
RECENT REFORMS IN OUR COUNTRY'S GENDER POLICY

Sadriddinova Latofat Husniddin qizi

Lecturer at Samarkand State University named after Sharof Rashidov,

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Law

E-mail: latofatsadriddinova@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper analyzes the current state, legal framework, and objectives of the protection and support of women. The author substantiates the importance of guaranteeing women's rights and interests and providing them with support. Modern criminal-legal aspects of supporting women are examined. The author highlights key areas of support for women within criminal law, noting that these are implemented in strict accordance with constitutional principles of justice. To demonstrate the relevance of the topic, the author focuses on analyzing the views and perspectives of procedural law scholars found in academic and scientific literature, as well as recent reforms in the field of criminal law.

Keywords: Recent reforms in women's support and gender policy.

Introduction

Women and girls make up nearly half of our country's population—17 million people. Safeguarding their interests and strengthening their role in society is a key priority of our state's social policy. Women nurture the other half of society; their significance—in religious, patriotic, and social terms—is immense.

Indeed, women not only constitute a substantial portion of our country's population but also play a vital role in our socio-political life. This is evidenced by the fact that today, nearly 1,400 women hold leadership positions at the national and regional levels, while over 43,000 serve in leadership roles at the district and city levels.

It is noteworthy that, over the past four years, two laws and six presidential documents have been adopted to ensure women's rights, and a Senate Committee on Women and Gender Equality has been established. Particular attention should be drawn to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 561

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"On Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence" (September 2, 2019), the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 562 "On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" (September 2, 2019), and the Resolution of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. SQ-297-IV "On Approving the Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030" (May 28, 2021). In his address to the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council, the Head of State also highlighted issues regarding gender policy and the need to fundamentally enhance the role of women in socio-political and business spheres.

All of this serves as clear confirmation that these issues are a priority in our state's policy. Gender equality and the enhancement of women's role in society occupy a central place in adopted human rights documents.

In particular, the Strategy of Actions identifies elevating the role and status of women in the socio-political sphere as a top priority.

This enshrining of women's rights in national legislation aligns with the requirements of international law. Indeed, women's rights—as an integral and inseparable component of human rights—encompass not only specific rights related to women but also the full spectrum of civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights, as outlined in international instruments. Practical efforts to implement these standards, protect women's rights, and improve their living conditions are now entering a new phase. In accordance with the directives of the Head of State, opportunities for women to pursue education, acquire professional skills, and secure employment will be further expanded. This signifies a further strengthening of their role in the socio-political life of society.

A proposal to establish the Republican Public Council of Women was put forward in the President's Address. Recently, this council was formed under the leadership of Senate Chairperson Tanzila Norboyeva. Moving forward, the public council will carry out systematic work to enhance women's socio-political engagement, support their entrepreneurship, assist them in acquiring knowledge and professional skills to secure decent employment, safeguard their health, and address housing issues.

Our President's proposal to introduce a support system for women who aspire to higher education and possess the necessary talent and knowledge—



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but who, due to life's circumstances, were unable to realize that dream—is a truly noteworthy initiative. After all, a woman is the educator of the nation; the more educated she is, the more certain it is that the children she raises will be intelligent and capable. According to the book **Factfulness** by Hans Rosling (p. 117), the primary reason for the annual decline in child mortality across "underdeveloped" and "developing" nations is not medical or technological breakthroughs, nor the construction of new, modern hospitals. Instead, the main factor behind this significant reduction in child mortality is maternal literacy—specifically, the ability to read and write. If mothers possessing merely basic literacy skills have succeeded in reducing global child mortality rates (often without even realizing it), imagine the transformative impact on society that could be achieved by women who read widely, possess a broad worldview and higher education, hold deep expertise in a specific field, engage in constant learning, and think independently. It was not without reason that Ethel Lilian Voynich stated, "Raising a child is a serious matter; therefore, it is crucial for them to be under positive influences from the very day they are born." The validity of this sentiment—echoed in Cholpon's work **Kecha va Kunduz** (Night and Day) with the observation that "if the happiness of the nation's children does not lie in the hands of true, cultured mothers, our future will be bleak"—is borne out by instances of ignorance in our recent past and the steadily rising rate of juvenile delinquency today. Thus, the way our society treats women determines our future.

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