

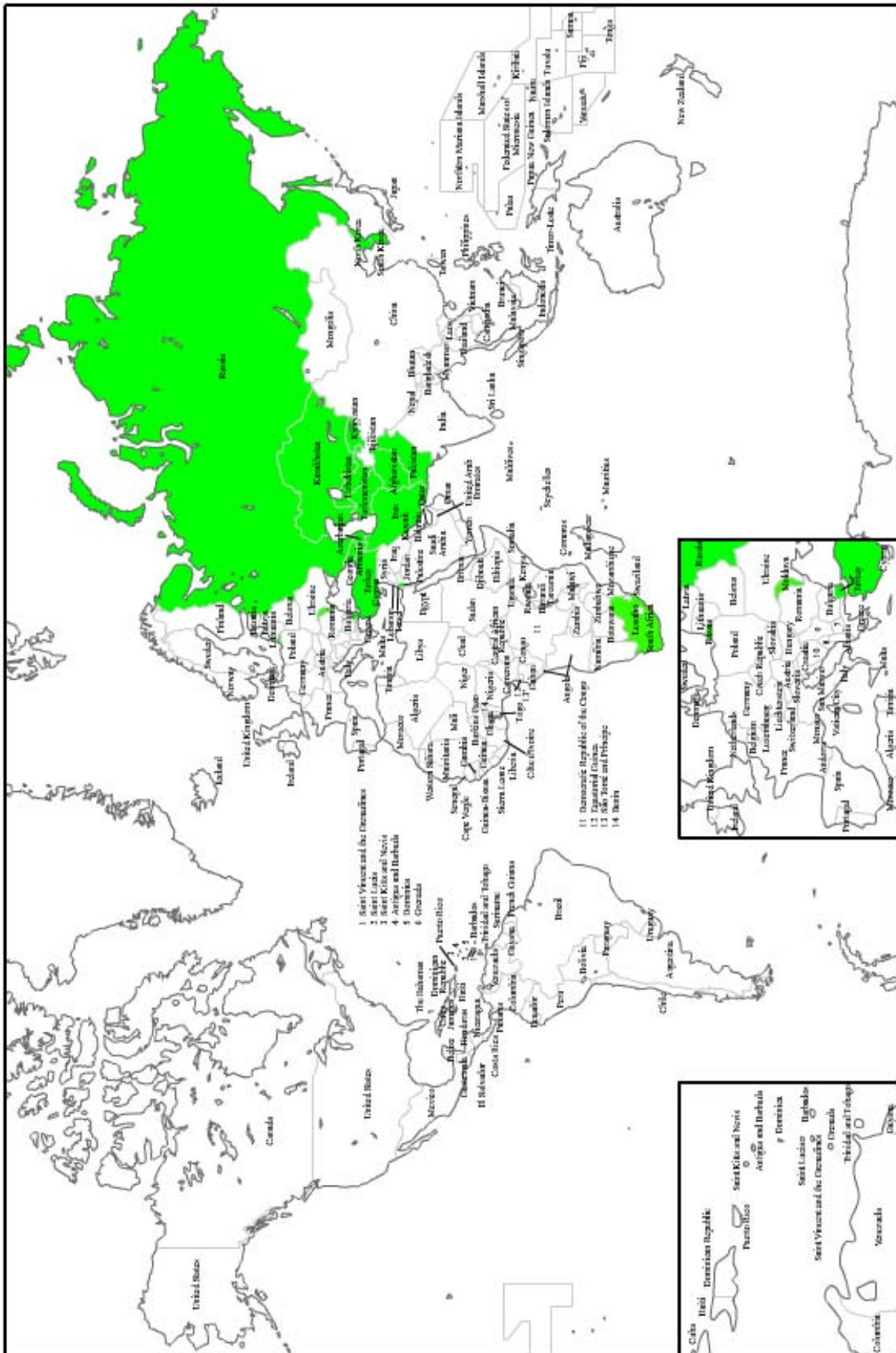


# Women's rights

## Countries briefings

prepared by the Green Group FEMM on the initiative of  
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# Afghanistan

## Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : 57 % of Afghani girls are married before the age of 16 (2004) and 60 % of marriages are still forced upon the spouses. 80 % of violence against women occurs within the family; **87 % of women have experienced physical and/or psychological abuse.**
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial jobs (2 out of 27 (7,4 %)) ; Lower House (27,3 %) ; Upper House (22,5 %) (2010). Of 17 Afghan ambassadors, two are women.
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : no abortion right except to protect woman's life; women fertility rate is 5,5 born children/women (13th world); according to John W. Warnock, Afghanistan is the only country in the world **where the suicide rate for women is higher than for men**<sup>1</sup>
- ➔ **Gender equality: education**: Only **12,6 % of women are literate** (vs 30 % of men); **discrimination at work**: no data ; **others**: 13 % of women say that they do not have permission to vote.

## Legal aspects

- ✓ The **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** was signed in 1980 but was only ratified in 2003.
- ✓ The most important document is the Afghanistan National Development Strategy 2008-2013 (ANDS) that integrated a Gender Equity Cross Cutting Strategy and included, among others, a project of establishment of Gender Studies Institutes, the creation of NGO Coordination Council and ambitious statistical tools<sup>2</sup>.
- ✓ **National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA)**; The Afghanistan Compact; Ministry for Women's Affairs; the **Constitution guarantees**: gender equality (Chapter 2, Art. 22) and reserve 25 % of seats to women in *Wolesi Jirga* (Lower House).

## Topics

### Public policies, education and violence:

- ◆ Analyze the legal system, formal and informal<sup>3</sup> laws, to ensure the prevalence of the former over the latter.
- ◆ Integrate and protect women's rights at every step of the peace and democratic process; ensure gender equality in the public space; create a debate about women's fertility rate that prevents women's education; discuss about results of ANDS and reevaluate goals if needed; change legal age of marriage.
- ◆ Protect victims of violence (physic/verbal harassment, rape) and prohibit accusations of *zina* (adultery).

<sup>1</sup> WARNOCK, John W. The Status of Women in Karzai's Afghanistan, Global Research, 14 avril 2009.

<sup>2</sup> NB: Preliminaries evaluation in 2008 and for 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Theoretically: customary and Islamic laws; cultural traditions. In practice: mainly *shura* and *jirga*.



## Armenia

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

➔ **Fundamental rights** : at least 28% of women are victims of domestic violence

<sup>1</sup>. 88% of the population think that domestic violence is a private matter and should not be a public issue. Trafficking of young women to Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial jobs (2 out of 18 (11,1%)) ; National Assembly (9,2%). (2010).

➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : abortion right on simple request since 2004.

➔ **Gender equality: *education***: women's literacy rate is 99,5 % (vs 99,8 % for men) (2008) ; ***discrimination at work***: women earn about 30% less than men; 83 % of the teachers are women; the unemployment rate for women is about 13% (vs men (6%)) and they represent 66% of the unemployed.

### Legal aspects

- ✓ **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1991).**
- ✓ Creation, in May 2002, of Deputy Minister for Women's Issues in the Ministry of Social Security.
- ✓ **The National Action Plan (2004-2010)** on improving the status of women and enhancing their role in society (Decree (N°645, 8 April 2004)). Most important policy about women's rights in the country.
- ✓ United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols.

### Topics

#### Education and public policies:

- ◆ Fight against gender stereotypes (very present and recognised by the Armenian government) and open a public debate about domestic violence.
- ◆ Discuss about results and next steps of the National Action Plan and stress the importance of eradicating women and girls' trafficking.

#### Violence:

- ◆ Increase awareness and train the Armenian police and justice agents about gender issues. Encourage gender equality in these professional areas.
- ◆ Increase budget for the existing housing policy for victims of domestic violence; especially in rural zones where shelters are hard to find.
- ◆ Ensure that domestic violence is a penal infraction and raise public awareness on the fact that it is a violation of national and international law.

<sup>1</sup> Sample of 1006 women, <http://genre.francophonie.org>, coherent with the Amnesty International Report (data: ¼ (2008)) (Amnesty internationale *Il n'y a pas d'honneur à garder le silence, Violences domestiques et sexuelles contre les femmes en Arménie*, Amnesty International, 2008.,



## Azerbaijan

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : 11 389 records of violence against women (2009). The emigration (forced or voluntary) is two time more important for women between 15-25 years old than for males, because of **women trafficking** <sup>1</sup>. Only 12% of trafficked victims find a shelter.
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial job (1 out of 34 (2,9 %)) ; Milli Majlis (11,4 %). (2010). In 2009, 600 000 dollars was allocated to promote gender parity in politics.
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : abortion right
- ➔ **Gender equality: *discrimination at work***: a woman earns 42 % less than a man; women represent 70% of educators and 57 % of social employees; the unemployment rate for women is around 12 % (vs men (10 %)) but this percentage is biased because the actual Azeri culture, patriarchal, act as a check about working women activity (75 % of Azeri women don't search for a job). **others**: discrimination to obtain loans.

### Legal aspects

- ✓ In 1994, ratification of **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**.
- ✓ In 2003, ratification of United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols.
- ✓ **National Action Plan (2009-2013) against human trafficking.**
- ✓ Adoption of different laws: gender equality (2006); fight against human trafficking (2005); Implementation of a gender budgeting strategy to speed up the institution of national parity. Creation of State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs (2006); Project to establish a bank for women only.

### Topics

#### Violence and public policies:

- ◆ Discuss about results of National Action Plan against human traffic and the impact of banks for women only.
- ◆ Increase transparency in public sector (especially justice, policy, etc...) about women trafficking and open more shelters with specific assistance for the victims.
- ◆ Increase awareness and educate citizens, justice (judges, lawyers, procurers) and educators about gender equality, especially with legal tools.

<sup>1</sup> Statistics collected from 2000 to 2007. Nb: we should add at this: seasonal sexual traffic.



## Georgia

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : According to a Georgian NGO<sup>1</sup>: 36 % of women said they were victims of domestic violence several times a month, 22 % every week. 80 % of citizens think that domestic violence is a private issue
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial job (1 out of 18 (5,9 %)) ; Sakartvelos Parlamenti (5,1 %). (2010)
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : abortion right
- ➔ **Gender equality: *discrimination at work***: women earn 57% of what men earn; women represent: 80-85 % of employees in the education, healthcare, social assistance sectors and 61.1% in hospitality. In these sectors they earn respectively 78-80 % and 58,8 % of what men earn for the same job. **The gender pay gap** is very important in both public and private sectors (men earn 88 and 84 % more than women); unemployment rates: women (11 %) vs men (12 %). Only 55 % of women are working or looking for a job (vs 73 % of men).

### Legal aspects

- ✓ In 1994, ratification of **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, and its Facultative Protocol in 2002.
- ✓ **Action Plan on Gender Equality Policy (2011-2013)** following National Action Plan on the Implementation of State Gender Equality Policy 2007-2009.
- ✓ Law on Gender Equality (2010); The Constitution guarantees gender equality (Chapter 2; art. 14); the law, in 2006, recognised domestic violence; rape is punishable by the law (7-20 years) but there is no **reference to spousal rape**.

### Topics

#### Salaried discrimination and female impoverishment:

- ◆ Work towards equal treatment in work area, reduce and eliminate gender pay gap in public and private sectors.
- ◆ Put up programs against impoverishment of women.

#### Violence and public policies:

- ◆ Open a public debate about domestic violence as a public issue (not any more as a private issue) and recognize spousal rape.
- ◆ Discuss publicly about first concrete results of Law on Gender Equality in Georgia and in EU, and follow the Action Plan on Gender Equality Policy 2011-2013.

<sup>1</sup> Nb: working with USAID (Elisabeth Duban, DevTech Systems, Inc., Gender Assessment USAID/GEORGIA, 2010. Available on: [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/cross-cutting\\_programs/wid/pubs/Georgia\\_Gender\\_Assessment\\_Jun-2010\\_508.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/wid/pubs/Georgia_Gender_Assessment_Jun-2010_508.pdf)).



## Iran

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : 66 % of women have been affected by domestic violence; in Khouzistan (2003) there have been 45 cases of honour killings of women under the age of 20; in 2001 out of 565 honour killings, 375 have been forced to set themselves on fire; **in 2005, 200 women were awaiting execution for adultery.**
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial job (1 out of 33 (3 %)); *Majlis* (7 out of 290 (2,41 %) <sup>1</sup> (2010).
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : no abortion right except to protect woman's life.
- ➔ **Gender equality: *education***: women's literacy rate is 77,2 % (vs 87,3 % for men) (2008); ***discrimination at work***: employment rate for women is 32,5 % (vs 73,1 for men) (2008); ***others***: single mothers represent 29 % of households living below the poverty line; in 2004, 18 % of girls between 15 and 19 were married, divorced or widowed.

### Legal aspects

- ✓ Iran **has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** because the Council of Guardians considers it as incompatible with Islamic norms, in spite of its adoption by the Majlis.
- ✓ Art. 115 of the **Constitution** excludes women from certain high-level jobs, like president of the country, whereas art. 20 guarantees gender equality if coherent with islamic principles.
- ✓ Enactment in 2004 of The Law on Combating Human Trafficking; the age of legal **women marriage** is 13; the **age of majority** for girls is 9 (vs 15 for boys); the law grants **physical custody** to the mother until age of 7 for girls and age 2 for boys but is then automatically transferred to the father (or another male in his family).

### Topics

#### Laws, education and violence:

- ◆ Sign and ratified CEDAW; abolish discriminative measures against women; increase legal age of marriage and majority for women.
- ◆ Promote women's work and financial independence.
- ◆ Stop and forbid honour crimes and stoning, and institutionalisation of this kind of crimes.

<sup>1</sup> All of them are conservatives and wear the black chador (veil covering the whole body).



## Kazakhstan

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : Not much data (statistical Kazakh project in preparation). **Trafficking of young women** is an important issue.
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial job (2 out of 19 (10,5%)); Lower House (17,8%); Upper house (4,3%). (2010).
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : abortion right (decree in 1982 concerned only the medical abortion; extended to full right in 1987).
- ➔ **Gender equality: education**: women's literacy rate is 99,5 % (vs 99,8 % for men) (2008); **discrimination at work**: wage of men 30 % to 50 % higher; majority of state employees are women (58, 5%) but they represent only 18,8% at the decision-making level<sup>1</sup> unemployment rates: women (7,9%) vs men (5,3%); on average, a woman's pension = 80% of man's pension.

### Legal aspects

- ✓ **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1998)**, and Convention on the Political Rights of Women.
- ✓ The Constitution states the principle of equality of all citizens but there is no specific mention of gender discrimination.
- ✓ The enactment of the President of Kazakhstan of November 29, 2005 No. 1677 has approved the **Strategy of Gender Equality in the Republic of Kazakhstan**. This Strategy is an important document and the program should be implemented during the next decade (2006-2016).
- ✓ About the Equality Strategy, Kazakhstan approved the Concept of Gender Policy **included in the Millennium Development goals**.

### Topics

#### Public policies:

- ◆ Work towards eradication of young women trafficking and create adequate housing and accompanying solutions against domestic and other types of violence.
- ◆ **Equality Strategy**: promote the implementation of statistical tools to have more relevant and updated data (domestic violence, gender pay gap, etc...), to ensure the transparency and the follow-up of the Strategy application.

#### Education and law:

- ◆ Reinforce **information, awareness** and training of state employees, judiciary employees and the society about gender equality.
- ◆ Promote gender equality as a **constitutional principle**.

<sup>1</sup> Kazakhstan, *Answers to the Questions on Implementation of Beijing Platform of Actions (1995) and Resolutions of the 23rd Special Session of the UN General Assembly (2000)*, 2005, p.3.





## Democratic People's Republic of Korea

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : lack of information and data about women (access and information controlled by the regime: officially 2 rapes registered in 2003 and 1 in 2004); trafficking of girls and women to China.
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial jobs (2 out of 35 (5,7%)); Supreme People's Assembly (15,6 %) (2010).
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : abortion right
- ➔ **Gender equality: *education***: officially women literacy rate is 99 % (99 % also for men); 25 to 30 % of university students are female; ***discrimination at work***: women labour force participation rate is 60,7% (vs. 80,7 % for men) (2008).

### Legal aspects

- ✓ Ratification, in 2001, of **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** but not its Facultative Protocol.
- ✓ Has never signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- ✓ Law on gender equality 30 July 1946; support services for working mothers (nurseries; kindergartens; breastfeeding breaks for working mothers; temporary special measures to increase the number of women in certain management positions).

### Topics

#### Statistics, employment, public policies and laws:

- ◆ All international bodies (CEDAW, UN, NGO's), researchers, journalists, etc... complain about the lack of statistics about the country and women situation. The access of the country is difficult, especially for UN rapporteurs.
- ◆ Analyse the effects of temporary special measures, and other services for women; eradicate the gap between women/men labour force participation; increase the number of women in higher education.
- ◆ Implement a global program on domestic violence; and on girls and women trafficking (sign the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; implement international, regional and bilateral (China) partnerships).
- ◆ Prosecute crimes against women to reach the goal of the Law on gender equality (1946).



## Republic of Korea

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : 30 % of married women suffered domestic violence (2008); 11 048 cases of domestic violence registered in 2008, and 6674 prosecuted in 2009 (+- 50 % of complaints); 160 000 call/year about violence against women; among the survey conducted by the National Human Rights Commission.
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial jobs (2 out of 16 (12,5 %)); National Assembly or *Gukhoe* (14,7 %) (2010)
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : abortion rights only to protect women's life, her mental and physical health, or in case of rape.
- ➔ **Gender equality: education** : 79 % of women have a secondary or higher level of education compared to 92 % of their male counterparts but only 57 % of women with a college level of education participate in the labour force (2004); **discrimination at work:** female participation in the labour market is 55 % (vs. 76 % for men); the wage of women workers is 66.5% of men (2009); 65.5% of women workers are part-time or irregular workers (theses women earns only 26,7 % of their male counterparts).

### Legal aspects

- ✓ Ratification, in 1984, of **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** and its Facultative Protocol (2006).
- ✓ Ministry for Gender Equality and Family (2007 budget: 1,3 billion dollars (US)); National Human Rights Commission based on 18 different factors of discrimination, including gender discrimination; Act on Protection of Temporary and Part-time workers; five year Plan for the development of women's resources and female employment expansion measures.
- ✓ Electoral quotas (50 % on a legislative election, and a minimum of 30 % regional representatives); hotline "1366" (24/7 and with 9 languages) and "1577-1366" especially for migrants.

### Topics

#### Employment and laws:

- ◆ Discuss about the results of the implementation of measures to promote women employment (Plan for the development of women's resources and female employment expansion measures; Act on Protection of Temporary and Part-time workers).
- ◆ Eradicate gender pay gap; offer more full time jobs and convert irregular employment to regular employment to guarantee access to social protection; promote women employment.
- ◆ Stop *Wonjokyuie* (adolescent girls who engage in a sexual relationship with older men for money); criminalize spousal rape.



## Kyrgyzstan

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : 40 to 60 % of all crimes committed against women are related to domestic violence. **64,3 % of prostitutes report that they have been victims of violent actions from the police**<sup>1</sup>
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial jobs (2 out of 20 (10 %)); *Jogorku Kengesh* (25,6 %) (2010).
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : abortion right
- ➔ **Gender equality: *discrimination at work***: women represent 42 % of the labour force (2006) and 54% of unemployed persons (2004); gender pay gap of 33% (2004); 24 out of 90 legislators of the country are women (2008); ***others***: discrimination against prostitutes<sup>2</sup>; 88% of what they earn is taken from them by various third parties.

### Legal aspects

- ✓ In 1997, ratification of **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** and its Facultative Protocol in 2002.
- ✓ The Election Code (2007) introduced **quotas in politics** for women.
- ✓ The National **Antitrafficking** Council chaired by the vice prime minister; Ratification of Convention against Corruption (and establishment of the National Anticorruption Agency and the National Anticorruption Council); Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its additional Protocol.
- ✓ National Action Plan on gender equality (2007-2010); **Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan (FWNGO)**, set up in 1994, is a forum of more than 85 NGOs (about fifteen are Kirgiz).

### Topics

#### Public policies:

- ◆ Protect the rights acquired, especially after the overthrow of the President Kourmanbek Bakiev.
- ◆ Follow-up of CEDAW recommendations (about quotas policy); implement stricter sanctions against domestic violence and include sexual harassment in law; finance and launch new gender equality programs.

#### Violence:

- ◆ Recognise that prostitutes and their children<sup>3</sup> suffer from **acts of discrimination** and prevent the **institutionalisation of discrimination and corruption**.

<sup>1</sup> Tais Plus, Shadow report to the Third Periodic Report of Kyrgyzstan to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, NGO, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> 10 000 prostitutes in the country.

<sup>3</sup> Absence total of right in different case. Children of women who sell sex are forced to leave school by the school administration and teachers. Thus, women discrimination involves child discrimination.



## Moldova

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : 25 % of women have been once victims of domestic violence; one-third of the murders are committed by the victim's husband; in 2002, 41,7 % of people recognized gender-based discrimination existed; the country is the hub of the region for girls' and women's traffic (60%) to East Europe, Balkans and Middle East.
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial job (1 out of 19 (5,3 %)); *Parlamentul Republicii Moldova* (23,8 %) (2010).
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : abortion right; 45 % of pregnant women are affected by anaemia.
- ➔ **Gender equality**: *education*: women literacy rate is 97,8 % (vs 99 % for men); *discrimination at work*: in 2008, unemployment women rate was 3,4 % (vs 4,6 % for men) and their labour participation rate is 53,4 % (vs 55,6 % for men) (2008); Women earn 70 to 80 % of a man's salary and are three times more likely to lose their job; *others*: female-headed households are 33,7%; in some villages, as much as 75 per cent of women have left home to look work.

### Legal aspects

- ✓ Ratification, in 1994, of **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** and its Facultative Protocol (2006).
- ✓ National Plan to promote gender equality (2006-2009); National Action Plan on Human Rights 2009-2012 (review by civil society at the end of 2009) (2009).
- ✓ The Moldovan Constitution guarantees gender equality (art. 16 (2)) ; Law on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women; Law on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings; draft law on preventing and combating domestic violence.

### Topics

#### Public policies, data and laws:

- ◆ Stop women and girls trafficking: law badly enforced; fight against the root cause of trafficking (women's economic insecurity); implement an international cooperation.
- ◆ Implement a study about violence against women, especially concerned domestic violence and trafficking; debate about the increase of female headed households; improve pregnant women health care.
- ◆ Check the progress of the Draft law on preventing and combating domestic violence and about the National Action Plan on Human Rights (linked to Women Rights); recognize spousal rape; use the CEDAW as a legal reference in court decisions.



## Pakistan

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : 4621 women have been jailed in 2005 under discriminatory laws including the Hudood<sup>1</sup> ordinance (and Islamic laws); generally, 88 % of all imprisoned women are there because of this ordinance.
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial jobs (3 out of 40 (7,7 %)) ; Lower House (22,2 %) ; Upper House (17 %) (2010).
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : abortion rights only to protect women's life, her mental and physical health, or in case of rape.
- ➔ **Gender equality:** *education*: women literacy rate is 40 % (vs 66,8 % for men); *discrimination at work*: in 2008, unemployment rate for women was 8,6 % (vs 4,2% for men); 84,3 % of women are inactive; women represent 73,8 % of the agriculture sector (2008); women earn one third less than their male counterparts<sup>2</sup>; *others*: in 2004, 21 % of girls between 15 and 19 were married, divorced or widowed.

### Legal aspects

- ✓ In 1996, ratification of **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) but not** its Facultative Protocol.
- ✓ National Policy for Advancement and Empowerment of Women; National Commission on the Status of Women.
- ✓ Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (2002); Gender Crime Cell in the National Police Bureau; First Women's Bank (women micro-credit (1989)); honour killings are illegal since 2004.

### Topics

#### Laws and public policies:

- ◆ Ratify Facultative Protocol of CEDAW and Convention against Transnational organized Crime; revise or abolish discriminative law (ex: Hudood) and outlaw informal courts (*Jirga* and *Panchayat*); increase legal age of marriage to 18.
- ◆ Encourage women's employment especially outside the primary sector; increase awareness amongst justice and police agents about gender equality; collect statistics about violence against women and analyse impacts of main programmes; and increase their means (human, financial, etc...).

<sup>1</sup> According to this law, rape victims need to have sufficient evidence of rapist culpability (to have four adult witnesses) otherwise they will be guilty of adultery.

<sup>2</sup> This inequality is strengthened by the increase of informal working: women's informal working represented 69,9 to 71,7 % of informal workers.



## Palestinian Legislative Council

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : 60 % of women have been psychologically abused by their husband, 23 % have been beaten and 11 % have experienced sexual violence (2005); 25 % of unmarried women over the age of 18 have been physically abused and 53% psychologically abused; 2/3 of women homicides are committed in the name of honour killing (16 cases registered for first two months of 2010); in 2005, only 27 person served a sentence for rape.
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial jobs (5 out of 23 (21,7 %)) (2009); Palestinian Legislative Council (12,9 %) (2006); Ambassadors (2 %); 2 women appointed as judges in the Sharia courts in 2009.
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : no abortion right except to protect woman's life.
- ➔ **Gender equality: education**: literacy rate for women is 90,5 % (2007); **discrimination at work**: women represent 15 % of the female labour force participation rate (fourth quarter of 2009) and 50 % of students in college; only 9% of the judiciary is female; women unemployment rate is 43,1 % in Gaza and 17 % in West Bank (2010-2011); **other**: the median age for marriage is 18 among women (2006).

### Legal aspects

- ✓ The non state status of the Palestinian Legislative Council implies that it doesn't have the capacity to ratify international law but the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** has been ratified symbolically in March 2009.
- ✓ **Too many different legal references**: Jordanian Family and Penal Code in West Bank and the Egyptian ones in Gaza; Palestinian Basic Law; the Israeli military and civil law, Ottoman law; British Mandate law; Sharia law...
- ✓ Implementation of the National Committee to combat violence against women by the Ministry for Women's Affairs (MoWA) (2003) that included 12 different ministries and civil society organisations.

### Topics

#### Laws and public policies

- ◆ Beyond the symbolic ratification of CEDAW, implement a periodic rapport about women issues in Palestine; discuss results of the National Committee to combat violence against women.
- ◆ Make a thorough, consistent legal reform of the judicial system to guarantee gender equality; take the Palestinian Feminist Bill <sup>1</sup> as a base for debate.
- ◆ Stop honour killings; fight against domestic violence; increase the percentage of female labour force participation.

<sup>11</sup> The Palestinian Feminist Bill has been created in 1994 by the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW).



## Russia

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights**<sup>1</sup>: 14 000 women are killed each years by their partners or close family members (= a woman each 37,5 minutes); 2/3 of homicides are linked to domestic violence; 70 % claimed they had at least once experienced violence at home; 18 % suffer from domestic violence on a regular basis; among mothers with HIV infection, 49% suffer from various forms of violence (10 % from sexual violence).
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial jobs (3 out of 18 (16,7 %)) ; Lower House (14 %) ; Upper House (4,7 %) (2010).
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : abortion right.
- ➔ **Gender equality: *discrimination at work***: the average income for a woman is 64 % of the average income for a man; 68,7 % of women work (vs 76,3 for men) (2008); women's unemployment rate is 5,8 % (vs 6,4 % for men) (2008); **others**: in 2004, 11 % of girls between 15 and 19 were married, divorced or widowed; 73,3 % of the population thinks that the State has not taken the necessary measures to fight against domestic violence.

### Legal aspects

- ✓ Ratification, in 1981, of **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** and its Facultative Protocol (2004).
- ✓ Protocol n°14 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (2010); The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2004); Mediator of the Russian Federation (delegate to human rights) called Ombudsman.
- ✓ Drafted federal law on "State guarantees equal rights and liberties for men and women in the Russian Federation and equal opportunities for their realization"; Inter-Agency Commission for gender equality (2006).

### Topics

#### Public policies and laws:

- ◆ Protect women's rights in the Northern Caucasus; reinforce Ombudsman's visibility and mandate; create a separate department for women's rights; increase the number of shelters and stop discrimination of access especially against ethnic minorities; create a national plan on gender equality with measurable goals and yearly progress assessment.
- ◆ Integrate spousal rape and honour crime into the Penal Code; modify its art. 134(4), that reduces sentence in case of rape against minors, and redefine the harassment to integrate its psychological component.

<sup>1</sup> Violence figures varied strongly between the different regions. Furthermore, the number of registered crimes against women tends to increase. But how to explain this tendency.



## South Africa

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : 40 % of rapes are committed against people under 18; one woman is raped every 35 seconds (but only 60 000 rapes were registered in 2009-2010); 27,6 % of men have committed a woman rape<sup>1</sup>; 8,9 % of rapes are collective; 46,5 % of the first rapes are committed by men between 15-19 years old; every 6 hours a woman is killed by her male partner; lesbophobia is important (corrective rapes are committed to turn women "back" into heterosexuality).
- ➔ **Political representation**: Ministerial job (12 out of 35 (34,3 %)); Lower House (44,5 %); Upper House (29,6 %) (2010).
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : abortion right; 55 % of people infected by HIV are women;; women under 25 are three to four times more likely to be HIV-infected than men in the same age group; one in three women aged 25-29 are living with HIV.
- ➔ **Gender equality**: education: women literacy rate is 88,1 % (vs 89,9 % for men); discrimination at work: in 2008, unemployment women rate was 26,3 % (vs 20 % for men); 76 % of women are harassed at work).

### Legal aspects

- ✓ Ratification, in 1995, of **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** and its Facultative Protocol (2005).
- ✓ The Criminal Law (Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007.
- ✓ Adoption of the Strategic Framework on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality within the Public Service (2006); the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act (Equality Act) (2000); Electoral quotas.
- ✓ Implementation of Thuthuzela Care Centers for victims of rapes or domestic violence (advantage: present in hospitals; direct contact with police and with courts).

### Topics

#### Public policies and laws:

- ◆ Implement a National Plan to fight rape: focus especially on AIDS, children education and training of the teachers; analyze first results of Thuthuzela Care Centers and improve their access, advertising and efficiency.
- ◆ Fight against *Ukuthwala*<sup>2</sup> (limited to Kwa-Zulu Natal) ; revise the Children's Act (2005) that authorizes virginity tests; punish stronger crimes against women and that should be mentioned (especially regarding rapes, domestic violence and harassment at work)

<sup>1</sup> According to the survey of Medical Research Council (2009).

<sup>2</sup> Forced marriage after a rape or abduction of young girls for marriage





## Turkey

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : 39 % of women suffer from domestic violence; 92 % of these women don't ask for any help; more than 1000 honour crimes <sup>1</sup> from 2002 to 2007.
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial jobs (2 out of 26 (7,7 %)); The Grand National Assembly of Turkey (9,1 %) (2010).
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : abortion rights; divorced women who want to remarry have to wait for at least 300 days (to ensure that they are not pregnant from their ex-husband)
- ➔ **Gender equality: education**: 13,8 % of women are illiterate (vs 1 % of men); 40 % of Kurdish women are illiterate; **discrimination at work**: women's unemployment rate fluctuates between 22,3 to 26 % (2009); married women's employment rate (20 %) and divorced women's employment rate (30 %) are both under married men's (70 %); a woman's wage equals on average 61 % of a man's wage.

### Legal aspects

- ✓ In 1985, ratification of **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**.
- ✓ National action plans on: gender equality; sexual and reproductive health; domestic violence; human trafficking; women's autonomy in rural area.
- ✓ **Constitutional Amendments** (September 2010) approved by national referendum (art. 10) about gender equality.
- ✓ Art. 82 of Penal Code is about homicides committed "in the name of tradition and honour" (cf. also art. 29); educative bonuses for girls; encouragement measures for women to work (free day nursery until 5; circular of Prime Minister); **Project regarding the creation of a human rights national institution**.

### Topics

#### Laws, public policies and education:

- ◆ Include a legal definition of discrimination against women (enhance the law n°4320 about family protection) and abolish or revised discriminative laws<sup>2</sup>.
- ◆ Guarantee the implementation of the Project regarding the creation of a human rights institution; and provide better education for ethnic minorities (Kurdish girls/boys; etc...); collect statistics about violence in rural area (especially regarding honour killing).
- ◆ Promotion of women at work; increase awareness of citizens about this question and discrimination against women.

<sup>1</sup> Big cities are more affected.

<sup>2</sup> Ex: art. 287 of penal code authorize genital exam without woman consent; the law about the waiting time (300 days) for women who wanted to remarry; guarantee the retroactivity of acquist.



## Turkmenistan

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : No available data but there are no shelters for women who are victims of domestic violence.
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial job (2 out of 32 (6,3 %)); Mejlis (16,8 %). (2010).
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : abortion right.
- ➔ **Gender equality: education**: women's literacy rate is 99,3 % (vs 99,7 % for men) (2008); discrimination at work: Unemployment rate of 60 %; **others**: the Turkmen law about public associations states that it is the Justice Department which decides which NGO can be registered.

### Legal aspects

- ✓ Ratification, in 1996, of **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) AND** recently of its Facultative Protocol (2009).
- ✓ "Men and women in Turkmenistan have equal civil rights. A violation of equal rights based on gender will entail legal liability" (Section 1, Art. 18 of the Constitution).
- ✓ September 2009, "the NGO Keik Okara, with the support of the OSCE, implemented a telephone service to assist victims of domestic violence" (Amnesty International).

### Topics

#### Statistics and NGO:

- ◆ Every international body (CEDAW, EU, NGO), researchers, journalists, etc... complains about the **scarcity of statistics** about the country and especially women's situation. This missing data **justifies inaction and denial** about different topics like human trafficking and domestic violence. This situation creates a **legal vacuum** and puts in danger anonymous Turkmen sources.
- ◆ Propose to **name a Turkmen mediator** who can facilitate the work of international NGOs as RSF has proposed; and ensure that he/she is more than a symbolic presence.

#### Justice and education:

- ◆ Insist on the need to eradicate both **direct and indirect discriminations**; give better access to justice for women and develop assistance programs for victims.
- ◆ Promote sex education and the presence of girls in higher education.

#### Economy:

- ◆ Use the future Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) between EU and Turkmenistan to include gender issues and open the debate on gender equality.



## Uzbekistan

### Thematic sheet prepared by Green Group FEMM

- ➔ **Fundamental rights** : No data but Dilbar Gulyamova (deputy Prime Minister) attributes 99 % of female suicides to domestic violence; **in spite of a law, there are no spousal rapes reported**. 1 woman out of 3 said to need to have permission to go outside when she wanted to go to the market, the doctor or a neighbour; 75 % of Uzbek women think they have the same rights as men.
- ➔ **Political representation** : Ministerial jobs (1 out of 31 (3,2 %)); Lower House (22 %); Upper House (15 %) (2010); in 2008, election of the first female President of the lower house.
- ➔ **Health and reproductive rights** : abortion right.
- ➔ **Gender equality: *discrimination at work***: women's wages 40 % less than men's; women are 72,5 % in healthcare and 63 % in education; women represented 69,65 % of unemployed (2007) and 44,1 % of all employees (2004); **others**: only 15 % of micro-credits are granted to women.

### Legal aspects

- ✓ In 1995, ratification of **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) but not** its Facultative Protocol.
- ✓ An **Electoral law** forces political parties to present a minimum of 30 % women candidates for the Parliament.
- ✓ The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan NGO (WOMC) was set up in 1991.
- ✓ Law on combating human trafficking (establishment of a national interdepartmental commission); National Action Plan (2008-2010).

### Topics

#### Public policies:

- ◆ Sign the CEDAW Facultative Protocol; broaden quotas policy to public service; give an institutional statute to WOMC; recognize sexual harassment; broaden the legal concept of domestic violence; register and guarantee the effectiveness of the law about spousal rape.
- ◆ Implement a big program of training about gender equality (indirect/direct discrimination, real equality, domestic violence, micro-credits access, and women farmer entrepreneurship).

#### Violence and NGO:

- ◆ Stop the institutionalisation of violence (especially the *mahallas*<sup>1</sup>); enhance human trafficking cooperation (international, regional and bilateral); Eradicate violence against women who are in detention and custody.
- ◆ Open a dialogue with women rights associations and ensure that authorities do not systematically reject their policies.

<sup>1</sup> *Mahallas* are informal elders' council (mainly men) in charge of controlling society's "morality".