

## GENDER EQUALITY AS A DRIVER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN UZBEKISTAN'S DEMOCRATIC TRANSFORMATION

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### Аннотация

Ushbu maqolada globallashuv sharoitida O'zbekistonda amalga oshirilayotgan keng ko'lamli demokratik islohotlar natijasida xotin-qizlarning siyosiy va ijtimoiy jarayonlardagi ishtiroki izchil ravishda ortib borayotgani, shuningdek gender tengligini ta'minlash masalasining dolzarbligi tahlil qilinadi. Maqolada xotin-qizlar muammolarini hal etishga qaratilgan davlat siyosati, ularni ijtimoiy qo'llab-quvvatlash mexanizmlari hamda ushbu masalalarning jamoatchilik muhokamasidagi o'rni ilmiy-nazariy jihatdan yoritib beriladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** globallashuv, mamlakat, ayollar, ijtimoiy qo'llab-quvvatlash, islohotlar, ijtimoiy faollik, huquq va manfaatlar, siyosat, oila instituti, barkamol avlod.

### Abstract

This article examines the increasing participation of women in political and social processes in Uzbekistan, resulting from large-scale democratic reforms carried out amid globalization, with particular emphasis on the promotion of gender equality. It also discusses issues related to addressing women's social challenges, the mechanisms of social support for women, and the role of public discourse in advancing gender equality and inclusive development.

**Keywords:** globalization, country, women, social support, reforms, social activity, rights and interests, politics, family institution, well-rounded generation.

### Аннотация

В статье анализируется усиление участия женщин в политических и социальных процессах в Узбекистане в результате масштабных демократических реформ, осуществляемых в условиях глобализации, с акцентом на формирование и развитие принципов гендерного равенства. Также рассматриваются вопросы решения проблем женщин, механизмы их социальной поддержки и роль общественного обсуждения данных вопросов в современном обществе.

**Ключевые слова:** глобализация, страна, женщины, социальная поддержка, реформы, социальная активность, права и интересы, политика, институт семьи, всесторонне развитое поколение.

As a result of the reforms and nation-building initiatives being implemented in our country, the worldview, thinking, and social consciousness of the people are undergoing significant transformation. In Uzbekistan, large-scale efforts are being carried out to increase women's socio-political activity, create favorable conditions for the realization of their abilities and potential in various fields and sectors, comprehensively support motherhood and childhood, and strengthen the family as a key social institution.

Indeed, the cultural level and moral maturity of any society are determined by its attitude toward women. Respect for women, recognition of their contribution to social development,

and comprehensive support for their participation in all spheres of life have historically been characteristic of our people. As a result of the wide-ranging democratic reforms in Uzbekistan, women's participation in political and social processes is steadily increasing. Therefore, at the state level, special attention is being paid to enhancing women's socio-political status, strengthening their role and position in society, and ensuring their dignity and value within the family. Nearly half of the country's population approximately 17 million people are women, making the protection of their rights and interests and the strengthening of their social status a strategic priority of state social policy. Over the past four years, substantial institutional and legal progress has been achieved in this sphere through the adoption of two national laws and six presidential decrees and resolutions aimed at advancing women's empowerment and gender equality. Notably, a Committee on Women and Gender Equality was established in the Senate for the first time in the nation's history, reflecting the institutionalization of gender policy at the highest legislative level.

Furthermore, high-level policy dialogues chaired by the President currently address key issues, including women's health, employment, social welfare, and public security, demonstrating an integrated and systemic approach to social development and inclusive governance. In the Republic, a wide range of public organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and foundations have been established to provide comprehensive support for women, protect their legal rights, and ensure gender equality. In addition, the Women's Resource Center was founded in 1995, followed in the period 1996–2000 by the establishment of numerous women-focused NGOs, including "Sabr," "Mehr," "Woman and Society," "Hamdard," "Woman and Ecology," "Women Lawyers," "Creative Woman," "Woman and Health," and others. The process of globalization necessitates a systematic identification, study, and analysis of social policy priorities, including the enhancement of women's status within the family and society, the upbringing of a harmoniously developed generation, support for families—particularly young families, the promotion of healthy lifestyles among youth, and the moral and material support of families with disabilities and those in socially vulnerable conditions. It also underscores the importance of defining and strengthening directions of social work implemented with young families as a key component of sustainable social development. The Resolution No. PQ-146 of March 1, 2022, "On the Organization of the Activities of the State Committee for Family and Women", as well as the Presidential resolutions and decrees of March 26, 2021 ("On Measures to Radically Improve the System of Spiritual and Educational Work"), July 30, 2017 ("On Increasing the Effectiveness of Spiritual and Educational Activities and Advancing the Sector to a New Stage of Development"), and November 6, 2020 ("On Additional Measures to Further Improve the Education and Upbringing System"), play a significant and strategic role in advancing state policy in this area.

In Uzbekistan, special attention is devoted to women's access to education, with extensive opportunities created for girls to receive quality education, acquire professional skills, and secure employment. Women currently constitute 48% of the student population. Under a system introduced last year, 950 socially vulnerable women were admitted to higher education institutions on the basis of state-funded grants.

At the same time, nearly 1,400 women currently hold leadership positions at the republican and regional levels, while more than 43,000 women serve in leadership roles at the

district and city levels, reflecting the growing representation of women in governance and public administration.

In conclusion, strengthening the role of women in society and increasing their social activity depend on several key factors, including the development of deep knowledge and professional capacity, the internalization of national values and cultural traditions, and the consolidation of qualities such as entrepreneurship, creativity, initiative, and business competence within the conditions of a market economy. As women's social activity increases, their status within both the family and society is further strengthened, leading to positive outcomes such as the expansion of women's participation in the labor force and the gradual resolution of gender-related challenges.

The upbringing of women as healthy, culturally developed, educated, and intellectually competent individuals generates far-reaching positive effects. Most importantly, it contributes to the formation of a harmoniously developed, hardworking, patriotic, and knowledgeable generation, while also enhancing the country's standing and reputation at the global level.

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