

**Azərbaycan Respublikasının  
BMT yanında Daimi  
Nümayəndəliyi**



**Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the United Nations**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and with reference to the Secretary-General's Note Verbale UNW/2020/0002, dated 21 April 2020, has the honor submit the report prepared by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the implementation of General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/148 on "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women the assurances of its highest consideration.



New York, 15 May 2020

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women  
New York

**Information submitted by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan due to  
the implementation of the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/148  
“Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence  
against women and girls: sexual harassment”**

Within the stated period several important developments have been accomplished in the field of preventing violence against women. To contribute to improved institutional response capacity as well as to ensure availability of an adequate tool for internal accountability and performance monitoring the inter-agency online GBV database was developed.

To improve legal and policy framework for GBV the Government in the partnership with UNFPA produced the guideline document for establishment of the Inter-agency mechanism on GBV prevention and response. To boost the process of informed policy and decision-making, several important initiatives were launched including regular production of sex disaggregated data, surveys on the dynamics of gender relations, on GBV prevalence rates and women's coping strategies as well as on economic costs of the GBV.

To address the pervasive gaps in understanding GBV as well as types and costs of the phenomenon the Government initiated two major studies: national representative survey on GBV prevalence rates and research on economic costs of GBV. It is important to underline that the results of the study on GBV cost share expected to reflect the value of lost economic productivity as a result of violence, the amount of medical, social and legal support provided to the victim, as well as the factors and figures that would prevent the victim from gaining further benefits.

Several major legal measures were introduced to ensure improved protection and support to the women victims of GBV.

The major legal and policy document developed in the reporting period is as follows:

- ✓ State Program on the Improvement of Justice in Azerbaijan” 2019-2023

The Essential service packages on GBV prevention and response developed by UNFPA in partnership with UN Women, WHO, and UNDP have been translated into Azerbaijani language, adapted to the local context and shared with the stakeholders as an additional resource document aimed at ensuring effective coordination for GBV prevention and response in the country.

Establishment of district level monitoring groups as part of the measures aimed at combating gender based violence and discrimination against women is also an achievement. The groups are composed of representatives of different state bodies (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, Azerbaijan Attorney General) and executive powers. Within the framework of the project on Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender Violence among Internally Displaced Persons implemented jointly by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the

State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs Operative Working Groups were set up within Monitoring Groups for gender-based violence and violence against children under the Executive Powers in 2018.

Special advocacy and awareness raising seminars, and trainings were organized in all regions in 2018-2019.

- Annual conferences «Leave no one behind: stop violence against women and girls!»
- "The role of the media in prevention of domestic violence and early marriages"
- "The "Women's Rights Guide"
- "Legislation on Prevention of Domestic Violence in the Republic of Azerbaijan",

Special advocacy and awareness raising programs have been held on TV and radio channels.

- The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs is organizing discussions on "Women and Violence" by experts on regular bases, once a month on Public Television on "Talk Time" program.
- The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs signed a memorandum with the ASAN Radio in order to prepare social video shots and radio programs which cover the socially sensitive areas for the issues regarding families, women and children.
- Under the National Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2014-2018-years), enlightening TV program on prevention of trafficking in human beings (trafficking of women) are broadcasted on TV channels.

### **Measures during COVID 19**

On 27 February, 2020 an operational headquarters under the Cabinet of Ministers was created to prevent danger that the corona virus pandemic could cause, to implement prophylactic and urgent measures. This headquarters included heads of related state organizations chaired by the Prime Minister.

To ensure access to COVID19 related information for all, the Operational Headquarter has created an informational portal [www.koronavirusinfo.az](http://www.koronavirusinfo.az). The goal of the portal is not only to inform but also to educate the population. The portal provides general confirmed information about the corona virus (COVID-19), the current situation in the world, measures taken to combat the virus, and operational news about the rules, instructions and recommendations of the Azerbaijani government on protecting public health. Citizens can receive answers to their questions on the website in an interactive mode.

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies and the United Nations Development Programme launched "Stay Home" the [www.evdegal.az](http://www.evdegal.az) digital platform a one-stop for all e-services available to citizens in the country during the corona virus pandemic. Besides the links on online shops, products and services, the platform provides advice on social distancing and staying at home, and

offers numerous e-learning resources including information on ways of setting up and running digital businesses from home.

Within the framework of the campaign against coronavirus (COVID-19), the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and its 11 Child and Family support centres have strengthened their activities in accordance with the instructions of the operational headquarters of the Cabinet of Ministers.

In order to inform the population on COVID 19 and assist them, Regional Centres' staff visited vulnerable families, made phone calls to elderly and lonely people, assessed their needs, provided them with food and psychological assistance. In order to support citizens, psychologists from the Child and Family Support Centre provided online psychological assistance to **303 people**.

**3245** families were enlightened by phone, information leaflets were distributed to **586** families, people received psychological assistance.

The Special campaign "From Family to Family" has been launched in order to decrease the impact of the pandemic on livelihoods, especially due to economic stress and burdens of social isolation. As part of this campaign, **75** families assisted to **594** vulnerable families. The Child and Family Support Centers in cooperation with the State Customs Committee and "ASAN" State Agency of Public Service's Volunteers have implemented a number of measures to assist single, elderly, women and bedridden people, as well as, persons of high risk age (65+) with limited access to leave home. As a result of early intervention by the staff of the Child and Family Support Centre during the special quarantine period, cases of domestic violence were prevented and psychological assistance was provided to the victims.

In order to support the operation of women shelters in times of current pandemic, medical and hygiene supplies were given to the shelters functioning under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population by the UNFPA and Family and Children Support Centers under the SCFWCA.

### **Special online trainings, webinars, campaigns, help with households duties discussions and TV programs**

- "Psychological problems in families during the pandemic and ways to address them"
- "How to talk about the pandemic with children"
- "How to manage mental health and education in self isolation period"
- "Legal aid to the victims of domestic violence"
- Role of social workers in preventing gender based violence during the pandemic.
- "Prevention of gender based discrimination and increasing the value of girls in the society"
- "Psychological pressure and problems in the families during the period of COVID 19 and social distancing"
- Psychological rehabilitation of children with special needs in the period of quarantine "
- Social services to the victims of GBV during COVID 19
- "Importance of successful communication and joint activities with children in the family"
- Awareness raising campaign to combat gender based violence in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

- 'Learning at home 'campaign to provide guidance and advice for parents to manage the challenge of staying at home.
- Stay at home with your kids campaign #OvladimlaEvda
- Men engage social media campaign encouraging men to support their spouses via sharing their daily household duties
- "Internet safety of children and ways to ensure it"
- 'End to the Violence" TV program
- Corona Virus Info Program on Central National TV channel introduced a number of special issues to discuss and informed on problems on interfamily relation , violence and during the period of self isolation and
- A number of programs dedicated to "Children's rights
- " Women's rights"

The discussions and trainings included such topics as the challenges people face during the pandemic, how social isolation affects family relationships, what preventive measures can be taken in the case of family conflict in a quarantine situation, what should be considered when resolving family conflicts, and so on.

Posters on the following issues were prepared by UNFPA and NGOs and distributed through the social media

- Communication materials for pregnant women and health workers on COVID 19 response, developed in the partnership of UNFPA with Azerbaijan Association for supporting development of Gynecology and Perinatology and Scientific Research Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Materials have been distributed among perinatal centers and antenatal clinics.
- Materials on Reproductive and Sexual health in the period of COVID 19
- "Maternal and new born health in times of COVID 19"
- Hand book for pregnant women and lactating mothers on COVID 19

Special awareness raising sessions has been launched for people with disabilities. For example in the framework of the project "Addressing the rights and well-being of women with disabilities" funded by the Ministry of Social Protection of the Population and implemented by the UNDP, UNFPA and the SCFWCA.