The main theme for the attacks is money.

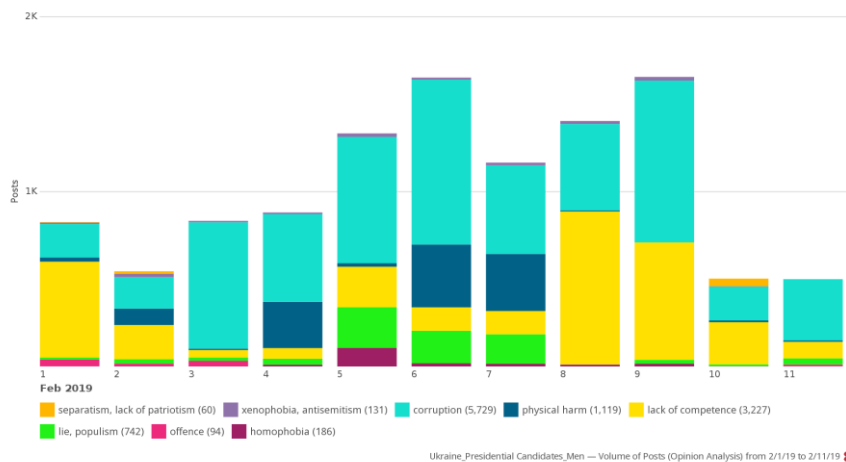
In the center of attention are Yulia Tymoshenko, Petro Poroshenko, Vladimir Zelensky, and Oleg Lyashko. The remaining candidates appear sporadically.

The main topics are corruption, abuse of power, violation of the law, in particular the bribing of voters, deception and populist promises, incompetence and lack of professionalism. Additionally, men received threats of physical violence. Men are more likely than women to be accused of corruption. Women are much more likely to be the object of threats and accusations concerning lack of professionalism, incompetence, inadequate intelligence, and especially populist, unfulfilled promises, and outright lies. Posts of homophobic content are directed exclusively at male candidates. The topic of separatism, treason, insufficient patriotism, and influence of the Russian Federation is raised quite rarely, most often in the context of the activities of Yulia Tymoshenko and Vladimir Zelensky.

The distribution of the content of violent posts against women candidates for the post of President of Ukraine (February 1-11, 2019)



The distribution of the content of violent posts against men candidates for the post of President of Ukraine (February 1-11, 2019)



According to the analysis of social networks Twitter, YouTube, Tumblr, Google+, 14,756 posts were analyzed (12837 of them refer to male candidates, 1919 - to women), of which 13140 were identified as relevant by the program. The data is collected using a special program for analyzing social networks big data CrimsonHexagon with elements of artificial intelligence ..

**Sources of money for cash deposit are one of the main topics of discussion around female presidential candidates after the process of registering candidates is closed.**

*(Study period 01.01-09.02 2019 Facebook network, analysis of posts was carried out 5 times a day, 380 male candidates and 590 violent comments on these posts have been analyzed, 210 posts - women and 626 violent comments on these posts)*

In order to be registered a candidate must make a cash deposit of UAH 2,500,000 and also submit an annual income declaration. The topic of origin of 2,500,000 hryvnia for presidential candidates has become one of the main topics around which the discussion about the independence and non-engagement of candidates has been built.

In relation to Yulia Litvinenko, Olga Bogomolets and Inna Bogoslovskaya (3 out of 4 women candidates), at the beginning of the presidential campaign-2019, they were charged with corruption because of their alleged inability to pay the contribution to the Central Election Commission and to finance the election campaign. Inna Bogoslovskaya posted on her page a post with requisites for raising funds for her campaign, which caused outrage among the users. However, negative posts were quickly deleted. At the beginning of the presidential campaign, the highest level of aggression and charges of corruption for lack of funds for collateral among the 3 candidates is Yulia Litvinenko.

The charge against Yulia Tymoshenko regarding the insolvency to pay a contribution to the CEC and to finance the election campaign was not fixed.

This sort of accusations was not recorded for the male candidates who were the leaders of the ratings during February 1, 2009 – February 12, 2019: Petr Poroshenko, Vladimir Zelensky, Yuriy Boyko, Oleg Lyashko, Anatoly Gritsenko, Andriy Sadovyy.

*Reference: Candidates have different levels of activity and different number of fall-overs at the start of the official election race. Olga Bogomolets has 64514 fall-overs, the average number of comments under the posts is 12. Inna Bogoslovskaya has 18962 fall-overs, the average number of comments under posts is 10. Julia Litvinenko has 35060 fall-overs, the average number of comments under posts is 300, Yulia Tymoshenko post 2082609 fall-overs, middle number of comments - 11000 posts.*

The study of online violence against women candidates for the presidency of Ukraine is implemented by the Ukrainian Marketing Association, NGO in the framework of Responsible and Accountable Policy in Ukraine and Strengthening Legislative and Election Processes by Enhancing Public Participation and Technical Assistance, which are carried out by the International Foundation Electoral Systems (IFES) with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and British assistance from the UK government. The study of factors of violence against women in the electoral process (VAWE) is carried out in different countries of the world, in particular in the USA, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Libya, and is an integral part of IFES's activities aimed at women's ability to participate in political and electoral processes.