

KAZAKHSTAN

**Answers to the Questions on Implementation of Beijing
Platform of Actions (1995) and Resolutions of the 23d
Special Session of the UN General Assembly (2000)**

Part 1. General review of achievements and objectives in promotion of gender equality and expansion of opportunities for women

After the IV International Conference on the Status of Women (Beijing, 1995) the Concept of the state policy on improving of women's status in the Republic of Kazakhstan was approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan #3395 of March 5, 1997.

To solve the problems of family, women and children, The Leader of the state established a Council on Family and Women's Issues and Demographic Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In 1998 the Council was reorganized into a National Commission on Family and Women's Affairs under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan which was provided with broader authorities.

The Strategy of gender equality and expansion of opportunities for women is stated to the fullest extent in the National Plan of Action on improving women's status in the Republic of Kazakhstan which includes 12 directions of the Beijing Platform of Action approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan #999 of July 19, 1999.

Implementation of the National Plan of Action on improving women's status promoted development of women's potential in the Republic, expansion of women's opportunities, formation of qualitatively new relations of social partnership between civil society, women's non-governmental organizations and governing bodies.

The national coordinating mechanism on implementation of the Strategy is represented by the National Commission on Family and Women's Affairs under President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The National Commission carries out constant monitoring of the National Plan and provides the Government with annual information. At present about 80 percent of the activities of the Plan have been realized or are being currently realized.

Further development of the Strategy has been connected with the adoption of the Resolution of the Government #1190 of November 27, 2003 which approved the Concept of Gender Policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Its main objectives are: achieving of balanced representation of women and men in the governing bodies, providing equal possibilities for economic independence, development of own businesses and promotion at work, creation of conditions for equal exercise of rights and responsibilities in a family, freedom from violence on the basis of sex.

The Concept stipulates introduction of gender education in the Republic, gender expertise of the legislation, introduction of gender indicators into the budget policy, state plans and programs, determination of directions for further improvement of health and fight against violence in respect to women.

The Concept includes goals of the Declaration of millennium in the area of development as a basis for activities. They are linked with the Platform of Action and Resolutions of the 23d special session of the UN General Assembly.

It should be mentioned that ratification of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, discussion of the Report of Kazakhstan at the session of the Committee on elimination of discrimination against women and its final comments had considerable impact on the national legislation and enhanced the process of implementation of provisions of the Convention.

At present the Second Periodic Report of the Republic of Kazakhstan is being prepared, which includes the results achieved during the reported period.

We consider it an important achievement that gender indices have been included in the Perspective Plan of the Government for 2001-2005 and the Strategic Plan of the Development of Kazakhstan up till 2010. For the first time in the history of Kazakhstan it includes a special section "Gender and Development".

There are also certain achievements in political advancement of women. The number of women in state executive bodies has increased compared to 2001. Today women constitute 58.5 percent of total amount of state employees. Women in political positions in central structures at a decision-making level make up 18.3 percent, and that is two times more compared to 2001.

Solution of the issues on economic promotion of women can be also considered successful. In compliance with the State program on micro-crediting of the poorest sections of the population two thirds of micro-loans have been given to rural women.

Economic rising allowed increasing expenses for social needs, and that promoted to a certain extent realization of the rights of women and men in our country.

During the last five years significant results have been achieved in the field of legislation and policy formation in provision of gender equality and expansion of opportunities for women.

Gender expertise of the legislation is being carried out to define to what extent gender equality is ensured as well as international standards and norms are realized in the national legislation.

In 2002-2003 a number of laws were passed such as "On Amendments and Additions to Certain Legislative Acts on the Issue of Illegal Migration". Additions were included in the Law on "Tourism Activities in the Republic of Kazakhstan". The Law was passed "On Introduction of Additions to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan". These laws helped to clarify many issues and now they are playing an important role in combating such anti-social phenomenon as trafficking.

The Law was passed on June 16, 2004 "On Reproductive Rights of the Citizens and Guarantees for Their Realization".

The draft law has been worked out “On Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women” which has already undergone expertise in international and non-governmental organizations.

The draft law has been worked out “On Prevention and Suppression of Domestic Violence”.

The group of deputies Otbasy (“Family”) in the Parliament takes into account gender issues and women’s problems in the process of approving the budgets at the national and regional levels and controls usage of budget allocations.

Taking into consideration the importance of improvement of legislative base for the issues of maternity and childhood protection, the Parliament hearings were held on October 10, 2003 on “Legislative Provision of Maternity and Childhood Protection in the Republic of Kazakhstan”.

For further reinforcement of civil society institutions the Civil Forum was held on October 14-15, 2003 in Astana with participation of the Leader of the State, governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations. The main objective of the Civil Forum was to identify priorities in state support to non-governmental sector, to create conditions for sustainable development of NGOs as part of the civil society.

It can be considered a sufficient achievement that governmental bodies have become more active in their cooperation with non-governmental organizations and public associations, and have been assisting them in getting grants for implementation of socially important projects and involving them in formulation of draft laws and state programs.

Today in Kazakhstan there are over 4,500 non-governmental organizations including 150 women’s NGOs. A Coalition of women’s non-governmental organization has been established.

Adoption of the Concept of State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Program of State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2003-2005 was a significant event in the development of the non-governmental sector.

To introduce gender approach in higher education an educational manual “Foundations of Gender Theory” is being used now.

From 2002 a number of gender subjects have been taught in Kazakh State Women Teachers’ Training Institute and other universities of the Republic, such as “Gender”, “Anthology of Gender Research”, “Sociology of Gender” were students study issues of non-violent behavior of men and women.

In the current school year 10-hour optional classes on “Gender Problems and Mission of the Internal Affairs Bodies” have been included in the curriculum of colleges within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Part Two. Progress in solving problems related to the most important items in Beijing Platform of Action and realization of further initiatives and measures determined at the twenty third special session of the General Assembly

Introduction of International Norms

Kazakhstan ratified Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1998.

In 2002 Kazakhstan ratified UN Convention “On Political Rights of Women” and “On Citizenship of a Married Woman”, six conventions of the International Labor Organization including “On Equal Remuneration of Men and Women for Work of Equal Value”, “On Minimal Age for Employment”, “On Organization of Employment Service”, “On Cancellation of Forced Labor” and others. The same year Kazakhstan ratified the Optional Protocol to Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”.

At present Kazakhstan has joined 30 international conventions on human rights. They include Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Race Discrimination (1965), Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984), Convention on Child’s Rights (1989), etc.

In compliance with Article 4 of the Constitution of our country “international agreements ratified by the Republic have priority over its laws and are applied directly except cases when the international agreement requires adoption of a national law for its application”. Thus, international agreements become part of our national legislation right after they are ratified.

Women at a Decision-Making Level

In the Republic of Kazakhstan all conditions have been created for women to participate equally with men in the governing of the state directly and through their representatives, and also to elect and be elected to the state bodies and institutions of local governing, and to take part in public referendums.

A number of innovations in the electoral legislation is aimed at raising the role of the parties in electoral process, creating equal conditions for candidates and political parties in electoral campaign and expanding possibilities for citizens to participate in elections.

In 1999 among 3,322 deputies elected to maslikhats there were 639 women (19.2 %), while in 2003 there were 568 women (17.1%).

At present there are 11 women-deputies in the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan and that constitutes 9.5 per cent of the total number of Parliament members including eight women-deputies (10.4 %) in Mazhlis of the Parliament and three women-deputies (7.7%) in the Senate. There are 17.1% of women-deputies in maslikhats.

Next elections to the Mazhlis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan will be held on September 19, 2004.

In compliance with the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Public Service” a new model of public service has been used in Kazakhstan since 2000, based on the principle of equal right to access to public service and promotion according to one’s abilities and professional training.

For the first time in the history of Kazakhstan a woman was appointed a Deputy Prime-Minister. We also have two women-ministers, one woman is the Chairman of the Republican Agency, and five women are Deputy Akims of Oblasts. Women make up 17 per cent among region deputy akims. Women-akims of rural and village districts make up 11 per cent, women-deputy akims in rural and village districts constitute 18 per cent. Women are the heads of 22 per cent of executive bodies.

Monitoring of the personnel in public service shows a stable tendency to the growth of number of women in public service in every post category.

So, as on January 1, 2004 women constituted 58.5 per cent (47 467 women) among total number of administrative officials in 2003, while in 2000 – 56.2 per cent (33 301 women). That also included the growth in number of women in the central governing bodies among administrative state officials up to 59.8 per cent (3 533 women), while in 2000 women made up only 55.2 per cent (2 813 women).

On the instruction of the President of the Republic every ministry, agency and Oblast administration has established a reserve of women- specialists to promote them to the decision-making level.

In the framework of joint projects with the Swedish Agency on international cooperation “100 Percent of Women in Politics” and “Women’s Leadership and Network Programs” 2 conferences and 11 seminars and workshops were held for the most active women who showed their interest in politics.

Just during 2001-2003 12 112 conferences, workshops and seminars were held which involved 497884 people.

Sphere of Labor and Employment

Economic rise contributed to consolidation of social and economic rights of the citizens, reduction of poverty and growth of employment, growth of income level of the population and increase in wages and pensions.

According to on-line data the growth of gross domestic product in 2003 constituted 9.2% compared to 2002. The growth in industry was 8.8%, in construction – 9.3%, agriculture – 1.4%, the volume of good transportation increased by 9.8% compared to 2002. Communication services increased by 25.8%.

Stability of economic development is insured by low inflation rate, firmness in monetary and credit sphere and tax and budget systems, favorable situation for Kazakhstan in the world trade markets as well as by stable political situation within the Republic, development of entrepreneurship, increase in internal demand as a result of improvement of living standards of the population, favorable investment climate and high pace of development in the CIS countries.

Proportion of women among those involved in national economy in 2003 constituted 49% (1999 – 47.6%, 2000 – 47.5%; 2001 – 48.2%; 2002 - 49%).

On the whole in the country there is a stable tendency in reduction of unemployment (from 13.5% in 1999 down to 8.8 % in 2003). There is a constant decrease in women's unemployment as well. So, if in 2001 the level of women's unemployment was 12%, it went down to 11.2% in 2002 and down to 10.8% in 2003. The level of women's unemployment is higher compared to the level of men's unemployment level (7.4%).

Most of unemployed women are aged 25-54 (62%), while most of unemployed men are aged 55-64 (53%).

The number of women working under harmful and dangerous labor conditions is decreasing.

In 2003 women's average monthly salary almost doubled compared to 1999 and became 17 000 tenge (\$125). Every year the national competition "The Best Enterprise Headed by a Woman" is held in 7 nominations to encourage women's entrepreneurship.

Education

One of the basic principles of the state policy in the area of education is equality of rights of all citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan for education. Educational level of men and women is high and there are no significant distinctions between them.

We consider introduction of gender knowledge in the educational system of the country to be one of the main promising directions for provision of successful gender equality. In this connection a primary gender expertise of the textbooks for elementary schools in the country has been carried out.

All secondary school curriculums include such subjects as "Foundations of Law", "Man and Society", "Ethics and Psychology of Family Life", etc. Most of schools and over half of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions have introduced a program on Valeology which includes such parts as personal hygiene rules, impact of tobacco, drugs and toxics on human body, prevention of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, cultivating of healthy living habits, consequences of early sexual intercourse, etc.

The Research and Practical Center for social and psychological services with the support of the National Commission has worked out and realized the project "Education of Children and Youth in Non-Violent Behavior" which was financed by UNICEF.

To reinforce moral principles and protect reproductive health of the new generation “A Concept of Moral and Sexual Education in the Republic of Kazakhstan” was approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan #1500 on November 21, 2001.

Healthcare System

As a result of stabilization of the social and economic situation in the country the level of maternity death-rate decreased from 65.3 per 100,000 of born alive in 1999 down to 42.1 in 2003.

The level of infantile death-rate decreased from 20.36 per 1 000 of alive newborn babies in 1999 down to 15.67 in 2003. The death-rate of children under five also went down from 23.12 in 1999 to 17.58 in 2003 for girls and from 29.61 down to 22.89 for boys.

The birth rate increased from 14.57 per 1 000 people in 1999 up to 16.63 in 2003. Natural growth of the population in 2003 was 6.22 per 1 000 people compared to 4.7 per 1 000 people in 1999.

To increase access to medical aid for women certain efforts are made to reestablish or/and open a number of new medical obstetrical institutions, particularly maternity consulting centers. During the year of 2003 27 maternity consulting centers and offices were reestablished or/and opened in the Republic.

To provide women with medical aid there are feldsher-obstetrics offices (1 420) and feldsher posts (2 720), family ambulatories (1 570), maternity consulting centers (79) and diagnostic policlinics (44), nine branches of “Marriage and Family” and 13 medical and genetic offices, 717 obstetrical and gynecological offices and 524 check-up offices in policlinics.

Besides, there are 34 maternity hospitals to provide stationary medical aid to pregnant women, 13 perinatal centers and 156 obstetrics wards in the district hospitals.

There are 3 877 obstetricians-gynecologists and 8 018 obstetricians working in medical institutions in Kazakhstan.

According to data base of 2003 about 35.6% of women of fertile age in the Republic used various kinds of contraception. The most widely used way of contraception was Lippes loop (62.5%), in 1999 – 73.4%.

The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Reproductive Rights of Citizens and Guarantees for their Realization” (# 565-11, adopted on June 16, 2004) regulates social relations in the area of protection of reproductive health of the citizens, determines guarantees of the state and the main principles of the state policy in the area of reproductive rights of the citizens.

To prevent anemia and iodine deficiency among the population the Law “**On Preventive Measures against Iodine Deficiency Diseases**” has been passed.

The Resolution of the Government “On Preventive Measures against Iodine Deficiency Disorders among the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2001-2005” has been implementing.

Together with Asian bank for Development the joint project “Improvement of Nutrition for Needy Mothers and Children” for about \$1,000,000 has been currently realized.

New equipment for fortification of flour has been installed at 15 flour milling plants, and the production of iodined salt has been started at “Araltyz” and “Pavlodarsol” enterprises.

Preventive vaccination against tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, measles and other diseases of children under two cover 95% of children of that age. Kazakhstan was the first among CIS counties to introduce vaccination of all new-born babies against virus hepatitis B.

There is decrease in tuberculosis rate as well as in other infectious diseases among the population. So, sickness rate in diphtheria decreased by 60 times, in epidemic paratyphoid by 45%, in measles by 25% compared to 1995. The sickness rate in syphilis fell down from 231 to 182 patients per 100,000 people.

The Program on counteraction to epidemics of AIDS in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2001-2005 has been implemented in the country. This Program #1 207 was approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on September 14, 2001. Regional programs were adopted and approved in all Oblasts and large cities of the country.

To increase the informational level of the population, educational programs on preventive measures against HIV/AIDS are being taught in 7 728 schools (97.9%), 154 higher educational institutions (87.5%) and 551 specialized secondary educational institutions (99.5%).

Special efforts are focused on improving the ecological situation in the country. The national ecological programs such as “Health and Biotope of Man”, “Introduction of Unified System of Monitoring of the Drinking Water Quality”, “Protection of the Population and Environment against Dioxins and Other Persistent Organic Contaminants” have been approved. For their realization over four billion tenge of budget funds have been spent during the last two years.

The Concept of Ecological Safety of the Republic of Kazakhstan was adopted, which was approved by the Decree of the President of RK. The idea of the concept means universal ecologization of the main spheres of human activities and influences: economy, national legislation and the society itself.

By joint order of the Ministry of Education and Science the Concept on Ecological Education in the Republic of Kazakhstan has been approved.

Violence against Women

In the Republic of Kazakhstan certain measures have been taken against violence and trafficking in respect to women.

Since 2001 the Resolution of the Government “On Coordination of State Bodies, Organizations and Public Associations, Involved in the Problems of Violence against Women” has been realized.

The legislation which was in effect before 2000, has been brought to conformity with international norms of rights, especially with regard to imposing a more severe penalty to persons who committed crimes against women.

The results of research showed that the most wide-spread form of violence against women is domestic violence. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has worked out a draft law “On Prevention and Suppression of Domestic Violence”.

One of the achievements is a considerable growth in number of crisis centers for combating violence against women from two in 2000 up to 38 in 2003. There are crisis centers almost in all Oblast centers. Most of them were established by non-governmental organizations and are supported by international grants.

In case of violence in the family a woman can also turn for help to specialized police departments on protection of women against violence, which was established by the Decree of the President of the Republic in 1999. Currently there are 137 police officers working in these departments.

At present a special Interdepartmental Commission on combating Illegal export, import and trafficking in people has been established under the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the Minister of Justice at the head.

A National plan on combating, prevention and suppression of crimes in trafficking in people for the period of 2004 – 2005 has been worked out. According to this plan the state bodies undertake certain activities against trafficking in people on a regular basis.

Certain preparation work is being carried out for joining by Kazakhstan international documents on combating trafficking in people and exploitation of prostitution by the third persons.

In 2001-2002 the project of IOM “Informational Campaign on Prevention of Trafficking in Women” was realized. The National Commission acted as a national coordinator in that project.

19 non-governmental organizations took part in that project by arranging hotlines in all Oblasts of the Republic.

The second joint project with IOM “Fight against Trafficking in People out of, in, via and within Kazakhstan” has been realized. The project contributed to further improvement of national legislation and promoted rendering aid to the victims of trafficking and training of the officers from the law-enforcement bodies in combating trafficking with the help of international experience.

A large regional informational campaign “Life without Violence – This is our Right” was held (2001 – 2003) together with UNIFEM with participation of 9 CIS countries and Baltic Republics.

Informing the Population about Women’s Rights

Certain work has been conducted to raise level of awareness of the population about women’s rights. Coverage of gender policy of the state was included as a separate item into the thematic list of state order for 2004.

Mass media contributes a lot to formation of a civilized image of a woman in the public consciousness as full and active participant in all political, social and economic processes in the country.

Mass media is paying much attention to participation of women in public and political life of the country, always stressing the stabilizing role of women in the processes taking place in the society.

Only for the last two years over 300 seminars on education of women in their rights were held together with various international organizations.

Women’s participation in non-governmental sector is one of the numerous topics in mass media. Mass media stresses and distinguishes first of all women’s NGO’s among the rest NGO’s in the country.

The draft law “On State Social Order” will promote a more active participation of NGO’s in solution of national tasks.

On September 2 – 13 the Ministry of Information conducted an open competition on realization of socially important projects by non-commercial organizations of the Republic of Kazakhstan. For the first time the state started financing non-governmental organizations which at the initial stages had been supported by international foundations and organizations.

Alongside with achievements in advancement of women, the main existing problems and obstacles have been identified, which include:

- there is still misunderstanding in the essence and importance of gender problems in public consciousness;
- not in all areas introduction of gender approaches in public practice takes place;
- not in all spheres gender monitoring and its results are being used;
- in spite of certain raise still women’s average wages is lower than men’s. Last year it was 61%.
- there are still cases of violence and sexual exploitation of women.

Part Three. Institutional Development

The National Commission on Family and Women's Affairs under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan is an effective institutional mechanism.

By the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan #947 of September 19, 2002 a position of Ombudsman on Human Rights was established. He has a specialist in gender issues in his staff.

A Commission on Human Rights under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan has been working. In December 2002 the National Center on Human Rights was set up.

To protect family and women's and children's interests at the legislative level, the biggest group of 33 deputies "Otbasy" ("Family") was established in the Parliament.

Institutions of civil society have been established in the country and they have been functioning very actively. Permanent Conference on formulation of proposals for further democratization and development of civil society is working constantly.

Women's NGO's have established employment and professional orientation centers, centers for promotion of small businesses and legal and juridical aid.

In several Oblasts a number of seminars on establishing coordination between local executive bodies and non-governmental organizations were held together with Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations. Such councils have already been functioning in Almatinskaya, Pavlodarskaya, Kostanaiskaya and Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya Oblasts.

Rewarding, on the presentation of the National Commission, of 37 the most active leaders of the National and Oblast non-governmental organizations with "Jubilee Medal in Honor of the 10th Anniversary of Independence of Kazakhstan" for the first time in the history of our country was a real illustration of high recognition of the activities of NGO's on behalf of the State. Today in Kazakhstan political and institutional foundations for the activities of non-governmental organizations have been created and they are being actively developed.

The adopted Laws "On Public Associations" and "On Non-Commercial Organizations" determine their legal status, rights and responsibilities, order of their establishment, reorganization and cessation of their activities.

For obvious reflection of real status of women in all spheres of life and activities a special collection on gender statistics "Women and Men in Kazakhstan" has been annually issued since 1999.

Part Four. Main Objectives and Measures for their Realization

Measures that are to be undertaken to achieve gender equality in the Republic of Kazakhstan:

Measures of institutional and organizational character

It is planned to use gender indicators, worked out with consideration of social and economic situation in Kazakhstan, in the process of formation of the national budget and formulation of state plans and programs. Gender statistics programs will be improved in conformity with world experience.

It is planned to create an effective system of gender education of the population, to organize publishing of manuals for schools and colleges, secondary specialized and higher educational institutions as well as booklets and various publications for the population.

In politics

It is planned to create with participation of non-governmental and international organizations and specialists in gender education and experts a national network for education and training of women-politicians for development of leadership skills and abilities of women. For a wider popularization of gender equality in the country it is planned to introduce a general course in gender education for journalists.

In the sphere of economy and labor

To reduce tension on the labor market it is planned to develop two main trends: provision of equal opportunities on the labor market and promotion of women's employment, both mean growth of demand in women's labor and raise of its competitiveness on the labor market.

An issue on joining the Convention of the International Labor Organization "On Equal Treatment and Equal Opportunities for Working Men and Women: Working People with Family Responsibilities" by Kazakhstan will be considered soon.

It is planned to introduce the following programs:

programs, promoting raise of women's competitiveness on the labor market with the supporting system of consultations, training and placement;

programs on further promotion of women's entrepreneurship and self-employment among women;

programs on professional retraining of women, training in administrative work and business management. Training will be focused mainly on the following topics: business-management, self-esteem and professional competence.

Micro-crediting of the population will be developed more widely in compliance with the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Micro-Crediting Organizations”. It is intended to include programs on micro-crediting of the population in the regional plans of social and economic development.

Demand in women’s labor should be taken into account and promoted in further reforming of the economy. Special attention will be paid to development of women’s employment in agriculture, including sphere of processing of agricultural products.

Women will be given guarantees in providing them with equal opportunities in promotion and creation of conditions for combining successful career with family responsibilities and upbringing of children.

Development of state and private children’s preschool institutions will be promoted, which will provide services and new jobs. Certain measures are identified to support women and men who are involved in taking care of the children and their upbringing.

It is planned to raise the role of social partnership in solving problems of gender equality. Trade-unions will be protecting more actively the interests of the employees before the employers. To study situation with observation of gender equality at work, all kinds of forms for expressing the will of employees, administration and trade-unions will be used, such as meetings, collecting proposals on observation of equal opportunities for women and men, written statements and ideas.

Strengthening of health

The main objective is to create conditions for raising living standards and strengthening of health of the population. Realization of the adopted programs and formulation and implementation of the new programs in healthcare system will contribute to achievement of this objective.

Combating women’s anemia and breast cancer will stay priority-driven directions in the activities of specialized bodies and non-governmental organizations which are involved in women’s issues.

Wide popularization and application of healthy life standards will be continued. Special attention will be paid to reproductive health of the population. It is intended to work out programs on improving scientific foundations for the reproductive health protection, taking into consideration age groups and specific regional characteristics of the country. Besides, the following measures will be undertaken:

- measures to form public consciousness in favor of the institute of a family, principles of its planning, protection of own health;
- measures on expansion of medical and sanitary service, regional approach to development of obstetrical and gynecological service and its modernization;
- measures aimed at raising the quality of medical aid;

- measures on revision of medical and social reasons for abortion to decrease maternity death-rate;
- measures on protection of health of elderly people for improvement and prolongation of their active life.

On suppression of violence against women and children

Special researches on the problems of violence against women and children and assessment of the consequences of violence in a family in private life will be carried out. It is planned to conduct constant monitoring of realization of women's and children's rights for protection against violence. Special attention will be paid to socially vulnerable sections of the population such as disabled people, people without permanent residency, refugees.

It is anticipated to have regular professional training for policemen, judges and prosecutors, medical and social workers and teachers to act effectively in the situations when victims of the violence need to be provided with physical safety, care of their children and financial support.

It is intended to introduce profound specialized courses on the problems of violence against women and children in the curriculum of educational institutions under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and law and psychology schools of the universities.

It is planned to expand network of crisis centers, hotlines, shelters for victims of violence. It is planned to establish such centers in all cities and districts by 2010. It is intended to carry out proactive work with people who tend to commit violence in families by special departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, social workers and non-governmental organizations.

It is planned to activate men's role in combating violence against women and children and to involve them in informational, educational and preventive work.

It is intended to undertake measures on reinforcement of cooperation and coordination of activities between state bodies, international and non-governmental organizations in their fight against domestic violence. It is planned to conduct regular informational campaigns, especially in small towns and rural areas, to prevent violence against women.

Certain measures will be undertaken to enhance adoption of the Law "On Prevention and Suppression of Domestic Violence" and to make gender expertise of the legislation more systematic and integrated.

Implementation of all the above-mentioned measures in the Republic of Kazakhstan will promote development of a real democratic state, where rights of its citizens will be insured by real possibility for their realization.