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### SECTION 30. Philosophy.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND THE GENDER POLITICS

**Abstract:** In this article some questions of the equal opportunities in modern gender politics in Uzbekistan and the CIS countries are considered. In the context of the interdependence of all human rights - civil, political, socio-economic and cultural, when women's rights have become an integral component of all human rights, women are most in need of factual, real, and not just legal equality, the existence of effective mechanisms for protection of their rights and equal opportunities.

**Key words:** gender policy, women's rights, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the CIS countries, the UN, equality of opportunity, the activity of women in all spheres of society, women-entrepreneurs.

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The goals of the UN as articulated in the Millennium Declaration, and the fulfillment of state plans related to economy and development, require quick motion in the direction of gender equality. Globally, 52% of the working population are women. Therefore, the empowerment of women to participate fully in all spheres and levels of economic activity needed to build a strong economy.

In this context it should be noted that since the late 1990s, there were significant changes both in the CIS and the Central Asia, was rotated problems faced by women. The problems change, new challenges arising from economic, social and political changes. If in the 1990s the main objective was to convey to the people what is gender equality, equal opportunities and what is the role of the state in creating these opportunities.

It should be noted that the history of the movement for gender equality in the CIS began in 1995 with the Fourth World conference on women in Beijing. By the time the CIS states had a relatively high gender base. The rights and guarantees of women were enshrined in law since the Soviet era. And because many of the problems discussed in Beijing, were not clear to the participants from the CIS. For example, ensuring access of girls and women to education, health care, equal pay, etc.

But at the same time on a number of issues were observed discrepancy between the declared and the actual state of affairs. The decade between 1990

and 2000s was a time of serious challenges and changes.

In many countries of the CIS in connection with the crisis and reform of subsidies on health declined, many medical and health facilities were closed. Resulting in virtually no access to primary health care. At the same time, Uzbekistan has been an annual increase in social spending, including on health care, which in 2013 amounted to about 60% of the State budget. However, it is hardly possible to bring similar data for other countries.

A lot of women leaders in the reform period as a result of restructuring of the economy have left their positions and engaged in other activities. In the 2000s was opened a whole layer of problems that lie within the family, the feminization of migration processes.

As a result, today, in some CIS countries have enacted laws to combat violence against women, migration, etc. However, the problem of migration is a complex problem and includes issues like labor, civil and criminal law, ensuring access to health care, etc. The solution to this problem in the first place provides for the legalization of labor migration.

For some CIS countries such as Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Moldova, topical issue of women's rights on land ownership. When in these states in the framework of agrarian reform and the de-collectivization was the distribution of land plots, many women were left without laid them tenure (In Uzbekistan there are more than 1500 women farmers

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(from about 64 thousand farms) – the owners of the land.). But it's not just a question of ownership, but in many respects the problem of employment.

Climate change is also one of the growing challenges for the Central Asian countries. So as to affect the climate is impossible, therefore, have to adapt to people. And even though it's not just a question of gender, the role of women in its decision is pivotal, as it depends largely on consumer lifestyles and consumption.

Referring to the gender situation in Uzbekistan there is a notable trend in the strengthening of the position of women in society. Today, women are working fruitfully in the structures of state power, in the fields of economy, science, education, health care, more and more they show their skills in the business sphere. When we consider that about half of the working population are women, then it is easy to imagine the impact of this issue on the social stability, especially employment opportunities, create new jobs.

The activity of the government, public organizations and international institutions aimed at supporting employment through entrepreneurship. During the years of sovereign development the entrepreneurship played a crucial role in the formation of the modern structure of the economy to meet the rapidly changing demand, creating new jobs and rising incomes.

In Uzbekistan, the sector of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) is growing rapidly and is creating new employment opportunities. If at the beginning of independence the share of SMEs in GDP was approximately 1.5%, now – more than 54%. In conditions of economic crisis, SMEs have become the main source of income for women of regions, since many of them have started their job as helping their families. Their activity in the role of entrepreneurs largely depended on the effectiveness of the conditions for doing business in the country. Share of the number of women employed in various sectors of the economy, now accounts for about 48%, including: in industry –28.3%, agriculture – 37%, in education, culture, science – 74%, in health care – 75% [10].

However, it should be noted that the countries of the Eastern Europe and the Central Asia differ significantly in cultural, historical and economic plans. Such countries as Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan remain the countries with low income. Some countries have huge oil and/or gas resources. In the light of the dramatic differences in income and natural resources and traditional cultures is not quite correct to compare all states in the region and the countries of the Eastern Europe.

Most countries in the region have made considerable progress in increasing women's employment and the development of legislation in the field of gender equality, but equal political and

economic opportunities for women have not yet been created.

For example, in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Moldova women in Parliament are averaging 25-26%. They already play a significant role, and, nevertheless, it must take additional measures to increase women's representation at the decision making level. The same applies to the involvement of women in economic activity.

Therefore, the empowerment of women to participate fully in all spheres of economic life and at all levels of economic activity needed to build a strong economy, and thus improve the quality of life of people. The objectives of the Millennium development goals in the Millennium Declaration, and the fulfillment of state plans related to economy and development, require quick motion in the direction of gender equality.

Over the last decade, the contribution of women's work in the world growth has exceeded the contribution of a country like China. If the proportion of working women in Japan will increase to the level of the USA, the rate of growth of the Japanese economy will be in 20 years to increase annually by 0.3%. Only by reducing the gap between employment rates of men and women of the Eurozone could increase GDP by 13%, Sweden - 16, US - 9.

Today an increasing role in the economy and the development of the post-Soviet countries played by the private sector. Since 2009, the UN Women in collaboration with the UN Global compact, the largest global initiative in the field of social responsibility of business, which unites more than 8,000 business-structures from more than 135 countries – have developed "principles for the empowerment of women".

These "principles" are suggestions designed to help the private sector focus on key elements related to the promotion of gender equality in the workplace, marketplace, and society. The motto of the program "Business means equality" - in itself speaks of its essence.

At the meeting in Tashkent the International conference "On the role and importance of small business and private entrepreneurship in the implementation of socio-economic policy in Uzbekistan" (13-14 September 2012) were presented to these "Principles". In the future within the framework of the Subregional programme of the UN Women for the Eastern Europe and the Central Asia will be running a series of events to promote "the principles of empowerment of women" among the representatives of business structures in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Moldova [11].

The most important projects in which the UN Women collaborates with the women's Committee of Uzbekistan are "Women against HIV/AIDS in Uzbekistan", "The economic empowerment of

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women", assistance in fulfilling obligations under international instruments (Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) and others).

The project "The economic empowerment of women", aimed at improving the economic and social situation of rural women. Within the first phase of this project, a Memorandum was signed between the women's Committee of Uzbekistan and the OJSCB "Microcreditbank" the contribution of 100 thousand US dollars in soum equivalent to the provision of microcredit to rural women at a reduced annual interest rate from 17% to 3%.

In the framework of the project in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Kashkadarya and Ferghana regions in 2012 360 women acquired knowledge for the development of their own business and microcredit, 178 - received preferential credits under group responsibility and were able to start their own entrepreneurial activity. The selected credits have helped women in remote rural areas and communities to organize work at home and acquire knowledge in the field of family enterprise.

In the framework of the project in 2013, there was continued the organization in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Ferghana, Kashkadarya, Jizzakh, Syrdarya and Tashkent regions of trainings on the

development of economic skills and knowledge of rural women, the establishment of the Self-help Groups, and assistance in obtaining micro-credits. Over 500 women were trained in workshops on capacity building and business planning, 363 women submitted their business plans to an expert panel of JSCB "Microcreditbank", currently being negotiated with the Central Bank of the country on the allocation of credit.

Overall, the adoption of more than 30 years ago the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women was a breakthrough in understanding of the important role of women in development of society and the recognition of the serious problems associated with the enforcement of their rights. The document clearly outlines the areas in which women are the least protected, addressing the political and private life, nationality, education, employment, health, economic and social privileges of marriage and family life. In the context of the interdependence of all human rights - civil, political, socio-economic and cultural, when women's rights have become an integral component of all human rights, women are most in need of factual, real, and not just legal equality, the existence of effective mechanisms for protection of their rights and equal opportunities.

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