Uzbekistan **Gender Theme Group** Newsletter

CEDAW alternative report



On September 29, 2020 the members of the GTG organized and conducted an online consultation for civil society organizations on the preparation of alternative reports to the sixth national report of the Republic of Uzbekistan (RU) on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). consultations were attended by representatives of NGOs, civic activists, as well as experts from the regional offices of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, UN agencies in Uzbekistan, who shared their approaches to the development of alternative reports from civil society in the CEDAW and CEDAW requirements on their content, format, deadlines.







Gender capacity building exercises

Scorecard workshops were conducted:

- 1. The UNCT SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard E-training for Central Asia was conducted for 5 countries on 2nd and 3rd June 2020, one representative from each UN agency from Uzbekistan participated in the online training. For the peer learning and exchange of experience between the countries there was a contribution to the session from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan as well.
- 2. The webinar on UNCT's Scorecards on gender, disability inclusion and youth was conducted on 3 and 5 November 2020. The purpose of this webinar was to provide a practical overview and guidance on the scorecards and reporting processes. Participants included all involved in reporting on these including M&E group and scorecards, OMT members, RCO office and UNCT members.



National Gender Strategy development process

With the request of the Commission on Gender Equality of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in November 2019 a working group consisting of representatives of government bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations and experts was established under UNFPA guidance to assist the Commission with tdeveloping a draft long-term Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030.

An extensive research of national and international experience was conducted prior to the developing of the document. The adoption of the strategy will help to form a respectful attitude towards human rights, to improve the image of Uzbekistan in the international arena.

The initial draft strategy developed by the working group of experts was circulated by the Commission to key national stakeholders. UNFPA circulated the draft document among the international community.

The feedback was received from 38 national organizations (state and non-state) and 11 international partners, inclusive of UN sister agencies and UN Women regional office in Kazakhstan. As soon as the comments were carefully attended and the draft document was amended correspondingly, in February 2020 the Gender Equality Commission circulated the amended document among the key stakeholders who further participated in a round table for open discussion.

In March 2020 the draft document consisting of the Strategy paper (total of 9 directions), roadmap and a table of indicators (total of 114 based on the National SDGs and Presidential Decree #4235) in Russian and Uzbek languages were submitted to the Gender commission for further processing.

The document reflects the issues of removing restrictions on women's participation in all sectors of economy, improving the targeting of government programs, conducting campaigns to promote professional leadership and a culture of entrepreneurship among women. It also focuses on preventive measures of violence against women and girls in family relationships.

All state bodies and public organizations are designated as responsible for implementation of the relevant parts of the strategy. The road map document lists the priority tasks for coordinating their activities, ensuring the targeting of activities for the upcoming two years.



Joint advocacy events: "16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence" campaign in Uzbekistan

The "16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence" campaign in Uzbekistan kicked off with a high-level meeting on discussion Uzbekistan's experience in addressing women's issues, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, from both government agencies and civil society institutions.

The objectives of the event were:

- Share experience of national mitigation measures: good practices, challenges and further actions;
- Share various CSOs' experience to respond to GBV;
- Raise awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts on the importance of the campaign and share knowledge
 on prevention and addressing the violence against women both with the focus on general public and
 national partners.

Over 200 participants including state representatives of the country, representatives of civil society, national, international organizations and embassies, Youth parliament and Youth Advisory Board members as well as mass media representativies, female bloggers joined the online advocacy meeting.





The extended GTG came up with the consolidated calendar of events organized by different agencies and organizations within the "16 days" campaign.

The calendar of events included the following major initiatives and activities:

25 November

Placement of 16 relevant publications on ACTED social networks

Series of awareness raising meetings on combating violence in the mahallas

A series of informational meetings in mahallas on the topic "Prevention of domestic violence in the

"We are against violence" campaign - distribution of info materials on GBV in public places in Bukhara

26 November

Round Table dedicated to 25 November/ a kick-off

Launch of online legal and psychological consultations on TV, radio and social media channels

Exhibition of children's drawings "We are happiness in the family"

Conference on prevention and response to violence against women in Tashkent (26.11.2020)

A series of interviews and reports with representatives of women's NGOs on tv

27 November

Competition among journalists on publications on the topic "Gender Equality in Uzbekistan"

Essay competition on the topic "Gender Equality in Uzbekistan" for university students

International webinar with the participation of experts from Sweden

28 November

Children's drawing competition on the theme "Gender Equality in Uzbekistan'

Motivational essay competition from women survivors of discrimination or violence

Activities related to promotion of GBV national hotline

29 November

A Monthly Marathon on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Awareness raising video material on gender quality, equal rights and **GBV** prevention

30 November

Launch of the mobile application "NAJOT

Launch of orange colored litter boxes for donations at big malls and supermarkets

1 December

"A workday of the women inspector" – a special coverage (in TV, radio and social media)

Action - World AIDS Day

2 December

Launch of awareness raising campaign "positive masculinity" in social media and TV

3 December

Webinar "Intersectional solutions to eliminate violence against women and girls living with disabilities"

4 December

Story from the "Opa-singillar" NGO of women with disabilities

Carrying out an analysis of the GBV data collected via the e-Journal

Women Parliamentarian Forum

5 December

Advocacy campaign to reach out vulnerable women on HIV prevention Printing and distribution of booklets (including in Braille for PWD) on GBV in drugstores, malls and bazaars Short video Men against VAW (part2)

6 December

Two motivational, successful stories of women who have achieved success in their work

7 December

Important messages on behalf of partners, GEWE champions, activists/strong leaders, bloggers, NGOs, members of Parliament, religious organizations

8 December

Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Central Asia

9 December

Seminar training for representatives of state organizations on the topic "The role and importance of NGOs in the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan"

10 December

"Gender Equality Activist" national contest awarding event Round table on "Protection of vulnerable women"

Series of job fairs in Tashkent, Bukhara, Samarkand and Fergana



Snapshots of activities organized within "16 days" campaign



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In the framework of "16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence" campaign UN Uzbekistan together with the Gender Commission of Uzbekistan and Ministry of Makhalla and Family Support involved key activists, artists, influencers, politicians, journalists to take part in the advocacy campaign. Posters with their messages against gender-based violence and encouraging women empowerment were posted on official social media pages of UN agencies, as well as the Ministries of the Republic of Uzbekistan.





For the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, UN Women was handing over the mic to women on the front line, those who are battling COVID-19 and the pandemic of violence against women and girls that's relentless and rising. These are the voices of survivors, essential workers, and leaders, telling us what's urgent, and how we can stop the escalating violence, recover and rebuild from COVID-19.

Read an interview with Helena Fraser, UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan, advocate for women's rights.



Moreover, as a part of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence" campaign a number of video materials have been produced and widely disseminated through the national TV channels and different social media networks.







UNAIDS involved actors Rayhon Asadova, Shohrukh Khamdamov, Aziza Rasulova, Shahzod Nazarov and Sevara Solieva to tell stories of children and adolescents living with HIV in Uzbekistan. People living with HIV are forced to hide their status, because society is not ready to accept people with HIV-positive status.

The video is targeted to prevent violence against women, and to promote the "No to violence" telegram channel which is a joint project of UNFPA and the Gender Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The video was created to promote 1146 hotline, which was launched in October 27, 2020 together with the Ministry for Support of Makhalla and Family to prevent GBV and to help the victims of violence.

Video portraying interviews with male influencers, politicians, religious leaders and other authorities on gender-based violence was prepared by the Gender Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry for Mahalla and Family Support in cooperation with UNDP in Uzbekistan "Violence is unacceptable. Human life, honor and dignity should be valued above all else."







GBV statistics



Data on GBV and statistics presented and used by GTG were extracted from "No to violence!" Telegram channel launched by the initiative of the Senate Gender Commission with the UNFPA support on 16th of April, 2020. The TG channel continues to provide summary data related to GBV on a continuous basis from different sources, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Rehabilitation and Adaptation Center, different NGOs working on women issues (Oydin Nur, Rahmdillik, Nihol, CISC), the Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support.

GBV mapping: NGOs' services during COVID19 pandemic:

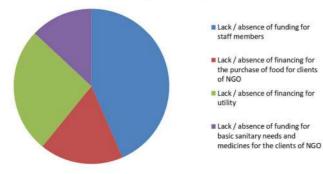
The mapping of NGOs working on gender-based violence during the quarantine period was developed in April 2020. 13 NGOs responded to the service mapping questionnaire nationwide.

Legal and psychosocial assistance was provided by 10 NGOs out of 13 (77%). Also, prevention and medical services were provided by 8 NGOs (61%). Trainings and employment opportunities were provided by 5 NGOs (36%).

Other Social assistance (e.g.... Training prof. employment skills Preventive actions Security assurance Legal assistance / legal advice Psychosocial / Case Management Healthcare

10

Difficulties / Challenges



At a time of the first lockdown (first 2 weeks) 1 out of 13 NGOs (Rahmdillik Jamiyati from Samarkand) accepted victims of GBV. The remaining NGOs couldn't accept GBV victims due to the lack of isolated premises (12 out of 13 NGOs).

Almost all (86%) NGOs have functioning "hotlines". 5 of them work 24/7 (45%). The most demanded specialists on the hotline are a lawyers and psychologists - 72%.

NGOs capacity assessment

Rapid capacity and needs assessment was conducted in November-December 2020 with gender among NGOs mandate to identify the needs for further support by GTG. Answers to the online questionnaire were received different NGOs at the republican and regional levels. The of 51 questionnaire consisted Russian Uzbek questions, in and languages, with focus to analyze NGOs' capacity and their willingness/readiness to cooperate.

Extended GTG

The Gender Thematic Group has been expanded and now consists not only of representatives of UN agencies in Uzbekistan, but also representatives of international organizations and embassies working on gender issues. The invitation to join the GTG was sent on April 7, 2020 and received the validations from: ACTED French Humanitarian Organization, Asian Development Bank (Uzbekistan), British Embassy in Tashkent, Central Asia Arts and Culture Programme Embassy of Switzerland in Uzbekistan, Swiss Cooperation office in Uzbekistan, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Uzbekistan, Embassy of France in Tashkent, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Uzbekistan, OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan, USAID Legal Reform Program, The World Bank in Uzbekistan.