

# CENTRAL ASIA

## Lead

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## Contributors

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## Structural barriers and negative trends

- The existing patriarchal foundations, where traditionally women should take care of the home, children, relatives, do not allow them to engage in productive labor and actively participate in political and social activities;
- Existing progressive laws, policies and action plans on gender equality are not supported by adequate financing;
- Access to high-paying jobs is limited, mostly women are employed in low-wage areas (education, health care, provision of services);
- Social protection system does not fully provide protection to the most vulnerable groups of women (women with disabilities, families with many children, the elderly) and to women on maternity leave with adequate child benefits.
- There is a lack of gender expertise of educational programs, teaching aids, textbooks, which contributes at a great degree to the reproduction of gender stereotypes in all educational institutions;
- Public health services do not respond to needed quality standards. Low level of awareness of women and men in the field of reproductive health and nutrition, as well as inadequate access to family planning services is one of the key factors that cause complex problems during pregnancy and delivery;
- Commercialization of medical services make them unaffordable for the majority of women with low income. Poor infrastructure and inadequate conditions for medical services still exist in rural areas (for example: lack of heating in winter, lack of medical equipment).
- More than half of abused women and victims of gender based violence still do not report on their cases and do not apply for legal protection. In 98% of cases, domestic violence is committed by the husband, partner or close relative.

- Increase of illegal polygamous and child marriages are followed by increasing domestic violence.
- There is gap in collecting of official data on the cases of bride kidnapping (“alakachuu”), child marriages, sexual harassment and on injuries in the cases of domestic violence.
- The emergence of new forms of violence - the sale of women for sexual and labor coercion, and violence and pressure on women during elections and political activities;
- There are only few women in law enforcement agencies, employees, and men in these agencies are not sufficiently gender-sensitive to issues of violence.
- The existence of stable stereotypes regarding daughters-in-law in families, a large physical, psychological burden on a woman adversely affects her health, moral and psychological relationships in the family, creates risk of violence and discrimination;
- Women are not recognized as equal actors and not included in decision-making and negotiations during conflict situation and its resolution.
- Women's participation in economic planning and making strategic decisions is still limited.
- Existing measures to support women in politics are not supported by effective mechanisms of motivation, in particular for political parties to ensure gender quotas, as well as lack of mechanisms to monitor their implementation.
- There is a certain imbalance and dominance in promotion of patriarchal values in the activities of journalists and media editors, as well as the presence of hidden gender discrimination.
- Lack of development of legal norms regulating the procedure and conditions for placing socially important media products - social advertising, documentaries, etc.
- Common problem for all Central Asian region - low awareness on climate change and lack of participation in environment protection and adaptation. Lack of access to clean water, alternative energy and adequate sanitation, which significantly affects the health and amount of time women spend on domestic and productive work;



## Progress on implementing the Beijing Platform for Action

No country in the region has managed to achieve gender equality since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The only evident achievement since the Beijing+20 review was progress in law and policy making. As for the advancement of actual gender equality and opportunities for full realization of women's and girls' rights, there are still many challenges and problems.



## Recommendations beyond Beijing+25

- To ensure intersectoral cooperation for women's access to resources: natural (land and water), political (women's participation at all decision-making levels and in politics), economic (finance) and educational;
- To provide the mechanisms to regulate the growing religious fundamentalism;
- To review and align with international law the criminalization of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, and qualify acts of such violence as criminal offenses;
- To prevent conflicts and to secure peace and security in the region by involvement of women into peacebuilding processes and monitoring the implementation of UNGA S/RES/1325 resolution.
- Development of the legislation that equates unpaid work and domestic work with paid work.
- Improving primary health care and related infrastructure in remote regions.
- Improvement of legislation in the field of reproductive and sexual health of women
- Enhance national legislation on protection of women and girls from GB violence.
- Creation of a full-fledged system of social protection for women on maternity leave, for older women and women with disabilities.
- To provide a comprehensive approach in the development and implementation of the strong measures for the prevention of child marriage, early pregnancy, maternal and child mortality.
- Strengthening the role and participation of women in decision making and negotiation processes on peace and security.
- Formation of women's assets through access to land and property rights.
- Providing better access to jobs variety for women, improving working conditions and benefits.
- Electoral legislation to ensure the participation of women in local Councils and national Parliaments with the provision of 30% to 50% quotas for women.
- To provide, in a legislative way, measures to support representation of women in government bodies, in a leadership positions. Develop measures for prevention of violation of this provision.
- Conducts mandatory gender monitoring of the implementation of gender quotas for candidates for elected bodies and prioritizing women on party lists.
- To amend the Criminal Code on the issue of responsibility for violence and discrimination against women during elections and during the implementation of political activities.
- Promote a positive attitude to the image of a woman politician on live cases from the history of countries and contemporaries through the media, school, university, art and literary works.
- Conduct political education, training for women politicians, women leaders in special Schools of political leadership.
- Strengthening the status of national gender institutional mechanisms, raising them to the level of the Commission / Committee / under the Government.

- Conduct gender expertise of the existing legal framework and mechanisms for its implementation to fully ensure realization of women's human rights in practice.
- Monitoring of the implementation of legislation, ensuring the of women' and girls' rights.
- In the state media, to demonstrate the image of a woman without stereotypes, a balanced image of a woman and a girl, and her many social roles.
- Inclusion of gender sensitivity trainings for future journalists at the universities.
- Establish the responsibility of journalists for publishing or displaying in the media materials that discriminate against women and girls, as well as depicting women as disabled people and using the image of a woman as a sexual object.
- To enhance development of state gender policy experts on ecology, environmental issues and climate change impacts.
- Introduce gender-sensitive indicators in state programs for the prevention of emergency situations and adaptation of the communities to climate change;
- Increase the potential and functional literacy of women and men in the context of the necessary adaptation to climate change through expanding access to information and training technologies and consulting resources, especially in rural areas;
- Ensure women's access to services and technologies for water supply, sustainable agriculture, alternative energy, as well as for family care, housekeeping and enterprises;
- Strengthening the capacity of women's organizations, and civil society networks to advocate on their needs and priorities in sustainable development and adaptation to the effects of climate change.
- Promotion of laws in the Central Asian countries that limit harmful production, including the production and use of plastics and foams.
- Creation of waste Establishment of restrictions for chemically harmful products for their importation into the Central Asian countries.