



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

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

Forty-ninth session

11 – 29 July 2011

**Information provided in follow-up to the concluding
observations of the Committee**

Azerbaijan

**Response by Azerbaijan to the recommendations contained
in the concluding observations of the Committee following
the examination of the fourth periodic report of Azerbaijan
on 24 July 2009.**

Follow up Report of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs on implementation of recommendations contained in paragraphs 16 and 22 of the concluding observations of CEDAW Committee.

1. Recommendation in paragraph 16 pertaining to “Discriminatory laws”

“The Committee urges the State party to speedily enact the amendment to the Family Code in order to equalize the minimum age of marriage for women and men to 18, in accordance with article 16 of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 21”

Information of implementation:

During the constructive dialogue, the Head of delegation informed the Committee that Parliament will consider an amendment to the Family Code at its session in the third quarter on 2009 in order to discuss the equalization of the minimum legal age of marriage for women is 17.

Currently, under the Family Code of Azerbaijan, the minimum legal age of marriage for women is 17.

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs wishes to reiterate the political will of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to remove all discriminatory laws in its legislation in order to be in full conformity with all the provisions of the CEDAW Convention as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs confirms that discussions on the amendment of the Family Code with a view to equalize the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 for both men and women, have started in Parliament and that consultations with appropriate Committees with the participation of experts are still ongoing.

The question of the adoption of the amendments to the Family Code in that regard, has been added to the agenda of the Fall Session of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Milli Majlis).

2. Recommendations in paragraph 22 on “Violence against Women”

“The Committee urges the State party to accelerate the adoption of the draft law on domestic violence and to ensure that it contains provisions pertaining to sexual violence within the family. The Committee requests the State party to continue its efforts to combat violence against women and girls, in particular domestic violence. It recommends that the State party pursue its public awareness campaigns to combat all forms of violence against women through the media and education programmes. It calls upon the State party to ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders and the availability of a sufficient number of adequate shelters in all regions. The Committee recommends that legal aid continue to be made available to all victims of violence, including through the establishment of legal aid clinics, especially in rural areas. It also requests the implementation of training for the judiciary and public officials, in particular law enforcement personnel, health-service providers and community development officers, in order to ensure that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and girls and can provide adequate gender-sensitive support to victims. The Committee calls on the State party to amend its Criminal Code. It reiterates its previous recommendation that the State party should conduct research on the prevalence, causes and consequences of all forms of violence against

women, including domestic violence, to serve as the basis for comprehensive and targeted intervention”.

Information of implementation:

1. *Enactment of specific law on domestic violence*

The law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On domestic violence” passed three readings during the Summer session of the Parliament and was adopted on 22 June 2010 (No. 1058-IIIQ). On 1 October 2010, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed a decree on realization of the law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on “Domestic violence”.

This law is comprehensive and contains provisions aimed to combat domestic violence as well as measures of protection for victims of violence. Women subjected to violence need access to shelters, medical, psychological and other support, legal aid and other services which are made available to the victims, such as the creation of assistance centres and shelters.

2. *The project “21st century without violence against women”*

The project “21st century without violence against women” which as signed between the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and United Nations Population Fund on January 16, 2008 was extended in order to better support a large number of measures aimed at combating violence against women. When designed the project, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and its partners followed the guidance provided by the CEDAW Committee in General Recommendation No. 19 on “Violence against Women”.

The project covered 3 crucial components namely:

- development of protective and rehabilitation abilities of public instructions for victims of violence;
- preparation of national educating programs on behaviour without violence for those who committed acts of violence (perpetrators);
- rehabilitation measures for victims of violence.

In the framework of the project, four shelters for victims of violence will be available. Shelters are available and are being exploited at the moment in Azerbaijan.

3. *Capacity-building and training*

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs is fully conscious that all those who respond to violence against women, require capacity to deal with such violence in a gender sensitive manner. As such, advocacy measures with the participation of local administrative bodies, municipalities, and the civil society have been held. Women assistance centres have been created to increase the efficiency of measures on protection of women rights in framework of the project.

Different measures have been taken in direction of covering demands on ensuring women rights and freedoms emanating from provisions of international and local laws, prevention of reflections of discrimination and actions contradicting the law have always been kept in centre of attention, various activities in these directions have been realized.

In general, being one of the most serious problems, the issue of violence against women is always kept in the centre of attention of advocacy measures on women rights spent by corresponding public institutions and non-governmental organizations and especially in materials spread by mass media.

Close relations have been created between public institutions, non-governmental organizations and mass media that work on elimination of discrimination and violence that could be committed against women and girls.

4. Data and statistics

The data base has been improved and special report forms have been prepared in order to investigate, evaluate and generalise reasons and conditions of criminal cases, administrative offences committed against women.

In order to increase efficiency of the activities new statutes and instructions for police inspectors and chiefs of the police departments have been prepared and implemented for the prosecution and punishment of offenders.

In these documents mechanisms of revealing of violence in families on right time and registration of such cases have been concretized and were defined rules of inspection of services in the field of family-domestic criminals, and participation of members of society in this activity.
