



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Uzbekistan, adopted by the Committee at its forty-fifth session (18 January-5 February 2010)

Addendum

Information provided by Uzbekistan on the follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee*

Information from the National Centre for Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the implementation of paragraphs 10 and 22 of the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the fourth report of Uzbekistan

Paragraph 10. The Committee urges the State party to accelerate the process of adoption of the law on equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men within a clear time frame. It also encourages the State party to raise awareness among Government officials, the judiciary and the public with respect to the nature of indirect discrimination and the concept of substantive equality.

The draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men is now undergoing assessment by civil society and international experts.

There was broad public discussion of the draft law in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the provinces of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Tashkent in 2010 and 2011, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Representatives of women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs), self-governing local bodies, national agencies and local offices of those agencies who attended regional workshops supported adoption of the law and noted the need to make particular provisions more specific, in order to establish functioning mechanisms enabling participation by women in all areas of public life.

* In accordance with the information transmitted to States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document has not been edited.



Violeta Neubauer, a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, provided a UNFPA-supported expert evaluation of the draft law on guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men. The purpose of the evaluation was to incorporate international practices in the area of legal oversight of women's rights and opportunities. While she supported Uzbekistan's initiative to develop a draft law on equality between women and men and noted the positive provisions contained in the draft law, Ms. Neubauer remarked that the draft law:

- Must establish what bodies were responsible for coordination and monitoring of relevant State policy;
- Should include provisions on the equality of women and men in the family and in private life; and
- Contained gaps related to resources for protecting women's rights and compensation for damage caused by discrimination, among other factors.

To strengthen the draft law, Ms. Neubauer made specific recommendations, by article. More than 60 of her comments were considered as the law was further refined.

An enhanced version of the draft law is currently undergoing evaluation in the relevant government bodies and civil society organizations.

Paragraph 22. The Committee urges the State party to give priority attention to combating violence against women and girls and to adopting comprehensive measures to address such violence, in accordance with its general recommendation No. 19. Such measures should include the:

(a) **Expedient adoption of a framework law on all forms of violence against women that also covers domestic violence and that introduces definitions in respect of all forms of domestic violence, including psychological and sexual violence;**

(b) **Amendment of existing penal provisions, as necessary;**

(c) **Development of a comprehensive national action plan to combat violence against women.**

On 3 August 2010, the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan approved a national plan of action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the fourth periodic report of Uzbekistan. This plan contains measures to prevent violence against women and girls; separately track cases involving violence; establish a data collection system for cases of violence; punish the guilty and provide assistance for victims; and establish programmes designed to identify the causes of violence and the conditions that fuel it. It also provides for improved public information activities on the topic (subparagraphs 20 to 30).

Implementation of the national plan of action includes the following measures:

1. A register for recording information and reports on cases of violence against women is now in use in prosecutors' offices and internal affairs agencies, and a procedure has been established for doctors on call to provide information to staff on duty at the Internal Affairs Authority, by telephone or in writing, regarding

patients who present with bodily injuries. The register contains entries on all crimes against women, with information on the outcomes of crimes committed also going to the Authority's information clearinghouse for analysis.

A Ministry instruction went out to all internal affairs agencies nationwide on 17 October 2011, stating that crime prevention officers should keep separate records containing all information on violence against women and minors, in accordance with the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

2. Prosecutor's offices maintain a register of criminal cases taken up by the criminal courts. It includes detailed information on convicted persons who have committed crimes against women.

3. The investigative offices of the Office of the Procurator-General of the Ministry of Internal Affairs determined that 2,981 women had been victims of violence in 2010, 2011 and 11 months of 2012. In 1,920 criminal cases, 4,110 people were prosecuted and 520 were pardoned. During the first half of 2012, 164 criminal cases were considered, involving 198 individuals charged with committing violence against women (under article 118 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan).

2010											
<i>Data on victims of violence</i>											
<i>Articles of the Criminal Code</i>	<i>Under age 18</i>	<i>Age 18 to 30</i>	<i>Age 30 to 55</i>	<i>Retired</i>	<i>Number who are disabled</i>	<i>Unmarried</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Employed</i>	<i>Unemployed</i>	<i>Total</i>
110	7	18	7	0	0	10	19	3	11	21	32
112	6	22	7	1	0	11	21	4	5	31	36
114	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	4	4
115	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2
118	38	183	39	6	3	162	31	73	67	199	266
119	41	37	7	0	0	59	15	11	9	76	85
121	2	2	2	0	1	4	0	2	1	5	6
135	27	301	132	1	1	198	72	191	18	443	461
Others	20	111	85	0	5	75	83	58	96	120	216
Total	142	675	283	8	10	520	244	344	207	901	1 108

2011											
Articles of the Criminal Code	Data on victims of violence										
	Under age 18	Age 18 to 30	Age 30 to 55	Retired	Number who are disabled	Unmarried	Married	Divorced	Employed	Unemployed	Total
110	4	22	16	1	0	9	32	2	2	41	43
112	3	13	6	0	0	9	13	0	2	20	22
114	0	5	1	0	0	6	0	0	2	4	6
115	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
118	50	180	44	1	5	176	32	61	63	212	275
119	38	34	9	0	0	62	7	12	7	74	81
121	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
135	36	290	93	0	0	179	74	166	22	397	419
Others	18	94	71	2	3	56	105	24	51	134	185
Total	149	639	240	4	8	498	263	271	150	882	1 032

2012											
Articles of the Criminal Code	Data on victims of violence										
	Under age 18	Age 18 to 30	Age 30 to 55	Retired	Number who are disabled	Unmarried	Married	Divorced	Employed	Unemployed	Total
110	3	15	14	1	0	12	15	0	3	30	33
112	0	16	11	3	1	7	15	8	2	28	30
114	0	4	1	0	1	3	2	0	1	4	5
115	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
118	36	149	30	0	1	155	17	43	49	166	215
119	41	39	10	1	0	64	15	12	9	82	91
121	0	3	4	0	0	3	3	1	1	6	7
135	29	194	63	0	0	125	37	124	6	280	286
Others	28	78	62	5	2	110	35	28	38	135	173
Total	137	499	195	10	5	480	139	222	109	732	841

4. The Office of the Procurator-General constantly monitors and analyses the situation to protect victims' rights and ensure that those who perpetrate violence against women in police custody or in detention are punished. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, no crimes of this type were reported.

In the past three years, there have been no reported cases of violence against women convicts in the penal correction system. There is a strong focus in the Main Penal Corrections Department on prevention of all types of crimes, including violent ones. The operational, security and rehabilitation services function on a proactive basis.

5. The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan established a working group composed of representatives of the secretariat of the Ombudsman, the National Centre for Human Rights, law enforcement agencies and NGOs. The working group reviewed international practices and legislation adopted in Europe and in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on the prevention of violence against women and, drawing on that review, prepared a framework for a draft law on domestic violence.

The framework for the draft law envisions the inclusion of provisions governing State policy on combating violence; the powers of State institutions for the prevention and elimination of domestic violence; and the main types of protection of the rights of victims of violence, including the right to be safe. The framework was discussed in all the regions of Uzbekistan at seminars entitled "Improving the legal framework for the protection of women's rights".

6. Increasing attention is being paid to complaints of rights violations in the context of family or domestic relations. During the period from 2008 to 2011, a total of 1,506 complaints involving family protection were received by the Ombudsman.

<i>Family protection rights</i>	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total complaints processed	274	323	587	322
Violations of women's rights	135	63	86	13
Violations of children's rights	23	42	168	7
Domestic issues	116	218	333	302

The Ombudsman receives complaints relating to violations of women's rights, including housing rights, domestic violence, misappropriation of child benefits, trouble finding employment and the non-payment of child support.

In 2012, the Women's Committee in Tashkent province received 168 written complaints and 550 oral complaints, of which 120 involved legal matters; 540 family conflicts related to the complaints were settled favourably.

7. Family situations were reviewed by crime prevention officers from internal affairs agencies, together with mediation boards of the self-governing local bodies, and in cooperation with the Women's Committee and other civil society organizations. Measures were subsequently adopted to prevent physical and psychological violence against women.

There are currently over 9,000 self-governing local bodies in Uzbekistan, including 8,384 mahallas, 1,323 kishlaks and 155 auls. The mahallas are conducting a public campaign to promote family relationships based on respect, kindness and trust.

In this connection, a total of 8,315 religious and moral educators are carrying out activities at public gatherings. They are promoting a healthy way of life to prevent situations that have a negative impact on the cultural environment of mahallas.

During the period under review, over 45,000 outreach activities, round tables and discussions took place; around 1,900 individuals, including women and young people, participated. In particular, the living conditions of some 4 million mahalla

households were reviewed and assessed; it was found that 442,000 families required financial assistance, around 383,000 families required medical assistance, and more than 641,000 families required moral support. With the assistance of organizations associated with the State, the Mahalla Fund's regional offices provided financial assistance totalling 1.5 billion sum to over 185,000 poor families.

In cooperation with the Mahalla Fund, wide-ranging efforts have been made to identify unhappy, confrontational families with many children and scanty means and preventive awareness-raising measures are being taken to avert disputes between husbands and wives, mothers- and daughters-in-law, and neighbours, and to reduce the rate of divorce. Assistance for unemployed women and crime prevention are issues that are monitored on an ongoing basis.

Over a period of 11 months in 2012, 57,152 (compared to 56,130 over the same period in 2011) documents and other materials relating to family and domestic issues were collected by crime prevention officers, together with the aforementioned mediation boards and with the participation of civil society. Joint meetings were held to discuss the situation of 47,562 families (compared to 49,386 families over an 11-month period in 2011); of these, 36,598 families (compared to 36,063 families over an 11-month period in 2011) were reconciled and 20,008 families (compared to 18,877 families over an 11-month period in 2011) were able to avoid divorce. Over the same period, 15,958 families in conflict (compared to 16,449 families over an 11-month period in 2011) were placed on the crime prevention registers of the internal affairs agencies.

There are currently 20,658 individuals listed in the crime prevention registers of the internal affairs agencies who have committed rights violations in the context of family or domestic relations. Regional crime prevention officers engage in targeted preventative and outreach measures to prevent these individuals from committing further violations.

A sociological survey of 546 girls and young women between the ages of 14 and 29 was conducted by the organization Ijtimoi Fikr in Tashkent, the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and throughout the provinces of Uzbekistan. The results of the survey, which is entitled "Young women and violence", have been analysed.

8. The issues of educating women about legislation for the protection of their rights and preventing family violence and human trafficking receive extensive media coverage.

In particular, 1,693 educational activities on the protection of women's rights and legitimate interests were conducted in just 10 months in 2012.

Educational institutions carry out activities for their faculty and students. On 6 February 2012, the Almalyk Medical College held a seminar on the theme of "Strong families are the foundation of society" and on 2 March the Yangiyul Teachers College held a round table on "The importance of medical check-ups for reproductive health and promoting healthy families". The Tashkent State Institute of Law published a collection of scholarly articles entitled "Implementation by the Republic of Uzbekistan of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women".

In February 2012, all internal affairs offices and agencies were directed to conduct a training programme on international standards and domestic legislation on

human rights that included the study of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the concluding observations of the United Nations Committee developed for 2012-2013 and approved by the Minister of Internal Affairs.

Under this training programme, 2,288 training sessions were held in internal affairs agencies in 2012.

Over a period of 11 months in 2012, law enforcement officers prepared 2,840 media items (compared to 2,721 over an 11-month period in 2011) on the prevention of offences committed within the family, including 632 television spots (compared to 665 over an 11-month period in 2011), 1,271 radio spots (compared to 1,226 over an 11-month period in 2011) and 937 newspaper and magazine items (compared to 830 over an 11-month period in 2011).

A series of seminars was conducted in the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on the theme of “International human rights standards for law enforcement officers”. The seminars covered issues of human rights protection and the prevention of crimes relating to discrimination against women, including methods of investigating rape crimes, investigative activities for human trafficking offences, legislation on human trafficking and the investigation of serious offences against the person.

In 2012, judicial agencies and institutions held 3,964 events to raise awareness of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. A total of 1,106 lectures, 1,270 round tables and 431 seminars and conferences were organized, 12 teaching guides were published and 145 posters and pamphlets were produced and distributed. These events reached an audience of 94,908.

The curriculum of the Centre for the Further Training of Legal Specialists taught to judges in civil and criminal jurisdictions and to lawyers includes sections on the tasks of law enforcement agencies and the courts in safeguarding the rights of women and combating violence against women. In particular, groups of judges and prospective judges in criminal, civil and commercial jurisdictions, as well as lawyers and notaries, attend lectures on the implementation in domestic legislation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and on international and national legal mechanisms for the protection of women’s rights.

In 2012, the Women’s Committee, in partnership with civil society institutes, higher education institutions, and the *Gulaim*, *Qoraqalpogiston Tongi*, and *Vesti Karakalpakstana* newspapers, conducted 46 round tables, produced 43 television programmes on Karakalpak television and published 72 newspaper articles. Twenty-three seminars on the topics of “Women and their rights”, “Women’s role in politics” and “Women and electoral law” and 25 round tables were conducted for elected officials; 28 seminars entitled “Prevention of all forms of discrimination against women” and “Risks and problems of illegal migration” and 22 round tables were conducted for staff of local councils; 19 seminars were conducted for women leaders; and 22 seminars and 19 round tables on the topics of “Women and their rights”, “Preventing illegal labour migration” and “Violence against women” were conducted for law enforcement officers.

Training for trainers on the subject of “Policy outline on the development and enhancement of national monitoring of women’s rights in Uzbekistan” was conducted in Tashkent from 10 to 13 April 2013. The training was organized by the Centre for the Support of Civil Initiatives and UNFPA, in partnership with the Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan and the National Association of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations. On 28 August 2012, the Women’s Committee held a meeting of the working group on monitoring the implementation of the national plan of action to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

With the aim of improving marital and family relations, eradicating unlawful *nikokh* religious marriages and educating women about their rights, study tour workshops on the subject of “Keeping families strong, preventing offences against women and minors, and family issues” were held in cooperation with the Oila provincial centre from 22 to 27 January 2012. A total of 50 psychologists, activists and mahalla maslakhaty committee members were trained at the workshops, and these trainers in turn provided training to 242,888 participants.

9. Analysis of the national plan of action to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women approved on 3 August 2010 shows that it fully encompasses all the issues raised by the Committee in its 22 concluding observations and that the development of a comprehensive plan of action on violence against women is unwarranted.
