



# Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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## Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

### List of issues and questions in relation to the sixth periodic report of Kazakhstan\*

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

1. Please provide information on the following:

(a) Measures taken to raise awareness, specifically among women, including women affected by poverty, Indigenous women, women with disabilities, migrant women and rural women, about their rights under the Convention, the procedures under the Optional Protocol and the Committee's general recommendations; please indicate the steps taken to translate the Convention into Indigenous languages and to make it available to women and girls, including those with disabilities, in accessible formats, including Braille and audiovisual materials;

(b) Court judgments in which judges have invoked the Convention and the Committee's jurisprudence to decide court cases, including in family law, criminal law, civil law and labour law cases, as well as on the capacity-building programmes addressed to the judiciary and law enforcement officers in relation to the Convention, the Optional Protocol and the Committee's general recommendations;

(c) Steps taken to ensure the applicability of the Convention in the light of the constitutional amendments of 2017 and measures to guarantee that the Convention can be invoked in all types of court proceedings relating to women's rights.

#### Legislative framework and definition of discrimination

2. Please provide information on measures taken to adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination that includes direct, indirect and intersecting forms, ensuring both formal and substantive equality in public and private life. Indicate legislative and policy efforts, including legal remedies and compensation, to address multiple forms of discrimination affecting marginalized women. Include updates on proposed amendments to article 145 of the Criminal Code to include sexual orientation and gender identity, and actions to remove discriminatory language in articles 121–123 targeting “lesbianism” and “sodomy”. Outline available legal protections for minority, migrant, rural and older women and those with disabilities facing gender-based discrimination.

\* Adopted by the Committee at its ninety-first session (16 June–4 July 2025).



**Access to justice and legal complaint mechanisms**

3. Please provide information on measures taken to implement the views of United Nations treaty bodies, particularly those contained in [CEDAW/C/61/D/45/2012](#) (Anna Belousova v. Kazakhstan), including adequate compensation for moral and material harm. Describe efforts to define domestic violence as a stand-alone offence and address inconsistencies in survivor protection. Indicate steps to remove burdensome evidentiary requirements in sexual violence cases that disadvantage survivors without physical evidence. Provide updates on repealing legislation restricting women with disabilities from participating in legal proceedings and on eliminating harmful investigation practices such as forced re-enactments, victim-blaming, hymen checks and privacy violations. Include data on women and girls who received State-funded legal aid for sexual violence cases, and measures to ensure service quality and accessibility. Report on training for law enforcement and judicial personnel to address gender bias and intersecting discrimination, including against lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, and how the impact is evaluated. Describe procedural accommodations and protections for survivors with disabilities or other vulnerabilities, and actions to repeal laws that limit access to justice for institutionalized or legally incapacitated women and girls.

**National machinery for the advancement of women**

4. Please provide information on the establishment of a dedicated institutional mechanism for gender equality, such as a ministry or agency, with authority, resources and a cross-sectoral coordination mandate. Indicate steps taken to adopt a national gender equality strategy distinct from family policy, with indicators and accountability mechanisms. Clarify how multi-stakeholder monitoring systems, including gender audits, are institutionalized with civil society participation, and whether women's rights organizations receive adequate support for independent monitoring. Provide an update on the implementation of the second action plan (2020–2022) under the concept on family and gender policy, including challenges and the integration of lessons learned. Explain efforts to strengthen the collection of sex- and intersectionality-disaggregated data and report on the second national action plan on women and peace and security (2025), emphasizing its focus on peacebuilding at the national and community levels.

**National human rights institution**

5. Please provide information on the following:

(a) Concrete measures and timelines to ensure the full institutional, functional and financial 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);

(b) Steps taken to address the concerns raised by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions Subcommittee on Accreditation regarding the appointment and dismissal processes involving the President and the Senate, and measures to eliminate potential political influence over the institution;

(c) Actions taken to strengthen the institution's capacity to investigate human rights violations, particularly those affecting women, including adequate staffing, resources and authority at both the national and subnational levels;

(d) Steps to consolidate and adequately resource the mandates of thematic ombudspersons for children's rights and socially vulnerable populations;

(e) Specific initiatives undertaken by the institution to address gender-based violence and discrimination against women, including monitoring mechanisms, recommendations issued to government bodies and follow-up on implementation;

(f) Measures to ensure broad and pluralistic staff representation within the institution and to develop formal policies and procedures that guarantee diverse participation in its operations and decision-making processes.

### **Temporary special measures**

6. Please provide updated information on any temporary special measures taken by the State Party, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, to accelerate the realization of substantive equality of women and men in all areas covered by the Convention in which women are underrepresented or disadvantaged, such as participation in political and public life and employment. Please also provide information on awareness-raising campaigns aimed at governmental officials, policymakers, employers and the media on the non-discriminatory nature, value and importance of temporary special measures for national development.

### **Gender stereotypes and harmful practices**

7. Please provide detailed information on measures to eliminate discriminatory gender stereotypes, including awareness campaigns, educational programmes and media efforts promoting women as equal participants in public, political and economic life, and the impact of these initiatives. Include planned legislative amendments to ban sexist portrayals of women in the media and advertising, and actions to ensure balanced gender representation. Report on steps to counter hate speech against women's rights and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, including accountability for public officials. Indicate the State's response to the petition titled "We are against open and hidden LGBT propaganda in Kazakhstan!" and how any policy changes remain aligned with the Convention. Provide updates on criminalizing bride kidnapping as a separate offence and addressing weak enforcement. Clarify efforts to close legal loopholes permitting child marriage under 18 and measures to prevent it, especially in rural and minority communities. Lastly, outline protections against forced sterilization and abortion for women with disabilities, particularly those who are institutionalized.

### **Gender-based violence against women**

8. Please provide information on measures to combat gender-based violence, including defining domestic violence as a stand-alone offence covering all forms of abuse, adopting a consent-based definition of rape and ensuring ex officio prosecution and accessible protection orders. Include protections for institutionalized women with disabilities, the elimination of harmful investigative practices and trauma-informed forensic procedures. Report on efforts to expand family support centres, criminalize stalking and emotional abuse and reverse the drop in reported cases by tackling stigma and underreporting. Outline training for professionals, including on services for marginalized women, and measures against gender-based cybercrime, including deepfakes and online misogyny. Provide information on the Act for Equal platform, recent media law reforms and protections against vicarious violence. Indicate measures to ensure child protection and the collection of disaggregated data on gender-based violence over the past five years, covering age, ethnicity, disability, relationship to perpetrator and sentencing outcomes, to support evidence-based policy and accountability.

**Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution**

9. Please provide information on the following:

- (a) Implementation of the Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons of 2024, including victim identification, coordination and resource allocation;
- (b) Actions to improve investigations and victim-centred prosecutions amid low conviction rates and lenient sentences;
- (c) Establishment of sentencing guidelines aligned with international standards;
- (d) Efforts to reduce regional disparities in survivor services and ensure access to shelters and medical and psychosocial care;
- (e) Capacity-building for relevant actors on trauma-informed, gender-sensitive and HIV-aware approaches;
- (f) Legal and policy responses to online and technology-facilitated trafficking;
- (g) Support for women exiting prostitution, including funding, job access, housing and mental health services;
- (h) Media engagement to eliminate harmful stereotypes and prevent revictimization;
- (i) Monitoring and evaluation of anti-trafficking programmes to inform evidence-based policymaking;
- (j) Coordination between anti-trafficking and gender-based violence systems to protect women and girls facing multiple forms of exploitation.

**Participation in political and public life**

10. In line with general recommendation No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems, please provide information on measures and timelines to increase women's representation in parliament beyond the current 18.4 per cent in the Mäjilis, including stronger enforcement of the 30 per cent quota, the placement of women in electable positions on lists and sanctions for non-compliant parties. Include legislative efforts to mandate the replacement of departing female deputies with women and strategies to promote women's leadership in executive positions, addressing underrepresentation in presidential and regional posts. Please outline actions to eliminate legal, administrative and financial barriers to the registration and operation of feminist lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women's organizations and ensure non-discriminatory access to freedom of assembly. Report on measures to prevent State-endorsed mechanisms such as the "foreign agents" list from targeting women human rights defenders and to address the denial of permits for women's marches, including on International Women's Day. Describe efforts to end the political persecution of gender equality activists, including those from movements such as NeMolchi, and protect religious minorities and political opposition. Provide information on capacity-building for women leaders, particularly in rural areas, with sustained funding and support. Include steps to ensure that the new media law protects freedom of expression and data collection mechanisms to track women's participation in governance, disaggregated by age, ethnicity, disability and region.

## Nationality

11. Please provide information on legislative and administrative measures to ensure universal birth registration for children of undocumented, stateless or marginalized parents, including amendments to the Marriage and Family Code. Detail strategies and timelines to prevent and reduce statelessness, especially among women and children, and steps to eliminate restrictive requirements for reacquiring citizenship after the dissolution of marriage. Indicate actions to address legal gaps in the Citizenship Law prohibiting dual nationality and requiring renunciation without guarantees of Kazakh citizenship. Include updates on amendments ensuring the registration of children born outside medical facilities, and on measures ensuring equal access to legal documentation for marginalized women. Provide information on plans to accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons of 1954 and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness of 1961 and on mechanisms tracking progress with gender-disaggregated data.

## Education

12. Please provide information on the following:

- (a) Steps to reintegrate comprehensive, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health education, including on responsible sexual behaviour and modern contraceptives;
- (b) Measures to address the rate of young women not in employment, education or training (22 per cent), which is nearly double that of men, including dropout prevention and support for young mothers returning to school;
- (c) Strategies to increase women's participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, including expanding initiatives such as UniSat;
- (d) Measures to combat sexual harassment in schools, including reporting mechanisms, disciplinary procedures and protection from retaliation;
- (e) Accountability mechanisms for teachers engaging in degrading or gender-stereotypical behaviour, and training on gender-sensitive practices;
- (f) Efforts to combat menstrual poverty through the provision of free menstrual products in schools and education to reduce stigma;
- (g) Protection for lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex girls reporting harassment and to ensure transparent, survivor-supportive university complaint systems;
- (h) Measures requiring universities to prioritize student safety over institutional reputation, with mandatory reporting and transparent investigations;
- (i) Actions to reverse discriminatory laws barring lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women from mentoring children in orphanages, and to ensure inclusive education;
- (j) Urban-rural gap reduction strategies to ensure equitable access to quality education for marginalized girls;
- (k) Elimination of gender stereotypes in textbooks and curricula;
- (l) Promotion of women's roles in commercializing university research.

## Employment

13. Please provide information on the following:

- (a) Actions to close the gender pay gap of 26 to 28 per cent, particularly in accommodation (27 per cent), finance (23 per cent) and manufacturing (21 per cent), including pay transparency and gender-disaggregated wage monitoring;

- (b) Steps to align with International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 100 by adopting “equal remuneration for work of equal value” over the current “equal pay for equal work” approach;
- (c) Strategies to reduce occupational segregation and increase women’s participation in higher-paid sectors such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, construction and digital technologies;
- (d) Initiatives to challenge gender stereotypes limiting women’s career choices, including public campaigns targeting attitudes towards girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
- (e) Frameworks aligned with ILO Convention No. 190 to address workplace violence, including clear definitions, reporting systems, protective services and enforcement;
- (f) Extension of maternity/paternity protections to self-employed and informally employed women, and safeguards against reforms in 2025 that may reduce maternity benefits for high earners;
- (g) Expansion of paternity leave and promotion of shared caregiving, as only 0.3 per cent of childcare benefit recipients in 2023 were men;
- (h) Measures to address women’s disproportionate unpaid care burden through a national care strategy and expanded childcare/eldercare services;
- (i) Legal protections and social security for domestic workers, including enforcement in private households and rights to collective bargaining;
- (j) Plans and timelines for ratifying ILO Conventions Nos. 189 and 190 and aligning legislation accordingly;
- (k) Systems to collect gender-disaggregated data on workplace violence;
- (l) Support for young women facing high rates of not being in employment, education or training, including vocational training, mentorship and support for young mothers;
- (m) Steps to implement ILO standards for registering independent trade unions.

## **Health**

14. Please also provide information on the following:

- (a) Status of the draft revision of the health code to lower the age of independent access to sexual and reproductive health services and efforts to remove barriers for adolescents, especially in rural areas;
- (b) Measures and funding to ensure comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare for refugee and asylum-seeking women, who are currently excluded from national health insurance;
- (c) Legal recognition and redress for reproductive coercion, including stealthing, forced abortion and non-consensual insertion of intrauterine devices;
- (d) Reforms ensuring reproductive autonomy for women with disabilities, especially those under guardianship, with access to accessible information;
- (e) Steps to expand equitable access to free/subsidized contraceptives, especially for vulnerable groups including women living with HIV, and to promote contraceptive education to reduce reliance on abortion;

- (f) Actions to prevent reproductive coercion against women with HIV, 15 per cent of whom were advised to terminate pregnancies;
- (g) Mechanisms to monitor and address stigma and discrimination in healthcare, including penalties for providers engaging in abuse;
- (h) Measures to expand safe, confidential mental healthcare, addressing high postpartum depression and suicide rates among adolescent girls;
- (i) Oversight mechanisms addressing abuse in psychiatric institutions, including investigations of staff misconduct and accountability systems;
- (j) Steps to guarantee transgender women's access to healthcare, including emergency services, and address gender identity-based denials;
- (k) Implementation of cervical cancer screening and equitable access to pre-exposure prophylaxis, disaggregated by HIV status;
- (l) Legal safeguards against the misuse of psychiatric registration to restrict women's rights, and to ensure ethical treatment.

### **Economic empowerment of women**

15. Please inform the Committee about:

- (a) Measures to expand women's access to capital and financial services, addressing gender bias in financial institutions and promoting women's entry into high-growth sectors including energy, construction and digital technologies;
- (b) Measures taken to incentivize women in artificial intelligence entrepreneurship, accelerators and incubators at academic institutions and through public-private partnerships;
- (c) Actions to address women's underrepresentation in agricultural decision-making, where they hold less than 25 per cent of leadership roles despite comprising 43 per cent of the workforce, including improved access to land ownership, credit and technical training;
- (d) Concrete actions and timelines to address the State Party's decline from sixty-second position in 2023 to seventy-sixth in 2024 out of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index, particularly regarding women's political representation and economic participation;
- (e) Sustainability and expansion of women's entrepreneurship programmes beyond pilot initiatives, particularly in remote areas, and diversification of support beyond retail trade into higher-growth industries;
- (f) Efforts taken to ensure women's and girls' universal access to mobile technology, mobile banking and e-trade;
- (g) Measures taken to strengthen women's leadership in the oil and gas industry and in other natural resources, including uranium and various metals;
- (h) The role of women in the strategy for the development of Kazakhstan up to 2050, new markets and new sources of economic growth, a strong investment climate and private sector and public-private partnerships and social compacts.

### **Rural women**

16. With reference to general recommendation No. 34 (2016) on the rights of rural women, please provide information on strategies to address the barriers that rural women face, including limited skills and digital literacy and restrictive social norms. Indicate measures to improve access to financial services and literacy, reverse

declining land ownership and combat discriminatory property practices. Include actions to increase rural women's leadership in agriculture, support women-led farms and ensure access to childcare and eldercare services to reduce caregiving burdens. Report on digital inclusion initiatives expanding rural women's access to e-services and economic opportunities, and efforts to include women in informal employment or self-employment in social protection schemes. Provide information on poverty reduction measures in rural areas and on the development of monitoring systems, including the digitized land cadastre, to collect sex-disaggregated data on rural women's economic participation and guide targeted, evidence-based interventions.

### **Women with disabilities**

17. Please provide information on steps taken to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination framework explicitly protecting women and girls with disabilities from direct, indirect, multiple and intersectional discrimination, including legal recognition of "reasonable accommodation". Indicate reforms to eliminate discriminatory provisions, such as article 271 (1) (5) of the Criminal Procedure Code, that disqualify the testimony of women with disabilities. Detail measures to address their exclusion from economic opportunities, including improving access to training, microloans and tailored vocational support. Provide information on steps to prohibit forced sterilization and coercive abortions and ensure reproductive autonomy and informed consent, especially for women under guardianship. Describe measures to guarantee access to reproductive health, HIV prevention and gender-based violence services, with staff training. Explain efforts to collect sex- and disability-disaggregated data on socioeconomic outcomes. Lastly, outline measures to address communication barriers and ensure that information is accessible in Braille, audio, sign language and other formats.

### **Women human rights defenders and journalists**

18. Please provide information on measures to address shrinking civic space, uphold freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and protect women human rights defenders and journalists. Include steps to ensure due process, fair trial guarantees and safeguards against arbitrary detention and prosecution. Report on efforts to investigate and prosecute harassment, intimidation and reprisals and on protections, reparations and preventive measures for women human rights defenders. Indicate whether the State Party plans to adopt a specific legal framework to ensure the safety of women human rights defenders and their freedom from retaliation.

### **Women in detention and involuntary confined in institutions**

19. Please provide information on measures taken to improve the situation of women in detention, particularly with regard to conditions of hygiene, food, health, including sexual and reproductive health, protection against violence and access to a fair trial, in line with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). Please provide information on the cases of women with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities deprived of liberty in psychiatric institutions and special social service centres.

### **Lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women**

20. Please provide information on measures taken to ensure the enforcement of legislation against discrimination by law enforcement officials, to prosecute hate crimes against lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women and to ensure that such cases are duly investigated and adequately punished. Please also report on

measures taken to combat discrimination against women based on their sexual orientation and gender identity, including efforts to raise awareness among the public.

### **Climate change and disaster risk reduction**

21. In line with general recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change, please inform the Committee about steps taken to ensure women's equal representation in the development of legislation, national policies and programmes on climate change mitigation and adaptation, climate financing, disaster response and disaster risk reduction and the integration of a gender perspective into such legislation, policies, programmes and financing. Explain the role that women play in the implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Please also describe how are women leading efforts to achieve the net zero target by 2060 that was promulgated into law in February 2023, and in the submission of nationally determined contributions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

### **Marriage and family relations**

22. Please provide information on measures to eliminate unregistered religious marriages and prevent de facto polygamy, particularly in rural and minority communities, where such practices leave women without legal rights to property, alimony or child support. Describe actions to ensure full marriage registration and to investigate and prosecute cases of bride kidnapping and child/forced marriage, which remain underreported and weakly enforced. Include legislative steps to eliminate legal exceptions allowing marriage under 18 and systems in place to detect and prevent early or forced marriage through schools, health services and local authorities. Outline protections for women in unregistered unions and actions to challenge harmful practices misrepresented as cultural traditions, including public awareness and community engagement. Report on specialized training for police, judiciary and social workers on forced marriage and bride kidnapping, and provide information on steps to repeal discriminatory provisions in the Marriage and Family Code limiting marriage and custody rights for women with disabilities.

### **Ratification of other treaties**

23. Please provide information on concrete steps taken by the State Party towards ratifying:

- (a) The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- (b) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure;
- (c) ILO Convention No. 190 on violence and harassment in the world of work;
- (d) The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.