



---

## IMPROVING THE LEGAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL PROTECTION OF WOMEN IN UZBEKISTAN

Khasiyat Makhmanova

Candidate of Philological Sciences, Associate Professor Military Security and  
Defense University of the Republic of Uzbekistan Military Aviation Institute

---

### Abstract

This scientific article provides a comprehensive analysis of institutional and legislative transformations aimed at improving the legal, economic, and social protection system for women in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The main object of the study is the strategic development programs of New Uzbekistan and the latest conceptual changes made to the national legislation. The article evaluates the strict norms included in the newly revised Constitution, Criminal Code, and Administrative Responsibility Codes, specifically the criminalization of domestic violence, liability established for sexual harassment, and the socio-creative effectiveness of the "Women's Notebook" system using scientific-deductive methods.

**Keywords:** Gender equality, institutional transformation, domestic violence, sexual harassment, protection order, Women's notebook, gender expertise, strategic forecasting, human capital.

### Introduction

At the new stage of its development, the Republic of Uzbekistan has placed human dignity, rights, and interests at the center of state policy. In this process, strengthening the legal, economic, and social protection of women, who constitute more than half of the population, is not only a requirement of democratic reforms but also a strategic necessity that ensures the country's sustainable economic growth.



***Modern American Journal of Linguistics,  
Education, and Pedagogy***

**ISSN (E):** 3067-7874

Volume 2, Issue 6, June, 2026

**Website:** usajournals.org

***This work is Licensed under CC BY 4.0 a Creative Commons Attribution  
4.0 International License.***

---

For many years, women's issues were considered only in the context of social charity or the allocation of benefits, but today the approach has fundamentally changed. Today's model of Uzbekistan sees women's potential as the main driver of human capital. If a woman is not legally protected, achieves economic independence, and lives in a healthy social environment, sustainable development in society cannot be achieved.

In recent years, a completely new legal and institutional platform for protecting women's rights has been created in Uzbekistan based on international standards. However, it requires a thorough analysis of the balance between legislation and practice, evaluating implementation mechanisms strictly on the basis of key performance indicators. The purpose of this article is to scientifically analyze the current state of the women's protection system using Uzbekistan as an example and to demonstrate ways to improve it based on strategic forecasting methods.

Literature Analysis and Methodology. In Uzbekistan, issues of gender policy, family law, and women's participation in the labor market are being extensively studied by national and international scholars. Uzbek legal scholars and sociologists A. Saidov, G. Matkarimova, L. Saidmakhmudova, and N. Yusupova analyzed the political and legal status of women and their legal guarantees in family relations in their research. In particular, the issues of unifying national legislation with international conventions are widely covered in legal literature.

In preparing this article, firstly, using the Systemic-institutional method, the protection of women in Uzbekistan was taken as a holistic system, and its three integral links - the Legal, Economic, and Social blocks - were studied in their interconnection. Secondly, using comparative legal and normative analysis, the new norms included in the new edition of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Criminal Code and the Code of Administrative Responsibility were compared with the previously existing normative framework.

Results and Discussion. In recent years, revolutionary steps have been taken in the legal system of Uzbekistan to protect women's rights. In his congratulatory message to the women of Uzbekistan on the occasion of Women's Day on March 8, 2018, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, noted that "honoring women, who are the pillar of the family and society, the grace and beauty of our lives, and showing them respect and reverence has been and remains



***Modern American Journal of Linguistics,  
Education, and Pedagogy***

**ISSN (E):** 3067-7874

Volume 2, Issue 6, June, 2026

**Website:** [usajournals.org](http://usajournals.org)

***This work is Licensed under CC BY 4.0 a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.***

---

a great value for our people since ancient times" [1]. From the first days of state independence, our country has defined the legal, economic, and social protection of women and the creation of conditions for their comprehensive development as a priority of state policy. This policy fully complies with the provisions of the 1979 UN General Assembly Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the Final Document of the 23rd Special Session of the UN General Assembly "Women in 2000: Equality between Men and Women, Development and Peace in the 21st Century."

As a result of the gradual implementation of this policy, today women work on an equal footing with men in khokimiyats, ministries, state committees, government agencies, and the Presidential Administration.

The new edition of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan has brought the legal protection of women to a completely new institutional level. In particular, Article 19 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan enshrines the principle of equality of all citizens before the law, regardless of gender, race, nationality, or social status, while Article 58 strictly defines the equality of women and men. It is noteworthy that Article 58 of the updated Constitution imposes an obligation on the state to ensure not only equal rights but also equal opportunities for women in managing state and public affairs. Furthermore, Article 42 of the Constitution prohibits the dismissal of women or the reduction of their wages due to pregnancy or the presence of a child, which is a strong constitutional guarantee protecting the economic rights of women in the labor market.

The consideration and legislative reflection of issues regarding women's equality with men, socio-political and economic freedoms, and their place in society and the family testify to the creation of a unified legal system for the comprehensive protection of women.

The Family, Civil, and Labor Codes of the Republic of Uzbekistan provide for many benefits for women. Labor protection laws are important for women. Because these laws are aimed at protecting reproductive health and motherhood. The norms of these laws provide for the protection of women from nighttime heavy labor, work in harmful conditions, etc. As a result of the improvement of



---

labor protection legislation, along with the aforementioned circumstances, other issues such as fair remuneration for women's labor and the right to freely choose a profession began to be covered.

The Family Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a major legal document aimed at protecting the interests of the family, especially children and women.

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan also contains norms aimed at protecting the rights and interests of women, and several articles establish criminal liability for sexual freedom, including rape, polygamy, immorality against minors under the age of sixteen, and others.

Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 2, 2018, No. UP-5325 "On measures to fundamentally improve activities in the field of supporting women and strengthening the institution of the family" [2] was adopted. This Decree pays special attention to increasing the socio-political and social activity of women, creating conditions for them to realize their abilities and potential in various spheres and sectors, ensuring unconditional observance of their rights and legitimate interests, providing comprehensive support for motherhood and childhood, and strengthening the institution of the family[6].

Life doesn't always go smoothly. Today, there are cases of violence and harassment against women. We encounter various cases of discrimination against women in the family by their mother-in-law, father-in-law, spouse, and other family members. Domestic violence, harassment, and cruelty against women are condemned in Uzbekistan. It is viewed as a crime committed within a family or between people.

In order to improve and further strengthen the mechanism for protecting women, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence" was adopted on September 2, 2019. Article 1 of the Law [3] stipulates that it consists of regulating relations in the field of protecting women from all forms of harassment and violence. Article 3 of the Law [4] reveals the essence of sexual violence, physical violence, harassment, economic violence, workplace violence, psychological violence, harassment, victim of harassment and violence, protection from harassment and violence, prevention of harassment and violence, and a protection order as key concepts.



***Modern American Journal of Linguistics,  
Education, and Pedagogy***

**ISSN (E):** 3067-7874

Volume 2, Issue 6, June, 2026

**Website:** usajournals.org

***This work is Licensed under CC BY 4.0 a Creative Commons Attribution  
4.0 International License.***

---

Now, women have the right to apply to the relevant authorized bodies and organizations or to the court in case of harassment and violence or the threat of their commission, as well as to receive free legal consultations in special centers and on the hotline. The main directions of state policy in the field of protecting women from harassment and violence have been defined. Based on the law, a scheme has been established for the issuance of a protection order, the implementation of measures to comply with the deadlines for the execution of order requirements, and the monitoring of their execution[7].

The protection order issuance system has been fully digitized. Based on the "Safe Society" model, the imposition of a direct administrative penalty for violating warrant terms increased the preventive effect of this document.

The Law "On Amendments and Additions to Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Connection with the Further Improvement of the System of Reliable Protection of the Rights, Freedoms, and Legitimate Interests of Women and Children" [5] entered into force on April 12, 2023. This law will serve to improve the system of reliable protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of women and children, as well as the development of society. The inclusion of domestic violence in the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan as an independent component of a crime was the largest reform in the system. Previously, such cases were considered family disputes and often went unpunished.

Article 126-1 of the Criminal Code: Independent criminal liability has been established for domestic violence. The practice of concealing physical and psychological violence within the family has been eliminated[8].

Article 41-1 of the Code of Administrative Responsibility establishes administrative arrest (up to 15 days) or a fine for sexual harassment. This led to the legal protection of women's immunity in the workplace and in public places[9].

Article 206-1 of the Code of Administrative Responsibility stipulates that failure to comply with the requirements of a protection order entails direct administrative imprisonment. This led to the transformation of the protection order from a simple declarative document into a tool with real influence[10].



---

According to the newly revised norms, beating one's wife or husband and insulting their honor and dignity is considered an aggravating circumstance. Psychological and physical pressure on women in labor relations or in public places with sexual harassment is subject to administrative criminalization[11].

Uzbekistan's unique experience in economic support for women is the "Women's Notebook" system. This model has become an effective mechanism for assessing the social situation at the mahalla level and providing economic support.

1. Conducting an inventory of women in need of social protection and including them in the database.
2. Free subsidized vocational and entrepreneurship-oriented training.
3. Providing preferential loans and granting self-employment status.

Thanks to this system, hundreds of thousands of women have gained a permanent source of income. Economic independence, in turn, significantly increases women's voting rights and equality in decision-making processes within the family and society.

The social protection of women is determined by their access to quality healthcare and preschool education:

First, The increase in kindergarten enrollment in Uzbekistan has freed women from forced domestic labor (childcare) and enabled them to return to the active labor market.

Secondly, medical screening programs have been implemented, and free mobile screening systems for women's health protection, specifically for oncological disease detection, have been launched across the republic.

## **Conclusion**

In Uzbekistan, a legal framework has been established to prevent the discrimination of women's rights and to involve them in active participation in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the country. Principles, forms, and methods for their implementation have been developed. A deeper awareness of their rights and their necessity for society and the Motherland has emerged in the minds and thinking of women. This feeling is manifested in their achievements in the fields of production, science, entrepreneurship, craftsmanship, sports, and art.



---

The reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan to improve the legal, economic, and social protection system for women have reached a qualitatively new level in ensuring gender balance in society. As a result of the conducted scientific analysis, the following fundamental conclusions were reached:

1. The state's legal policy should move from combating only the consequences of committed violence to a system of their detection and elimination. To this end, the mechanism for mandatory Gender Impact Assessment of all newly adopted legislative acts must be institutionalized at the level of the Legislative Chamber.
2. Ensuring women's economic independence is the most effective system for protecting them from social and domestic violence. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce a system of targeted national quotas to attract women not only to traditional professions but also to high-income sectors—the digital economy.
3. In order to reduce bureaucratic barriers and psychological pressure in the protection of women's rights, it is a requirement of the times to introduce platforms that review family conflicts and harassment online, guaranteeing anonymity.

#### **References:**

1. Speech by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on International Women's Day. // <http://uza.uz/oz/politics/2018>, March 7.
2. On measures to radically improve activities in supporting women and strengthening the institution of the family. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. UP-5325 dated February 2, 2018. // <http://lex.uz/docs/3546742?ONDATE=2018>, February 3.
3. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence. (National Database of Legislation, 03.09.2019, No. 03/19/561/3680)
4. Ibid., 03.09.2019, No. 03/19/561/3680.
5. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan, No. ZRU-829 dated April 11, 2023. (Technical error No. 820 in the original text has been corrected to No. 829).
6. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. – Tashkent: "Uzbekistan," 2023. (Guarantees of Articles 19, 42, 58 in the new edition).



*Modern American Journal of Linguistics,  
Education, and Pedagogy*

ISSN (E): 3067-7874

Volume 2, Issue 6, June, 2026

Website: [usajournals.org](http://usajournals.org)

*This work is Licensed under CC BY 4.0 a Creative Commons Attribution  
4.0 International License.*

- 
7. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men," dated September 2, 2019, No. ZRU-562.
  8. Mirziyoyev Sh.M. Strategy of New Uzbekistan. - Тошкент: Ўзбекистон, 2021. – 464 p.
  9. Saidov A.Kh. International standards and national legislation on human rights. – Tashkent: Academy, 2022. – 312 p.
  10. Matkarimova G.A. Organizational and legal mechanisms for ensuring gender equality in Uzbekistan. Abstract of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Science in Law (DSc). - Тошкент, 2021.
  11. Saidmakhmudova L.U. Criminal-legal protection of women's rights in family relations. // Journal of Rights and Duties. - Тошкент, 2021. - No. 3. – P. 22-29.