



## UZBEKISTAN ON THE WAY TO ENSURE GENDER EQUALITY

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Article history:		Abstract:
<b>Received</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Uzbekistan, supporting and approving all the initiatives of the United Nations aimed at ensuring the rights and interests of women, from the first days of its independence, identified as a priority the problem of legal, economic and social protection of women, creating all the necessary conditions for their comprehensive development. An important step was the accession of the young independent state to the main international documents adopted in the field of women's rights: the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the Convention on Equal Remuneration for Men and Women for Work of Equal Value, the Convention on maternal health, the Beijing Platform and the Plan of Action
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Women have made an incomparable contribution to the recognition by the world community of the successes achieved by our country in solving such problems as the democratic renewal of society and reforming the economy, raising the level and quality of life of the population, developing education and healthcare, science and culture, and improving the well-being of our people. Conducting an effective policy in this direction contributes to the achievement of the planned indicators of life expectancy, the quality of education, employment and development in general. That is why in Uzbekistan these issues are in the center of special attention of the state.

Uzbekistan, supporting and approving all the initiatives of the United Nations aimed at ensuring the rights and interests of women, from the first days of its independence, identified as a priority the problem of legal, economic and social protection of women, creating all the necessary conditions for their comprehensive development. An important step was the accession of the young independent state to the main international documents adopted in the field of women's rights: the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the Convention on Equal Remuneration for Men and Women for Work of Equal Value, the Convention on maternal health, the Beijing Platform and the Plan of Action.

The main directions of the state policy to protect the interests of women are identified. The first is a systematic study and assessment of the state of affairs in protecting the rights of women, increasing their role in the family, society and managing public and state affairs. The second is the development and adoption of measures to ensure their employment, the provision of all-round assistance in finding employment, and the development of various forms of entrepreneurship. The third is to ensure the implementation of legal acts in the field of protecting the rights and interests of women, protecting motherhood and childhood. Fourth, the preparation and implementation of measures aimed at increasing the socio-political and social activity of women, assisting the active participation of women's non-governmental non-profit organizations in the public and political life of the country, and the international women's movement.

It should be noted that the provisions of these conventions occupy a priority place in the system of national legislation. All basic personal, political, economic, social and cultural rights of women are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The laws and other legal acts adopted in this area in recent years fully comply with the provisions of these conventions. In this area, Uzbekistan has adopted a number of legislative acts, including the adoption of decrees and resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on ensuring the rights of women, in particular, on gender equality and protecting women from harassment and violence, on strengthening the status of women's entrepreneurship. From the point of view of the implementation of gender equality, it is necessary to highlight the positive developments in education. In particular, since 2017, correspondence departments in various specialties have been operating in most higher education institutions. This form of education gives young women the opportunity to care for children and fulfill other family obligations.

In recent years, the republic has achieved significant results in regulating and ensuring the safety of labor migration, combating human trafficking, and protecting victims of this type of cross-border crime, most of which are women and youth. For the first time in the history of the modern development of the country, the Law "On Private Employment Agencies" was adopted. By the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Fund for Support and Protection of the Rights and Interests of Citizens Working Abroad was established. There is a Republican Rehabilitation Center for assistance to victims of human trafficking, which has no analogues in the region, and is fully funded by the state.

At the legislative level, important and relevant laws were adopted, which became a platform for ensuring the rights of women in our country, equality of the stronger and weaker sexes.

The law "On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men", for the first time at the legislative level, defines the concept of "gender" and considers the social aspect of relations between women and men, which manifests itself in all spheres of society, including politics, economics, law, ideology and culture, education and science. The law defines the main directions of state policy in the field of ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men, the powers of state bodies in this area, in particular, the powers of the Commission on Ensuring Gender Equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

This Commission was established by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 7, 2019 "On measures to further strengthen guarantees of labor rights and support for women's entrepreneurial activities." The Commission performs the tasks of implementing state policy aimed at ensuring gender equality and improving the social conditions of women in the country, considering appeals from state bodies and other organizations on violations of gender equality, and implementing measures on professional segregation (forced separation of any group of the population), wage differences; an increase in the proportion of the fair sex in the economically active segments of the population; defining and ensuring the effective implementation of measures aimed at improving the legal culture of women, organizing large-scale advocacy activities.

At the same time, the Law "On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" establishes that such actions as: establishing differences in the regulation of relations related to the functions of childbirth and breastfeeding; conscription for urgent military service; features of labor protection for women and men related to the protection of their reproductive health; providing recommendations for professional qualifications based on the possibilities of performing duties only by persons of a certain gender; establishing differences in the regulation of the order and conditions of detention in places of detention; execution of punishment and other measures of legal influence, as well as positive measures aimed at strengthening the social status of women in society, ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men, do not constitute discrimination on the basis of sex.

Another important document adopted in the field of protection of women's rights was the Law on the Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence. This legal act is aimed at protecting the fairer sex from all forms of harassment and violence. If a female person who is at risk of harassment and violence against her or who has suffered as a result of harassment and violence is recognized as a victim of harassment and violence, individual protection measures are taken against her. Is gender equality possible? Some states, including Uzbekistan, have already answered this question and, based on the study of the phenomenon, put forward the following criteria by which one can judge gender equality: women's participation in the political and economic life of the country; equal pay for both sexes; lack of discrimination in the workplace, when moving up the career ladder e, acquiring any profession.

We can safely say that the policy of gender equality is successfully leading in Uzbekistan and contributes to the development of the policy of gender equality:

1. Democratic and social orientation towards the creation of a state where the well-being of a person does not depend on his gender. Social rights are designed to protect gender equality.
2. Availability of any professional education and workplace for women.
3. Representation of women in the apparatus of power.
4. Development of anti-discrimination laws.
5. Creation of certain mechanisms to ensure gender equality (social institutions, departments for equality). Special experts oversee the promotion of gender equality policies.
6. Anti-crisis centers for women victims of violence by their husbands have been opened; the centers have received financial support from the state.
7. Work must be consistently continued to ensure the full and effective participation of women at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

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