



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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against Women

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Consideration of reports submitted by States Parties under
article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms
of Discrimination against Women

Replies of Kazakhstan to the list of issues and questions in relation to its sixth periodic report*

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* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



Visibility and applicability of the Convention, the Optional Protocol and the Committee's general recommendations

1 (a)

Efforts to raise awareness of women's rights, including through television broadcasts, social media, and printed and online materials, are carried out in accordance with the framework for family and gender policy and annual media plans. Workshops and training on leadership, gender equality and non-discrimination are organized jointly with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The text of the Convention has been placed in the Әділет (Adilet) system, and there are plans to make it available in Braille and audio format.

1 (b)

Since 2016, the courts have been documenting the application of the Convention. Between 2020 and the first half of 2025, 3,796 court decisions were handed down in criminal, administrative and civil cases. The Supreme Court sent clarifications on the direct application of international treaties. The Academy of Justice organized some 100 training events for 3,000 judges on international obligations, including the implementation of the Convention and the Committee's jurisprudence.

1 (c)

Following the constitutional reforms of 2017, the Republic of Kazakhstan strengthened the primacy of international law, including the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The amendments to article 4 of the Constitution confirmed that ratified international treaties take precedence over national laws, allowing the Convention to be invoked in court cases concerning women's rights. Judges are instructed to apply its provisions, and guidelines on their application are available on the website of the Supreme Court.

Legislative framework and definition of discrimination

2 (a)

Equality and the prohibition of discrimination are enshrined in the Constitution and basic codes. The Equal Rights for Men and Women Act contains a definition of gender discrimination. A framework law against discrimination (covering direct, indirect and intersecting forms of discrimination, positive measures and protection mechanisms) is being prepared. A department for the prevention of discrimination has been established within the National Centre for Human Rights.

2 (b)

Comprehensive legislative measures have been adopted to combat intersecting forms of discrimination against women. The Act on the Prevention of Domestic Violence provides for protection orders, requirements regarding the conduct of offenders and increased liability for repeat offenders. The powers of competent officials have been expanded and restrictions have been introduced under article 54 of the Code of Administrative Offences. Under amendments to the Criminal Code and the Code of Administrative Offences, penalties have been increased and an investigative procedure has been established for documenting offences. More than

100 family support centres, specialized police units and a call centre for victim assistance have been established.

2 (c)

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, article 145 of the Criminal Code (Violation of the equality of human and civil rights) already provides for liability for discrimination on “any other grounds” and thus covers all cases related to sexual orientation and gender identity.

The current wording ensures universal coverage of all forms of discrimination and is in line with article 14 of the Constitution, in which the equality of all before the law is enshrined.

2 (d)

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, the terms “lesbianism” and “sodomy” in articles 121–123 of the Criminal Code are used solely for the legal characterization of acts of a sexual nature and not for the assessment of individuals. Pursuant to Supreme Court Regulatory Decision No. 4 of 11 May 2007, these terms are used in cases of sexual assault, regardless of gender.

These terms are not discriminatory and are in line with international standards, including the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (the State is entitled to regulate the content of public statements, including legal terms, provided that this does not violate human dignity and human rights, arts. 19 and 20).

2 (e)

The Constitution and basic codes guarantee equal rights regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, disability and other characteristics. Women may seek protection from the courts, administrative bodies, the National Centre for Human Rights and the Ombudsperson, as well as from crisis centres and social protection agencies.

A framework law on combating discrimination is being developed, providing for clear mechanisms for complaints, compensation and redress. A department for the prevention of discrimination has been established within the National Centre for Human Rights.

Access to justice and legal complaint mechanisms

3 (a)

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the implementation of the decisions of United Nations treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Since 2022, an inter-agency group has been operating under the Ministry of Justice to consider individual appeals and develop measures to implement committee recommendations. In the case of Anna Belousova ([CEDAW/C/61/D/45/2012](#)), a legal analysis has been conducted and proposals for improving procedures have been developed. In 2023, it was proposed that committee recommendations be referred to the Office of the Procurator-General for judicial review. The establishment of a national mechanism for the implementation of the decisions of United Nations bodies is being considered as part of legal reforms.

3 (b)

Pursuant to the Presidential Decree of 8 December 2023 and the Human Rights Action Plan, liability for domestic violence was increased and new protection mechanisms for vulnerable groups were introduced.

The intentional infliction of minor injury and battery were criminalized, and the penalties for torture, serious and moderate injury, murder of minors and paedophilia were increased. Article 121-1, providing for liability for indecent acts against minors, was added to the Criminal Code.

Since 2023, domestic violence proceedings may be initiated without a complaint by the victim, and reconciliation is permitted only once. These measures have led to a decrease in incidents of domestic violence, from 115,526 in 2022 to 75,004 in 2024.

3 (c)

Under the Constitution and the Code of Criminal Procedure, any legally obtained information, including testimonies of victims and witnesses, is recognized as evidence, and the absence of physical evidence does not preclude the recognition of an act of violence.

Since 2021, female investigators have been appointed to handle such cases. Since 2022, a network of crisis centres has been in place, providing medical, psychological and legal assistance. This work is coordinated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labour, with the support of non-governmental organizations and international organizations.

3 (d)

Discrimination, including on the basis of disability, is prohibited under the Constitution and the Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women Act. The codes of procedure provide for the participation of a procurator and remote court hearings in cases involving women with disabilities, while the Lawyers Act provides for free legal aid for women in groups I and II.

International safeguards have been expanded since the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto. The Social Code and the inclusive policy framework up to 2030 provide for equal access to justice and services.

3 (e)

Since 2021, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has appointed female investigators to handle cases of sexual violence against women and minors. Since 2022, a pilot programme of crisis centres providing medical, psychological, legal and social assistance to victims has been implemented.

Evidence obtained in violation of the Code of Criminal Procedure is deemed inadmissible. International standards for the protection of the privacy and dignity of victims have been implemented, ensuring that questioning is conducted in a safe environment, with confidentiality and specialist support.

3 (f)

Victims of sexual violence are provided with free legal aid in accordance with article 26 of the Lawyers and Legal Aid Act. This includes legal advice, court representation and compensation of 30–50 monthly notional units under the Victims' Compensation Fund Act.

Support is provided through 30 crisis centres across the country. Aid was received by 4,656 people (1,445 women and 3,200 minors) in 2024 and 1,886 people (including 587 women) in the first half of 2025.

3 (g)

Training programmes for judges are implemented to combat gender bias and discrimination. The Academy of Justice of the Higher Judicial Council provides training on domestic and sexual violence cases, women's rights and gender equality.

In 2025, training courses were conducted on the following topics: the modernization of the judicial system and gender awareness; the consideration of criminal cases of domestic violence; criminal offences in the context of family and domestic relations; and women's right to participate in State affairs.

3 (h)

Women and girls with disabilities who are victims of sexual violence are provided with special procedural accommodations and protections, such as barrier-free access to institutions, adapted communication means, questioning via video link, proceedings adapted to the victims' particular needs, data confidentiality, judicial safeguards, access to safe housing and comprehensive support (psychologists, lawyers and social workers), and closed court sessions if necessary.

3 (i)

Kazakhstan is reinforcing equal access to justice for women and girls with disabilities. Discrimination is prohibited under article 14 of the Constitution, the Equal Rights Act of 2009 and the Social Code of 2023. The Code of Civil Procedure and the Code of Administrative Procedure provide for procedural accommodations, the participation of a procurator and free legal aid. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto have been ratified. The inclusive policy framework up to 2030 is aimed at creating a barrier-free environment. Under laws adopted in 2024 and 2025, liability for violence, stalking and forced marriage has been increased.

National machinery for the advancement of women

4 (a)

In Kazakhstan, gender equality efforts are coordinated by the Ministry of Culture and Information, which has a gender policy coordination office. Since 2024, the *akims* (administrative heads) of the provinces have been advised by external gender equality experts. A department for the prevention of discrimination has been established within the National Centre for Human Rights. The National Commission on Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan plays a special role in this area.

4 (b)

The framework for family and gender policy up to 2030 is aimed at enhancing the role of women in the economy and politics, preventing violence and developing gender education. The following indicators have been established: more women leaders; decreased violence; increased financial literacy; and increased involvement of men in parenting. Monitoring is conducted by the Ministry of National Economy, and reports are published online. In 2024, a government action plan was approved, with 46 measures in the areas of education, health, employment and social policy.

4 (c)

A multi-stakeholder gender equality monitoring system involving the Government, research institutions, international organizations and civil society has been established. The National Bureau of Statistics publishes regular gender reports (e.g. *Women and Men of Kazakhstan* and *The Gender Profile of the Sustainable Development Goals*). The Kazakhstan Institute for Social Development conducts research and prepares national reports. A consortium of research organizations (15 institutes) has been established under the National Commission on Women's Affairs to conduct gender audits and analysis. Gender assessments of laws, audits of training programmes, and training for civil servants and deputies are conducted together with UN-Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). A gender equality certification programme has been launched.

4 (d)

Kazakhstan actively supports women's human rights organizations and promotes their participation in independent gender monitoring. The position of external gender equality adviser to *akims* has been created and is held by representatives of civil society, who receive training and participate in provincial commissions. Together with UN-Women, projects on women's empowerment are being implemented, and more than 40 events and training courses have been conducted.

Women's organizations receive grants and government funding. In 2024, 183 projects on gender and family policy were implemented. Representatives of human rights non-governmental organizations are members of the National Commission on Women's Affairs and participate in independent assessments of the fulfilment of the State's obligations.

4 (e)

The second action plan (2020–2022) for the implementation of the framework for family and gender policy has contributed to the promotion of equal rights and opportunities. The framework was updated in 2022, with focus placed on expanding women's participation in the economy and leadership, preventing violence and supporting families. There has been an increase in the number of women leaders (from 23.6 to 39.9 per cent) and economically active women (from 58.6 to 67.1 per cent). Ongoing challenges will be taken into account when the framework is updated in 2026.

4 (f)

Sex-disaggregated data are systematically collected and analysed in Kazakhstan. The Bureau of National Statistics publishes compilations (*Women and Men of Kazakhstan* and *Gender Statistics*) and maintains a web page entitled "Gender statistics". The list of gender indicators is being expanded, including through a project on gender trade statistics with the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Data are recorded by age, ethnicity and province. The family and gender policy research centre in the Kazakhstan Institute of Public Development prepares analytical reports, and a gender needs map with provincial data has been launched on the Institute's website.

4 (g)

In 2024, Kazakhstan updated the national plan for the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions (Government Decision No. 935), aimed at strengthening the participation of women in peacebuilding. In the second national plan, beginning in 2025, the objectives have been expanded from 16 to 34 activities.

The key priorities are women's participation in peacebuilding, protection from violence and leadership development. New measures include the establishment of a women's negotiating group, training for journalists and civil servants, public monitoring, support for victims of violence, the development of women's leadership and cooperation within Central Asia.

National human rights institution

5 (a)

Steps have been taken to ensure the full independence of the Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles) and to receive "A" status accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. In 2023, an independent assessment was conducted by experts from the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, following which most of the recommendations were implemented. Work is under way to strengthen the institutional, functional and financial independence of the Commissioner, broaden the institution's mandate and enhance its engagement with civil society and international partners. All measures will be fully implemented in a phased manner over 2025 and 2026.

5 (b)

The independence of the Commissioner for Human Rights is enshrined in law and guaranteed by safeguards against interference in the Commissioner's activities. The Commissioner cannot be held liable for actions taken within the mandate, which eliminates potential pressure or influence.

The grounds for dismissal are strictly defined by law, preventing politically motivated decisions. The appointment and dismissal procedure is based on a two-tier mechanism whereby the President makes the nomination and the Senate makes the final decision. Such a system ensures balance and reduces the risk of political influence.

5 (c)

The institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights is strengthening the protection of women's rights by expanding a network of provincial representatives and working together with the national preventive mechanism. After monitoring a psychiatric hospital in East Kazakhstan Oblast, the Commissioner recommended that the Ministry of Health close it, which led to the construction of a new centre. The provincial representatives conduct visits and handle complaints, including cases of violations of women's rights. In 2024, following the intervention of a representative in Turkestan Oblast, a woman who had been unlawfully placed in a psychiatric centre was released and the criminal investigation was reopened.

5 (d)

In 2024, Kazakhstan took steps to strengthen the mandates of thematic ombudspersons and expand their powers.

By an Act of 5 July 2024, the position of Ombudsperson for the Rights of Socially Vulnerable Groups was established under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, with clearly defined competencies.

By an Act of 15 April 2024, the status of the Ombudsperson for Children's Rights was consolidated by establishing guarantees of independence, procedures for appointment and dismissal, and a network of provincial representatives with the right of unhindered access to all facilities where children are present.

5 (e)

The Commissioner for Human Rights conducts ongoing monitoring of institutions where women and persons with disabilities are held. With a view to improving conditions, plans are in place to build multipurpose penal colonies. In December 2024, a conference was held at which research on women's detention conditions was presented and recommendations were made on preventing violence and improving laws.

5 (f)

The National Centre for Human Rights has an actual incumbency of 92 personnel, of whom 52 work in the central office and 40 in the representative offices. The gender composition is as follows: 43 men (46.7 per cent), of whom 23 work in the central office and 20 in the representative offices; and 49 women (53.3 per cent), of whom 29 work in the central office and 20 in the representative offices.

Temporary special measures

6 (a)

Kazakhstan is implementing a set of measures to accelerate gender equality. The updated framework up to 2030 provides for a 30 per cent quota for the participation of women in governance and a reduction of the pay gap to 21 per cent. A 30 per cent quota has been introduced for women, young people and persons with disabilities in parliament, political parties and boards of directors. A gender equality certification programme has been launched and more than 40 activities, including leadership workshops, have been carried out with UN-Women. Over 800 women have been trained through the Tomiris programme, and a UN-Women project, covering the period 2025–2027, to establish a gender knowledge centre was launched in 2025.

Gender stereotypes and harmful practices

7 (a)

Kazakhstan is implementing measures to eliminate gender stereotypes through the framework for family and gender policy up to 2030 and information and awareness-raising campaigns in the media. Work is under way on a draft law prohibiting sexist and stereotypical portrayals of women in the media and advertising. Training sessions, programmes and joint projects with UN-Women and UNDP are carried out to promote gender equality.

7 (b)

Steps to counter hate speech and discriminatory rhetoric are governed by the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the administrative codes. All persons, including government officials and parliamentarians, are liable. Awareness-raising activities are carried out by government bodies in cooperation with non-governmental organizations. In conflict situations, mediation procedures are followed in accordance with the Mediation Act.

7 (c)

On 10 June 2024, the Ministry of Culture and Information received a petition titled “We are against LGBT propaganda”. On 21 June, a working group with 45 members was established. Over 300 submissions, including opinions from international organizations, have been received. On 6 August, a decision was taken to partially comply with the petition, only in terms of protecting children from inappropriate content; no restrictions of rights or legislative changes are planned.

7 (d)

A new article, article 125-1 (Forced marriage), has been added to the Criminal Code, establishing a penalty of up to 10 years' imprisonment, depending on the gravity of the act. The note to article 125 of the Criminal Code, which previously allowed for exemption from liability upon the voluntary release of the victim, has been removed. Bride kidnapping is classified as abduction.

7 (e)

Kazakhstan has no legal mechanisms allowing marriage under the age of 18 in “exceptional circumstances”. Only civil registration of marriage is recognized; religious ceremonies have no legal effect, and religious associations are required to request a marriage certificate. Criminal liability has been increased for sexual offences against children, abduction and forced marriage, and reconciliation between the parties is not permitted. Appropriate monitoring is carried out.

7 (f)

The rights of women, including women and girls with disabilities, to make their own decisions about childbearing and access to health services is enshrined in the Code on Public Health and the Healthcare System. Forced procedures are not permitted, and medical interventions are allowed only with informed consent. Preventive and educational programmes are carried out, and access to contraception and counselling is ensured through a network of youth health centres, covering rural areas and vulnerable groups.

Gender-based violence against women

8 (a)

Criminal legislation has been strengthened as follows: articles 108-1 and 109-1 were added to the Criminal Code, and definitions of violence, including psychological, economic and sexual violence, have been clarified. The Domestic Violence Prevention Act covers all forms of abuse and provides for protective measures without criminal prosecution. Penalties for violence against women and children have been increased, reconciliation is not permitted in certain cases, and special restrictions have been introduced for offenders.

8 (b)

Article 120 of the Criminal Code (Rape) covers all unlawful acts or omissions that together form the corpus delicti of this crime.

The key element of rape in the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as in international law, is the absence of voluntary and informed consent. No amendments to this definition are planned.

8 (c)

Mandatory criminal prosecution for all cases of gender-based violence has been introduced in Kazakhstan. Amendments have been made to the Criminal Code and the Code of Administrative Offences to impose tougher penalties, criminalize battery and minor injury, and introduce article 115-1 (Stalking). The police may issue emergency injunctions for up to 30 days, with penalties for their violation. Mobile teams, remote reporting options and adapted procedures are available for vulnerable victims. The courts and the police ensure access to protection and the inevitability of punishment.

8 (d)

The Commissioner for Human Rights recommended that video surveillance be installed in the living areas of social service centres, with restricted access to the recordings, to prevent violence; the issue is being discussed among government bodies, the Office of the Procurator and the public. Women with disabilities receive social, medical, psychological and legal assistance. There are 575 organizations and 30 crisis centres in the country providing support to victims of violence.

8 (e)

A one-stop shop has been established, whereby all proceedings are carried out in one place, in the comfortable environment of crisis centres. Since 2021, female investigators have been appointed to handle cases of violence, and permanent specialized teams have been established in the police. Memorandums have been concluded with 63 centres, where investigations are conducted with due regard for the rights of victims.

8 (f)

When investigating gender-based violence, pretrial investigation bodies are required to conduct a comprehensive and objective examination of the circumstances, regardless of the presence of physical injuries or biological evidence. Violations of procedural norms result in evidence being deemed inadmissible, which protects the rights of victims.

To reduce evidentiary barriers, rules are applied to allow for the consideration of victims' testimonies, psychological reports and other circumstantial evidence. Forensic examinations are conducted in a gender-sensitive manner, and female experts are engaged.

8 (g)

The status of the family support centres is enshrined in the Marriage and Family Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan. As at 1 July, 136 centres are in operation: 55 in cities and 81 in rural areas.

To eliminate inequalities in access to services in rural areas, there are plans to expand the network of centres to cover all parts of the country by 2027. The centres are required to provide assistance to all victims without discrimination.

8 (h)

In Kazakhstan, economic and psychological violence are already defined in the Act on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and are covered by several articles of the Criminal Code (126, 131, 145, 389 and 110).

A new article, article 115-1 (Stalking), has been added to the Criminal Code, criminalizing systematic stalking causing fear or psychological discomfort.

8 (i)

An investigative procedure is in place whereby proceedings in cases of violence may be initiated without a complaint from the victim, on the basis of witness testimony or video recordings. Since 2023–2024, penalties have been toughened: criminal liability for battery (art. 109-1 of the Criminal Code) and injury (art. 108-1 of the Criminal Code) has been reinstated; repeat reconciliation is not permitted; and sanctions for crimes against minors have been strengthened. Anonymous channels and applications (e-Otish, Qamqor and 102) are available; mobile teams with psychologists and social workers are in place; and confidentiality and safe escort are ensured. A domestic violence risk assessment standard has been introduced, and extensive awareness-raising campaigns have been conducted.

8 (j)

Comprehensive training programmes on gender-based violence cases are provided for police, judges, medical professionals and social workers, covering trauma and the rights of survivors. In 2024, over 10,500 specialists were trained; methodological guides were developed; training sessions were held with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations; a register of social workers was created; and reskilling programmes were launched in 14 universities.

8 (k)

Preventive and medical social services are provided to women from the LGBT community and women living with HIV at 132 confidential counselling centres and 29 supportive clinics. The HIV road map for the period 2023–2026 includes measures to reduce stigma, improve laws and train doctors. The framework for 2025–2030 includes protections for women with disabilities. The Refugees Act and the Public Services Act guarantee non-discrimination, family protection, confidentiality and an accessible environment.

8 (l)

The Constitution and the Mass Media Act guarantee freedom of speech and prohibit censorship by establishing liability for false information and illegal content. The Online Platforms Act prohibits extremist, violent and discriminatory material. The Ministry of Internal Affairs takes measures to monitor cyberspace, block harmful materials and prevent cyberbullying, grooming and the distribution of intimate images.

8 (m)

The Act for Equality regional online community (forum.generationequality.org) was established in Kazakhstan with the support of UN-Women. Since 2021, the platform has brought together around 1,000 partners from Central Asia to share experiences on gender equality, women's rights, peace and security and the implementation of the Beijing Declaration.

8 (n)

In 2023–2024, Kazakhstan brought its media and digital laws into line with international standards, including the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime. The Mass Media Act and Online Platforms Act were adopted to ensure freedom of speech and liability for harmful content. Monitoring of cybercrime has been increased, measures to protect women and children have been introduced, and a campaign titled “Cyber Tumar” has been implemented.

8 (o)

Act No. 72-VIII of 15 April 2024, amending and supplementing certain legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on ensuring the rights of women and child safety, introduced the concept of indirect violence and stricter penalties for crimes against children, including life imprisonment. The Marriage Code and the Rights of the Child Act prohibit all forms of violence and provide for the deprivation of parental rights and criminal liability. A psychological support system for child witnesses is being developed.

8 (p)

From 2020 to July 2025, 342,463 crimes against women and girls were recorded in Kazakhstan. Most of the victims were aged 30–39 (98,677), 40–49 (76,292) and 21–29 (54,603). Among minors, the most affected groups were 14–15 year olds (2,672) and 16–17 year olds (1,789). By ethnicity, victims comprised 220,407 Kazakhs, 63,303 Russians, 6,314 Ukrainians, 4,285 Uzbeks and 4,003 Tatars. Court statistics are not broken down by type of punishment.

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

9 (a)

Kazakhstan adopted its first specific Act on Combating Trafficking in Persons in 2024, in line with international standards. Article 17 of the Act defines the competent authorities and coordination mechanisms, formalizes the role of non-governmental organizations, and establishes the rights of victims to social, medical and legal assistance, protection and compensation. Nineteen regulations have been developed. New offences have been added to the Criminal Code to cover all forms of trafficking in persons, including online sexual services, recruitment of minors, procurement and advertising.

9 (b)

To strengthen trafficking investigations, specialized investigators have been assigned to each police department to ensure expertise, consistency in case handling and the establishment of a robust evidence base. Inter-agency collaboration has been strengthened and a victim-centred approach has been adopted, increasing trust among victims and contributing to more informed sentencing.

9 (c)

The Criminal Code of Kazakhstan provides for strict penalties: up to 15 years' imprisonment under article 128 (Trafficking in persons); and up to 18 years' imprisonment under article 135 (Trafficking in minors).

Under the STOP Trafficking initiative, the Ministry of Internal Affairs takes targeted operational and preventive measures to detect crimes and ensure a uniform approach to law enforcement.

9 (d)

Kazakhstan adopted the Act on Combating Trafficking in Persons in 2024 and standards for the provision of social services. Six centres have been established to provide housing, assistance and support for up to nine months. Victims are identified according to approved inter-agency criteria, and a licensing regime and uniform tariff methodology have been introduced.

9 (e)

Kazakhstan provides professional development programmes for specialists assisting victims of violence that are based on non-discrimination and a trauma-informed approach. Modules on case management and inclusion have been developed in cooperation with UNDP. Since 2024, 10,500 social workers have been trained. Since 2025, a register of specialists has been in place, and 14 higher education institutions have been providing reskilling training, including courses on HIV and gender sensitivity.

9 (f)

Kazakhstan has adapted its laws to new methods of recruitment and exploitation. The Criminal Code now includes the concept of "other services of a sexual nature", covering remote services on the Internet, and new offences for online propaganda, advertising of prostitution and procurement using telecommunication networks.

At the same time, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has strengthened online monitoring. During the reporting period, 77,000 foreign websites with illegal content were identified, of which 29,000 were blocked, including sites related to procurement and recruitment.

9 (g)

Kazakhstan is developing a comprehensive support system for women exiting prostitution, including housing, employment and medical and social assistance. The law guarantees their placement on the housing register and access to rental accommodation and subsidies. A road map provides for their legal education, addiction treatment and psychological assistance. The purchase of sexual services from minors is criminalized under the Act on Combating Trafficking in Persons.

9 (h)

The Ministry of Culture and Information regularly trains journalists and press offices in cooperation with UN-Women and partners. In 2025, more than 1,000 specialists have been trained, and a media literacy plan has been approved. The plan sets standards for responsible reporting on gender equality, women's rights and trafficking in persons, with a view to reducing the stigmatization of victims and raising public awareness.

9 (i) and (j)

Kazakhstan has a comprehensive system for monitoring and coordinating measures against trafficking in persons and gender-based violence. The FSM Social digital platform tracks service delivery in real time. The victim referral mechanism (Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs No. 844, and Order of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection No. 406 of 22 October 2024) regulates identification and assistance. Coordination is ensured through orders of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Decision No. 1233 and a network of 128 family support centres and 27 crisis centres. The Department for Combating Family and Domestic Violence was established in 2025. The system combines data collection, inter-agency collaboration and the 150 and 111 helplines, ensuring protection for women and girls.

Participation in political and public life

10 (a)

A 30 per cent quota for women and young people was introduced in electoral and party legislation in 2020 and has applied to parliamentary seats, including for persons with disabilities, since 2022. Compliance with quotas is monitored by the Central Election Commission.

The framework for family and gender policy up to 2030 includes a target of 30 per cent participation of women in decision-making. The share of women in the leadership of State-owned companies is being increased through the updated Corporate Governance Code. Follow-up on commitments is carried out at meetings of the National Commission on Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy.

10 (b)

An Act stipulating that 30 per cent of parliamentary seats must be reserved for persons with disabilities, women and young people was signed on 7 February 2022. The Act entered into force on 19 February 2022. The Act is aimed at guaranteeing the presence of women, young people and persons with disabilities in representative bodies, ensuring that their views are taken into account and facilitating their active participation in government work. Compliance with quotas is monitored by the Central Election Commission. In elections to the Majilis of the Parliament for which the 30 per cent quota was applied to party lists, 18.9 per cent of the elected deputies were women.

10 (c)

Legislative amendments to mandate political parties to replace retired female deputies with other women and the establishment of accountability mechanisms to ensure a sustainable gender balance in legislative bodies throughout the entire electoral cycle are currently being addressed in discussion forums and training seminars on enhancing women's political leadership.

10 (d)

Kazakhstan is implementing measures to increase women's participation in politics and governance. A 30 per cent quota for women, young people and persons with disabilities on party lists has been introduced, and compliance is monitored. Under the framework up to 2030, women should hold at least 30 per cent of government positions. Women already account for 55.8 per cent of civil servants, 39.1 per cent of managers and 53 per cent of judges. The Tomiris training programme and

training courses with the support of UN-Women are being developed, contributing to the increase in women's representation in Parliament (18.9 per cent) and *maslikhats* (22.7 per cent).

10 (e)

Feminist lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women's organizations are registered in Kazakhstan following the standard procedure in accordance with the State Registration of Legal Entities Act. There are no legal or administrative barriers to their establishment or operation. The activities of such associations are regulated by the Acts on non-profit organizations, on public associations and on the State social services and grants for non-governmental organizations, creating a level playing field for civil society initiatives.

10 (f)

In Kazakhstan, the right to freedom of peaceful assembly is guaranteed in article 32 of the Constitution. The Act on the procedure for organizing and holding peaceful assemblies of 2020 is in line with international standards and establishes a notification-based procedure without excessive restrictions.

The Constitutional Court has declared the Act to be constitutional and ordered local authorities to propose alternative options before denying a permit. The authorities publish lists of available venues, ensuring transparency. Feminist and women's rights organizations, like other non-governmental organizations, may hold events on equal terms; there is no unlawful detention or harassment of activists.

10 (g)

The Republic of Kazakhstan does not have any State-endorsed mechanisms such as a list of "foreign agents" that could be used to discredit or exert pressure on feminist activists and human rights defenders.

The existing register of persons receiving foreign funding was introduced to ensure transparency and does not impose burdensome requirements that hinder the work of non-governmental organizations, including human rights and feminist organizations. This tool is not intended to stigmatize and is consistent with the international practice of "transparency registers" used in a number of countries (including the United States of America, France and the European Union).

10 (h)

Under the Act of 2020, Kazakhstan established a notification-based procedure for the holding of peaceful assemblies, in line with the Constitution and international standards. The Constitutional Court has ordered local authorities to propose an alternative venue or time before denying a permit, thereby preventing arbitrary decisions.

Denials of permits, including for the women's march on 8 March, are permitted only when there is a threat to public safety and must be justified. The authorities publish a list of venues, ensuring transparency and a level playing field for all groups, including feminist and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women's organizations. Counterdemonstrations are governed by the same standards, and the Government has an obligation to prevent hate propaganda.

10 (i)

Kazakhstan is developing a systematic approach to the advancement of women's leadership, covering urban and rural areas. Since 2022, more than 950 women have

been trained under the Tomiris programme with support from UN-Women. The Amanat party organizes annual courses, and the Respublica party runs the Re.Women network. The Academy of Public Administration organizes seminars, and training courses for women military personnel, law enforcement officers and entrepreneurs are provided in the provinces.

10 (j)

The Constitution of Kazakhstan guarantees freedom of association and the protection of human rights work. There are 26 non-governmental organizations working on gender policy and more than 200 women's rights organizations in the country. The activities of women's and human rights organizations are not restricted.

Criminal prosecutions of activists, including leaders of movements, are subject to general criminal legislation and are not political in nature. Thus, the investigation concerning Dinara Smailova is related to fraud charges (art. 190, part 4, para. 2, of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan) and not to her human rights activities.

10 (k)

The Constitution and the Religious Activities and Religious Associations Act guarantee equal rights and prohibit discrimination and State interference. There are about 4,000 associations representing 18 faiths, including small groups.

The freedom of expression and association of political parties is enshrined in the Constitution and the law. Political pluralism is recognized, and State interference is not permitted. As at August 2025, seven parties are registered under equal legal conditions for participation in politics.

10 (l)

The Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan guarantees the right of everyone to freely receive and disseminate information, prohibits censorship and protects freedom of speech.

The Mass Media Act is explicitly aimed at upholding those principles. Article 26 thereof establishes a special legal status for journalists, granting them additional rights and guarantees in the performance of their professional duties, and provides for increased liability for violations of their rights.

10 (m)

Kazakhstan has established a system for the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data to monitor women's participation in governance. The statistical compendium *Women and Men of Kazakhstan* has been published annually since 1998, and the national statistics website has a gender statistics section with indicators disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, disability and province. The family and gender policy research centre in the Kazakhstan Institute for Social Development conducts analytical research, and a consortium of 15 research organizations has been operating under the National Commission since 2023. The Bureau of National Statistics coordinates the collection, verification and publication of data, ensuring their quality and comparability.

Nationality

11 (a)

The Marriage and Family Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan has been amended to ensure universal birth registration, including for children whose parents are undocumented or stateless. The list of documents for birth registration has been expanded, and provisions have been introduced to allow the issuance of birth certificates to children born to mothers without identification documents. Undocumented mothers are now permitted to apply to medical organizations within five days after childbirth to obtain the medical certificate required for birth registration.

11 (b)

Kazakhstan has inter-agency mechanisms in place to prevent statelessness among women and children. Since 2020, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been applying a procedure for determining statelessness that involves cooperation between migration services, civil registries, the Ministry of Health and other agencies. Procedures for regular data-sharing are being developed to identify undocumented persons. The Ministry of Health has established rules for issuing medical certificates for births outside medical facilities; in their absence, the child's parentage is established by the courts (art. 47 of the Marriage and Family Code). This guarantees birth registration regardless of the status of the parents.

11 (c)

The principle of single and equal citizenship, which is acquired and terminated in accordance with the law, is enshrined in article 10 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Article 4 of the Citizenship Act stipulates that marriage or its dissolution does not entail automatic changes in citizenship.

Status is regulated by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice without additional economic requirements such as property ownership or financial independence. There are no special restrictions on reacquiring citizenship that disproportionately affect women.

11 (d)

In Kazakhstan, dual citizenship is prohibited by the Constitution, and stateless status is used as an interim measure towards regularizing legal status. Persons with such status enjoy all fundamental rights, including the freedoms of movement and to travel abroad, and may apply for Kazakh citizenship. No cases of refusal to grant citizenship to such persons have been recorded, thereby preventing statelessness, including among women and children.

11 (e)

Kazakhstan has introduced legislative amendments to guarantee birth registration for children regardless of the legal status of their parents. In 2019, provisions were added to the Marriage and Family Code (art. 187) to allow the issuance of birth certificates for children born to undocumented mothers.

The procedure for issuing medical certificates for births outside medical facilities was established by Order of the Ministry of Health No. KR DSM-92 of 26 August 2021. In the absence of documentation, the birth is confirmed by a court (art. 47 of the Code), which prevents the risk of statelessness for such children.

11 (f)

Kazakhstan has established mechanisms to ensure equal access to legal documents and citizenship rights for women from marginalized communities.

There are 128 family support centres covering all provinces of the country, which provide legal and psychological counselling, assist families in difficult situations and coordinate mobile teams involving the competent authorities for the early identification of and provision of assistance to such women. There are 27 licensed crisis centres providing special social services, including assistance with documentation.

11 (g)

The laws of Kazakhstan are generally in line with the Conventions relating to the Status of Stateless Persons of 1954 and on the Reduction of Statelessness of 1961. A statelessness determination procedure is in place, and the rights of stateless persons are guaranteed under the Constitution and the Citizenship Act. All children are registered regardless of the status of their parents. Since 2014, more than 30,000 stateless persons have been identified, half of whom have acquired Kazakh citizenship. The question of accession to the Conventions remains under consideration.

11 (h)

Work is under way to determine the legal status of persons present in the Republic of Kazakhstan who are not citizens of the country and have no proof of citizenship of another State. Migration service units identify and register such persons on an ongoing basis.

Education

12 (a)

Kazakhstan has introduced age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health issues: school curricula include the topics of puberty, contraception and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, and national campaigns and awareness-raising events with the participation of medical professionals are held in higher education institutions. In addition, joint work is being carried out with non-governmental organizations, parents and government bodies to raise awareness and promote responsible sexual behaviour.

12 (b)

Measures are being implemented to reduce the rate of young women (15–24 years of age) not in employment, education or training (NEET) through increased access to education and employment. Entry to universities has been simplified (through electronic unified national testing and conditional admission) and grants and quotas for vulnerable groups have been increased. In the area of employment and training, there are subsidies for jobs, grants of up to 400 monthly notional units and online courses available at Skills.enbek.kz. This has benefited more than 311,000 women since 2025. The list of prohibited professions has also been abolished, opening up access to professions in manufacturing and construction.

12 (c)

Programmes to engage women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are being implemented in Kazakhstan. The UniSat project offers training to young women in engineering and computer science, including artificial intelligence and programming. The national technical and vocational higher education system has a quota for rural women. Amendments to the Labour Code (2021) removed restrictions on professions. The IT-Aiel project prepares thousands of women for freelancing and jobs in information technology. Grants and the Cyber Safe for Women campaign promote digital literacy and reduce the gender gap in technology.

12 (d)

Universities have an anti-harassment policy in place. University security systems have been strengthened through video surveillance, security guards and panic buttons, and ethics boards review all cases of violations. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has increased criminal liability for sexual offences against minors (Act of 15 June 2024), with specialist female investigators appointed and educators held accountable. The Ministry of Education has developed a support programme for affected children (Order No. 154 of 20 June 2024) that includes medical, psychological, social and legal support. These measures provide both prevention and transparent response mechanisms in educational institutions.

12 (e)

Kazakhstan is taking measures to hold educators accountable for sexual harassment, abuse and gender stereotyping. As part of the Human Rights Action Plan (Presidential Decree No. 409 of 8 December 2023), amendments enshrining the concept of “sexual harassment” have been drafted to the Labour Code and the Trade Unions Act. Universities are implementing anti-harassment policies and have ethics boards, anonymous complaint channels and psychological services. Surveys and staff training on gender-sensitive and non-discriminatory practices are being carried out, which is increasing accountability and fostering a safe educational environment.

12 (f)

Menstrual health and personal hygiene matters are included in the national curriculum under the subjects of biology and natural sciences. The aim is to inform students about menstruation and reduce stigma. In addition, schools are taking measures to create a safe environment for girls, including education and access to information about menstrual hygiene, which encourages regular attendance. The provision of free menstrual hygiene products is being introduced gradually in a number of regions.

12 (g)

To protect students, including young women from the lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, universities have implemented internal harassment prevention policies that have clear complaint and response procedures. There are anonymous channels, ethics boards and psychological support services. There are plans to sign a memorandum with the National Centre for Human Rights to develop student ombudspersons and legal advice, which will strengthen transparency, university accountability and support for victims.

12 (h)

Universities have in place an anti-harassment policy that stipulates that a response to incidents of violence or harassment is mandatory. The ability of administrations to hide incidents for the sake of their reputation is therefore limited. Anonymous complaint channels have been established (call centres, rectors' blogs and ethics ombudspersons), which ensures that students have direct and transparent access to protection. Anonymous surveys are conducted regularly, the results of which serve as a tool for public monitoring and accountability. Incidents are reviewed by ethics boards and investigative procedures are regulated by law, which prevents incidents from being hushed up.

12 (i)

The principles of equality and non-discrimination on the basis of gender, origin, language, health and other factors are enshrined in law. A framework for the development of higher education and a road map for the development of inclusive education are being implemented. They provide for the creation of a barrier-free and non-discriminatory environment for all students, including lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex students. A mentoring scheme has been introduced to support orphaned children, participation in which is regulated by law. The State has an obligation to ensure equal access and to eliminate discriminatory practices, including barriers to the participation of lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women and girls in public life and education.

12 (j)

Admission quotas have been established to reduce inequality between urban and rural areas and ensure equitable access to education for citizens from socially vulnerable groups and rural youth. Thus, when education grants are awarded, persons from rural areas are given preference.

12 (k)

Educational institutions are developing programmes with courses on gender policy, family psychology and contemporary social issues, and holding lectures and round tables with non-governmental organizations and government agencies. In addition, UNESCO, with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Information and UN-Women, conducted a gender-responsive evaluation of educational materials, which identified gaps and produced recommendations for introducing a gender-sensitive approach in educational policies.

12 (l)

Women make up 47 per cent of the research and development workforce in Kazakhstan, amounting to a total of 12,893 women researchers, including 2,050 Doctors of Science, 4,727 doctoral candidates, 4,156 PhDs and 318 postdoctoral fellows. They work in natural sciences (3,625), engineering and technology (2,625), medicine (1,207), agriculture (1,207), social sciences (1,185) and humanities (2,471). Gender-responsive scientific projects and educational programmes are being implemented, including the development of a master's degree in gender studies. This contributes to increasing women's participation in science and the commercialization of scientific results.

Employment

13 (a)

To address this issue, the Labour Code provides for non-discrimination and equal pay for equal work; the list of professions that were prohibited for women has been abolished, thereby expanding access to higher-paid activities; remuneration is set according to uniform criteria of qualifications and working conditions, regardless of gender; and flexible forms of employment and mechanisms for regulating and monitoring remuneration are being introduced, which increases its transparency and takes into account gender aspects.

13 (b)

The concepts of “equal remuneration for work of equal value” and “equal pay for equal work” are synonymous, as both concepts reflect the basic principle of non-discrimination in remuneration and imply that equal pay should be paid for equal work.

13 (c)

In Kazakhstan, the strategy to combat occupational segregation is based on the principles of the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy and the National Development Plan up to 2029. These documents emphasize the need for women’s economic empowerment and their involvement in all spheres of life. Key measures include developing flexible forms of employment and telecommuting to facilitate women’s participation in high-tech sectors, increasing access to quality education and training in new fields, promoting women’s career development and entrepreneurship through financial and technological instruments, and strengthening women’s representation in governance and decision-making.

13 (d)

To overcome gender stereotypes, awareness-raising campaigns, joint projects with international organizations, gender training and legislative reviews are under way.

Measures are enshrined in the framework for family and gender policy up to 2030. The framework includes the development of gender education, the economic empowerment of women, their increased participation in political and public life and the development of gender-sensitive statistics for targeted solutions. The goals set for 2030 are to reduce the gender pay gap to 21 per cent, to increase women’s representation in decision-making bodies to 30 per cent and to expand their participation in innovation and high-tech sectors.

13 (e)

Ratification of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 190 – providing official definitions of violence and harassment, reporting systems, protection services and enforcement mechanisms – is included in the work plan of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

Amendments have been made to a draft law on improving labour legislation. They aim to introduce the concept of “sexual harassment”, expand the rights of workers and the obligations of employers to prevent risks and ensure confidential complaint procedures, and establish harassment as grounds for the termination of employment contracts. Ratification of the Convention will be considered after these standards have been adopted.

13 (f)

Labour legislation in Kazakhstan guarantees officially employed persons paid leave for pregnancy and childbirth, adoption and childcare for children up to 3 years of age. A change to the procedure for calculating benefits is planned to come into effect in 2025; a limit of seven times the minimum wage is to be introduced when calculating payments. This measure is designed not to reduce safeguards but to ensure the sustainability of the State social security fund and the equitable distribution of funds.

13 (g)

Fathers are already entitled by law to take unpaid leave to care for children up to 3 years of age, on an equal basis with mothers. They are also entitled to five days of unpaid leave for the birth of a child.

13 (h)

Kazakhstan has a system of parental leave to care for children up to 3 years of age, and extended social benefits for childcare for children up to 1.5 years of age, which increases the economic resilience of families. Preschool education is provided for children from the age of 1 year, which reduces the pressure on parents. Flexible forms of employment are being developed that allow work and family responsibilities to be combined. Targeted social assistance is also provided to low-income families, with women accounting for more than 54 per cent of recipients.

13 (i)

In Kazakhstan, the legal status of domestic workers is governed by articles 22 and 136 of the Labour Code. Labour relations are formalized through individual contracts in which the terms of termination and compensation are defined. Disputes are resolved by agreement of the parties or in court. Despite the absence of collective mechanisms and specific regulations in the event of the employer's death or insolvency, basic labour rights and judicial protection are guaranteed. This creates a legal basis for further strengthening safeguards for this category of worker.

13 (j)

Ratification of ILO Convention No. 190 is included in the work plan of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. Amendments introducing concepts, protection mechanisms and liability for violence and harassment have already been made to the draft law on improving labour legislation. Ratification will be considered after their adoption. Convention No. 189 is currently under consideration and requires further analysis for harmonization with national law.

13 (k)

The establishment of mechanisms for the systematic collection of data on violence and harassment is envisaged as part of the preparations for the ratification of ILO Convention No. 190. The draft law on improving labour legislation sets out definitions, reporting procedures and employers' responsibilities, which will form the basis for the implementation of a national gender-disaggregated monitoring system. Once the amendments have been adopted, the plan is to develop statistical accounting and to integrate data from all employment sectors for evidence-based policymaking.

13 (l)

Kazakhstan is implementing measures to engage NEET youth through youth resource centres, seasonal employment, job fairs and vocational training projects (such as JolTap, Jumys Tap and Talaptan). Careers advice, training courses in technology jobs and networking events are offered. In addition, recommendations have been issued to introduce gender mainstreaming into the NEET category to provide targeted support measures for young women, including young mothers, and to increase their participation in the labour market.

13 (m)

Kazakhstan has already ratified ILO Convention No. 87 on freedom of association, and its provisions have been implemented in national legislation. The establishment and registration of trade unions is governed by the Constitution and the Trade Unions Act, ensuring equal rights and simplified registration procedures. Recent amendments have simplified the conditions for the recognition and registration of trade unions, and the time required for State registration has been reduced from 10 to 5 working days, which strengthens both compliance with international ILO standards and support for independent trade unions.

Health

14 (a)

As part of the review of the Code, amendments are being considered that would lower the age at which adolescents can independently access sexual and reproductive health services. This issue is currently being discussed by relevant State bodies, international organizations and specialized health professionals.

14 (b)

In Kazakhstan, refugee women and asylum seekers have the right to a guaranteed package of free medical care for illnesses presenting a risk to others, and also to emergency care. To expand access, compulsory and voluntary medical insurance mechanisms are provided on an equal basis with Kazakh nationals. The list of medical services and the procedure for their provision are set out in the Code on Public Health and in subordinate legislation.

14 (c)

The illegal artificial termination of a pregnancy (art. 319 of the Criminal Code) is criminalized.

In accordance with criminal procedure law, a pretrial investigation is conducted upon the receipt of a report of such an incident or the discovery of such an offence.

It should be noted that violations of reproductive rights are classified as cases of increased social significance.

14 (d)

Kazakhstan guarantees equal access to medical care for women with disabilities under the Code on Health and Healthcare. Preventive, diagnostic and treatment services are provided, as are priority care and medication. Screening programmes and early intervention and rehabilitation centres are being developed, strengthening the healthcare system for women with disabilities.

14 (e) and (f)

The Kazakh Scientific Centre of Dermatology and Infectious Diseases has proposed removing HIV infection from the list of medical grounds for terminating a pregnancy, which would strengthen the reproductive rights of women with HIV. This measure is designed to remove discriminatory barriers and ensure equal access to reproductive health services. The public is being educated about modern contraception.

14 (g)

According to the road map for the prevention of HIV 2023–2026, at least 12.5 per cent of medical workers are given training on non-discrimination annually; in 2025, that figure stood at 14.2 per cent (24,741 people). These measures are aimed at improving legal literacy, detecting instances of discrimination early and enhancing staff accountability, which contributes to protecting the rights of vulnerable groups and improving the quality of medical care.

14 (h)

Kazakhstan is implementing a comprehensive plan to protect children from violence, prevent suicide and ensure children's rights and welfare for 2023–2025. Operational units for interdepartmental cooperation and statistics have been established in all 20 of the country's mental health centres. Common protocols have been developed to identify and assist minors at risk of suicide, and online services and leaflets with contact details are available.

14 (i)

In Kazakhstan, investigations of such cases are carried out as part of pretrial proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure, with all necessary measures taken to fully and objectively establish the circumstances. In institutions, video surveillance systems are in operation, complaints are registered, internal investigations are carried out and disciplinary measures are applied. Patients have separate accommodation, staff are selected according to gender and regular staff training on ethics and patients' rights is provided. Oversight is conducted by law enforcement bodies, the Office of the Procurator and the public health authorities.

14 (j)

The Health Code guarantees equal access to healthcare without discrimination, including gender identity. Since 2020, the National Mental Health Centre has had a medical examination commission for gender reassignment. These measures provide legal recognition for medical procedures and establish a basis for non-discriminatory access to medical services for transgender women and girls.

14 (k)

All women, including women living with HIV, are eligible for free cervical cancer screening by age group. From 2025, cancer screenings will be included in the guaranteed package of free medical care, providing access regardless of compulsory social health insurance status. Introducing primary HPV testing and lowering the age of screening to 25 years, in line with World Health Organization recommendations, are being considered.

14 (I)

In Kazakhstan, psychiatric registration may be used only in cases established by laws and regulations, with mandatory judicial oversight and the possibility of appealing decisions. Confidentiality is protected by the Health Code, and compliance with rights is monitored by the Ministry of Health, the Office of the Procurator and human rights non-governmental organizations. Ethical treatment in psychiatric institutions is ensured by standards of care, internal regulations and mandatory staff training, which prevents discrimination and abuse.

Economic empowerment of women**15 (a)**

In the construction sector, the proportion of women has increased to 28 per cent in 2025, and concessional lending, microfinance and specialized grants for women's entrepreneurship are being introduced. Targeted quotas, scholarships and internships for women in engineering and architecture are being developed. In the digital sphere, projects are increasing women's access to technology and Internet infrastructure. In addition, funding is being provided for joint project with UN-Women to strengthen gender equality and women's legal protections.

15 (b)

The Ministry of Digital Technologies, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan ensures the development of digital infrastructure, which gives women the opportunity to use online services, educational resources and digital tools for entrepreneurial activities.

15 (c)

The National Agrarian Science and Educational Centre's development strategy for 2024–2030 includes targets for achieving gender balance in management. Women already comprise 33.3 per cent of the Centre's executive bodies and 20.8 per cent of its board of directors, with plans to increase those percentages to 26.8 per cent and 14.2 per cent, respectively, by 2030. The proportion of female department heads is expected to increase from 16.7 per cent to 33.9 per cent.

15 (d)

In 2024, a government action plan to promote gender equality was approved (46 measures in the areas of education, health, employment and family policy). Leadership programmes for women (Tomiris) are being conducted, and women's participation in governance bodies is being strengthened – more than 110 organizations have included indicators for increasing the proportion of women. In the civil service, 56.2 per cent of employees and 39.1 per cent of managers are women, and competitive procedures have been digitized in order to eliminate gender bias.

15 (e)

The Industrial Policy Act was adopted in 2021. The main objective is to strengthen the industrial potential of Kazakhstan, increase its competitiveness and reduce its dependence on imports. The Act does not impose any restrictions or special conditions on entities engaged in industrial or innovative activities for the development of women's entrepreneurship.

15 (f)

Kazakhstan is actively developing digital infrastructure and supports women's participation in e-commerce and mobile services. In 2025, women accounted for 56.7 per cent of entrepreneurs in trade. Digital literacy projects have been implemented, including an e-commerce school where thousands of women have learned to create online shops and payment systems and to promote online marketplaces. Initiatives by the organization TechnoWomen are being supported and "Women's Entrepreneurship 2.0", a national programme, is being developed. These measures increase women's access to mobile technology, online banking and digital opportunities across the country.

15 (g)

KAZENERGY Association promotes women's leadership in the industry: women comprise 24 per cent of employees in the sector, but only 19 per cent of managers. The Women's Energy Club has been active for more than 10 years, hosting forums and mentoring programmes and educational initiatives, including the region's first Executive MBA Women's Leadership in Energy from 2022. Corporate non-discrimination standards and STEM programmes for girls are supported. In 2024, the Association aligned itself with the Women's Empowerment Principles of the United Nations.

15 (h)

Under the "Kazakhstan 2050" strategy, women are considered a key factor in development and social stability. The strategy provides for expanding women's participation in the economy, politics, business, education and public administration, eliminating discrimination and supporting for motherhood.

The National Plan up to 2029 and the gender policy framework up to 2030 set specific goals: a 50 per cent reduction in domestic violence; gender parity in wages (a gap \leq 21 per cent); 30 per cent of leadership positions held by women; and 10 per cent participation by women in peacekeeping). Women already head 48.2 per cent of small and medium-sized enterprises (a 12 per cent increase since 2023).

Rural women

16 (a)

Kazakhstan is implementing comprehensive measures to economically empower rural women, diversify their businesses and overcome social constraints in the spirit of general recommendation No. 34 (2016) of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. More than 1,000 training events are organized annually in 22 areas of agribusiness, providing women with access to modern knowledge and technology. In addition, rural women are engaging actively in financial and non-financial entrepreneurship support programmes.

16 (b)

In Kazakhstan, measures to increase rural women's access to financial services are implemented through nationwide budget lending mechanisms that are gender-neutral. In the national budget for 2025, over 510 billion tenge have been allocated for microcredit for the rural population, support for investment projects in the field of industrial agriculture and social measures for specialists in the regions. These funds also create financial opportunities for women living in rural areas. Training for women on such matters is provided through advice centres.

16 (c)

Agricultural land plots are granted on a competitive basis to all citizens on equal terms, without gender restrictions, in accordance with the Land Code. The development of rural infrastructure and information and awareness-raising activities to improve legal literacy and combat discrimination and gender stereotypes in rural communities play an important role.

16 (d)

According to the Regulation on the Ministry of Agriculture, approved by Resolution No. 418 of the Government of Kazakhstan dated 23 June 2022 (hereinafter the Ministry of Agriculture), one of the functions of the Ministry of Agriculture is to participate in the implementation of State policy to ensure equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women.

16 (e)

Kazakhstan is implementing measures to increase the economic activity of rural women and the sustainable development of rural areas. A network of quality early childhood and eldercare services is being developed, reducing the burden on families and enabling women to participate more actively in economic activities. Flexible forms of employment and digital solutions for remote work are being introduced in agricultural enterprises, and conditions for the development of women's entrepreneurship are being created. Social childcare benefits have been extended to cover children up to 1.5 years of age, and targeted social assistance is provided to families in need.

16 (f)

Agricultural digitalization and telecom infrastructure programmes are in place to provide rural women with access to online services, e-commerce and digital finance. Gosagro.kz and e-Agriculture platforms automate subsidies and business processes. Over the period 2025–2027, 3,000 villages (1.2 million people), including remote regions, will be connected to high-speed Internet.

16 (g)

To support rural women who are employed in the informal sector or who are self-employed, measures are being implemented to involve them in socioeconomic programmes. Preferential lending at 2.5 per cent is provided for the development of rural entrepreneurship and cooperation; 35–40 per cent of microcredit recipients are women. At the same time, all citizens, including rural women, have equal rights to pensions, medical care under the guaranteed package of free healthcare and compulsory social health insurance, and social protection in accordance with the law.

16 (h)

Kazakhstan has financial support and employment programmes for women. Rural women received 41.2 per cent of microcredits in 2024, and 44 per cent in the first half of 2025. Lending through the Agrarian Credit Corporation and KazAgroFinance develops businesses and creates jobs. Targeted assistance is provided to 48,300 families (54 per cent women). Flexible forms of employment and childcare payments for children up to 1.5 years of age have been expanded, increasing protection and reducing poverty.

16 (i)

Kazakhstan is digitizing the Unified State Cadastre of Real Estate, which will create the basis for the integration of gender-disaggregated data through linkage with the “Population” State database. In parallel, the Bureau of National Statistics regularly collects and publishes data by gender, which allows for the tracking of rural women’s participation in the economy and the development of more accurate policy measures.

Women with disabilities

17

Kazakhstan ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2023 and submitted a report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2024. The Social Code of 2023 provides for equality and non-discrimination, the training of professionals in sign language and Braille, and increased access to services through the Social Services Portal. There are 743,900 persons with disabilities in Kazakhstan, of whom 55.7 per cent are of working age. A total of 8,300 people speak sign language and 761 providers are registered. The State ensures the availability of information in Braille, sign language and alternative formats, in compliance with articles 21 and 30 of the Convention.

Women human rights defenders and journalists

18

Kazakhstan has introduced the digital participation mechanisms e-Otinish and e-Petition. The Constitutional Court has clarified the rules for assemblies: refusal is only possible with justification and an alternative; there is a declaratory procedure for peaceful actions. Freedom of speech is enshrined in the Mass Media Act, and article 158 of the Criminal Code provides for liability for obstructing the work of journalists. Accreditation, legal defence and compensation for unlawful acts are guaranteed. The Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure have been revised: video recordings of interrogations have been introduced, the concept of torture has been clarified and the immediate enforcement of release decisions is ensured. The Constitutional Court has expanded access to legal aid and to protection in conditions of detention. A 30 per cent quota in party lists has been adopted, and participation by non-governmental organizations in public administration has been expanded.

Women in detention and involuntarily confined in institutions

19

Kazakhstan has had a National Preventive Mechanism led by the Ombudsperson since 2014, with its mandate extending to special institutions since 2019. The monitoring of prisoners’ rights has been strengthened and conditions have been improved for women under the Bangkok Rules and the Nelson Mandela Rules, with hygiene, food, medical care and protection from violence. Pregnant women are monitored at clinics, and births take place in civilian maternity hospitals. Provisions are made for calls and visits with children, for children’s homes and for resocialization programmes. The proportion of female prison staff has risen from 34 per cent to 48 per cent. Women with psychosocial disorders receive care in specialized institutions.

Lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women

20

In Kazakhstan, criminal proceedings are based on the principle of equality of all before the law (art. 21 of the Code of Criminal Procedure). The law prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation and gender identity. Gender equality is enshrined in the Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women Act. Hate crimes are investigated regardless of the gender identity of the victims. Educational activities are being carried out as part of the framework up to 2030 and the Human Rights Plan for 2024–2027.

Climate change and disaster risk reduction

21

Kazakhstan is integrating a gender perspective into its climate policy. The Ministry of Ecology consulted with women leaders and non-governmental organizations in the development of the third nationally determined contribution and the national adaptation plan, where there is a separate section on gender issues. In 2025, national seminars and training sessions were held on mainstreaming a gender perspective in climate risk assessment.

Women are actively involved in shaping policies to achieve the goal of net zero by 2060, including through participation in sustainable agriculture and green investment projects. Climate finance is budgeted for and a gender component is included in key strategic documents.

Marriage and family relations

22 (a)

In Kazakhstan, only marriages registered by the State authorities are recognized. Religious practices do not have legal effect and do not confer rights to property, alimony or child support. Polygamy is prohibited by law, and religious unions require a certificate of State registration before the ceremony is conducted. In the event of violations, citizens may contact law enforcement agencies.

22 (b)

Kazakhstan has stepped up investigations and prosecutions for bride kidnapping and forced marriages. Article 125-1 of the Criminal Code (Forced marriage) has been introduced, which establishes liability for threats, violence and blackmail, including aggravating circumstances. Reconciliation between the parties does not exempt them from punishment, which make accountability inevitable and protects victims' rights.

22 (c)

The law of the Republic of Kazakhstan establishes the age of marriage at 18 years for men and women. In accordance with article 10, paragraph 1, of the Marriage and Family Code, it may be reduced by no more than two years only for valid reasons – pregnancy or the birth of the couple's child, with the mandatory consent of the parties and parents (guardians). There are no other exceptions, which limits the possibility of early and forced marriages.

22 (d)

In Kazakhstan, the age of marriage is set at 18 years, and it may be lowered only on strictly limited grounds. The Spiritual Administration of Muslims requires a certificate of registration before religious ceremonies and conducts explanatory work. In 2025, article 125-1 of the Criminal Code (Forced marriage) was introduced and the note from article 125 was deleted, which increased the liability for kidnapping and early marriage (up to 10 years' imprisonment).

Schools, medical staff and local authorities are required to report such incidents immediately to the police, in accordance with interdepartmental instructions. Failure to report is a criminal offence.

22 (e)

In Kazakhstan, unregistered marriages are not legally recognized, but the law provides mechanisms to protect the rights of women and children in such unions. Women's property interests are taken into account by the courts when dividing property, including their actual contribution. Parents are obliged to support their children regardless of their marital status (arts. 138-139 of the Marriage and Family Code); alimony is collected by agreement or through the courts. Guardianship agencies may bring legal action on behalf of the child. There are also labour law safeguards protecting single parents against dismissal.

22 (f)

The legal age for marriage in Kazakhstan is set at 18 years, and lowering this age is only permitted in cases strictly defined by law. Child betrothal is not permitted and religious marriages are only performed after State registration. In 2025, article 125-1 of the Criminal Code (Forced marriage) was introduced, which provides for stiffer punishment (up to 7 years of imprisonment, and in serious cases up to 10 years). Reconciliation of the parties no longer exempts them from liability. A large-scale information campaign is being systematically conducted through the media and social networks, aimed at changing public attitudes and condemning practices that violate the rights of women and girls.

22 (g)

In Kazakhstan, special attention is paid to professional training. Law enforcement officers receive advanced training at the Law Enforcement Academy of the Office of the Procurator-General and at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, while judges receive advanced training at the Academy of Justice of the Higher Judicial Council. The training aims to build skills for victim-centred work, ensure effective legal mechanisms and provide support services.

22 (h)

Marriage and family law in Kazakhstan does not contain any direct restrictions on women with disabilities entering into marriage. Article 11 of the Marriage and Family Code prohibits marriage only in cases of incapacity by court decision due to mental illness or dementia. Current legislation does not provide for discriminatory restrictions on the grounds of disability.

Ratification of other treaties

23 (a)

Kazakhstan signed the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on 23 September 2020. This signifies its political commitment and the expectation that the procedure will continue.

23 (b)

Kazakhstan has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and all of the Optional Protocols thereto. In December 2023, the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure was ratified, allowing individual complaints of violations of children's rights to be considered.

23 (c)

Ratification of ILO Convention No. 190 on eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work has been included in the work plan of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. The draft law on improving labour legislation includes amendments introducing the concept of "sexual harassment", mechanisms to protect workers and employers' obligations to prevent risks. The possibility of ratifying the Convention will be considered after the relevant standards have been adopted.

23 (d)

Kazakhstan is currently preparing to ratify the Istanbul Convention. An official letter has been sent to the Council of Europe to extend the accession deadline. A comparative legal study is being conducted to identify the compliance of national legislation with the provisions of the Convention as well as legal gaps, and to prepare proposals for their elimination.

Current legislation already covers the key principles of the Istanbul Convention: criminal liability for violence has been established, crisis centres and support services are in place, and victims are protected and perpetrators punished.