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MODERN LEGAL ASPECTS OF SUPPORTING WOMEN

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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-law 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 scholars—as found in educational and scientific literature on criminal law—as well as recent reforms in the field.

Keywords: Support for women and its modern legal aspects.

Introduction

It is often said that women constitute half of society; in reality, however, they represent the whole of it. As one half of society, they nurture the other half. The significance of women—in religious, patriotic, and social terms—is immense. Proof of this lies in the special attention currently being paid to the protection of women and girls—a key priority of the robust policy pursued by our head of state. This focus encompasses enhancing their legal awareness and culture, enabling



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them to secure their rightful place in society, and promoting gender equality among our rapidly developing population.

Furthermore, the vital importance of women to society is evident from the fact that they are the ones who give birth to and raise future generations. As our first president, I.A. Karimov, emphasized: "Educating a woman—imparting knowledge to her—means educating society." No matter how much we protect and cherish women, it is never enough.

A number of decrees, resolutions, and regulatory legal acts are being adopted by the Head of State, Sh. M. Mirziyoyev, with the aim of protecting women, providing them with social support, and enhancing their role across various sectors.

In this context—and with the aim of elevating state policy regarding families and women to a new level, finding systemic solutions to their challenges, and effectively organizing and coordinating the activities of competent bodies—the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Family and Women, along with its directorates for the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the regions, and the city of Tashkent, as well as its district (city) divisions, were established. This action was taken in accordance with the Constitution and the following acts of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan: Resolution No. PP-5020 dated March 6, 2021, "On measures to further improve the system for supporting women and ensuring their active participation in societal life"; Decree No. PF-81 dated March 1, 2022, "On measures to improve the system of working with families and women and supporting *mahallas* and the elderly"; and Resolution No. PP-146, "On organizing the activities of the State Committee on Family and Women." Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-5020 dated March 5, 2021, "On measures to further improve the system for supporting women and ensuring their active participation in the life of society"; Decree of



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the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-208 dated December 21, 2023, "On additional measures to improve the activities of the Committee on Family and Women"; and Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 103 dated March 14, 2025, "On measures to further improve the system for supporting families and women," serve to further deepen and enhance the effectiveness of the aforementioned reforms.

Women hold a significant place and status in the development of our homeland and in the life of the family and society. Comprising nearly 50 percent of the country's population, women work effectively across all spheres of social, spiritual, political, and economic life—particularly in state administration and representative bodies, as well as in manufacturing, entrepreneurship, farming, healthcare, education, enlightenment, culture, and other social sectors. It is particularly noteworthy that, at present, the ranks of women in our country include 514 Doctors of Science, 6 academicians, 15 Heroes of Uzbekistan, 17 senators, and 15 deputies of the Legislative Chamber; furthermore, women constitute over 23 percent of deputies in local councils and 72 percent of the workforce in the fields of science, education, healthcare, culture, and the arts—figures that continue to rise.

Extensive work is being carried out in our country to enhance the socio-political engagement of women, ensure the unconditional observance of their rights and legitimate interests, provide comprehensive support for motherhood and childhood, create conditions for them to realize their abilities and potential across various sectors and fields, and strengthen the institution of the family.

However, the current state of affairs in this sector reveals a number of systemic problems and shortcomings that hinder the comprehensive support of women, the organization of targeted work with them, and the creation of effective mechanisms to strengthen and improve the spiritual and moral climate within



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families. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to radically improve activities in the sphere of supporting women and strengthening the institution of the family" provides a comprehensive analysis of these existing shortcomings and problems. Priority directions for the activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan have been defined with the aim of enhancing its role in societal life and radically improving efforts to support women and strengthen the institution of the family. The updated structures of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan and its regional branches have been approved. Under the decree, effective April 1, 2018, the position of "advisor on religious enlightenment and spiritual-moral education" in citizens' assemblies was replaced by the position of "specialist on working with women and strengthening spiritual-moral values in families"—with one such specialist assigned to each citizens' assembly, and two assigned to assemblies serving 2,000 or more families. To conduct fundamental, applied, and innovative research on family values and traditions, a dedicated "Oila" (Family) Scientific-Practical Research Center and its regional branches were established under the Cabinet of Ministers, based on the existing Republican "Oila" Scientific-Practical Center. Alongside cooperating with international and foreign organizations and research institutions on matters such as family reproductive health, demographic development, defining criteria for the modern model family, and exchanging experience and studying practices in the sphere of family and marriage relations, the "Oila" (Family) Center has made the broad promotion and societal integration of the conceptual idea "Healthy Family – Healthy Society" and the constitutional principle "The Family is under the Protection of Society and the State" key priorities. Furthermore, to enhance the accountability of the Women's Committee and the "Oila" (Family) Center and to clearly define the scope of their authority, the limits of personal responsibility for the leadership of the committee, the



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center, and their regional branches regarding the resolution of women's and family issues have been established. Under the decree, effective April 1, 2018, Civil Registry Offices (FHDYO) are placed under the jurisdiction of district (city) administrations regarding their core activities—specifically, the formalization of marriage-related acts, the strengthening of the institution of the family, and the prevention of divorce. To ensure systematic cooperation on family and women's issues, the supervision and coordination of the activities of the Civil Registry Office, the district (city) branch of the “Oila” Center, and other structures dealing with women's and family matters have been entrusted to the deputy district (city) governor—who also serves as the chairperson of the Women's Committee. In recognition of the active roles played by the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, and the “Tadbirkor Ayol” (Businesswoman) Association in addressing family and women's issues, the Decree approves the proposal to establish a Public Fund for the Support of Women and Families. It is worth noting that the primary mission of this public fund is to provide financial assistance to women and families facing difficult social circumstances and to women with disabilities, as well as to support women's entrepreneurial initiatives. Another significant measure outlined in the Decree is the establishment of “women's consultation centers” within the structures of family polyclinics and rural medical stations; these centers will provide essential advice directly to adolescent girls and women of reproductive age.

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 2326 dated June 10, 1999, the Zulfiya State Prize was originally awarded to one talented young woman each from the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the regions, and the city of Tashkent, aged between 14 and 22. Under the new Decree, it has been established that the Zulfiya State Prize will be awarded to two candidates from each of these regions—aged between 14 and 30; this extension of the age



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limit opens up broad opportunities for young women excelling in education, science, literature, culture, the arts, and sports, as well as for those engaged in scientific research. According to the new procedure set forth in the Decree, students from general secondary and specialized secondary/vocational educational institutions who are laureates of the Zulfiya State Prize will be admitted to bachelor's degree programs, and bachelor's students to master's degree programs, on a state grant basis and without entrance examinations, in their respective fields of study and specialization.

Women are held in high esteem and honor. In accordance with the Decree, the "Motabar Ayol" (Honored Woman) badge was established to recognize women who demonstrate active engagement and initiative in societal and state affairs, and who—through their productive labor—make significant contributions to strengthening family stability and well-being, as well as to the protection of motherhood and childhood. Extensive work is underway in the country to improve living conditions for persons with disabilities and those in need of social protection, including the allocation of subsidized housing. In 2017, affordable housing was allocated to 1,207 women with disabilities who were in need of accommodation. To further accelerate these efforts, the Decree tasks the Cabinet of Ministers with developing and approving regulations governing the construction and allocation of affordable, comfortable housing for families in need of social support.

A "Program of Comprehensive Measures to Support Women and Strengthen the Institution of the Family"—comprising five sections and 56 points—was approved to ensure the practical implementation of the priority directions and tasks outlined in the Decree.



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The program's functions and tasks include the following:

- protecting the rights and legitimate interests of women, enhancing their role and active participation in the country's socio-political life, ensuring guarantees of gender equality, and broadly involving them in scientific activities;
- timely identification of issues facing families and women, and the provision of social-legal and psychological assistance to families and women in difficult social circumstances;
- creating necessary conditions for women to acquire knowledge and skills in professions that are in high demand in the labor market, and broadly engaging women in rural areas in family and private entrepreneurship as well as handicrafts;
- implementing targeted measures to foster a healthy lifestyle among women and strengthen spiritual and moral values within the family;
- providing support for the activities of non-governmental non-profit organizations focused on women and girls.

In conclusion, the reforms currently being implemented in our country signal its continued future development. The attention paid to women is, in essence, attention paid to the family, the homeland, and the people. The policies pursued by our President are opening doors to immense opportunities for the population—and especially for women and the younger generation.

We women are certainly ready to wholeheartedly embrace and act upon the opportunities being created.



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