



**Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the UN Office and other  
International Organizations**

**GENEVA**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the Note Verbale dated 27 April 2023, has the honour to transmit herewith the information received from the relevant authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan to inform the report by the Secretary-General on progress towards ending child, early and forced marriage worldwide.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Enclosure: 4 pages

**Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
GENEVA**

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**Information submitted by the Government of Azerbaijan**  
**With regard the questions on progress towards**  
**ending child, early and forced marriage**

1.a) The "Action Plan for 2020-2025 on preventing gender selection of children before birth" was approved on February 24, 2020. The plan of measures has exceptional importance in terms of eliminating discrepancies in the gender structure of the population. In order to eliminate gender inequality and stereotypes, educate teenagers and parents about the negative consequences of child and early marriage, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and Child and Family Support Centers operating under the Committee regularly hold enlightenment activities in various formats.

Thus, the State Committee, together with the support of the Ministry of Science and Education and the Ministry of Health, regularly hold meeting and discussions on the consequences of early marriage and consanguineous marriages with the participation of young people and volunteers of the State Committee in educational institutions in cooperation with local representatives of the Youth Development and Career Center.

"European Union for Gender Equality: Together against gender stereotypes and against gender-based violence" and "Elimination of gender-based sex selection and related harmful practices in the South Caucasus" programs were implemented with the financial support of the European Union, in cooperation with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs.

"Family festival" was held within the framework of the campaign "Promotion of equal care model in the family with special emphasis on increasing the value of the girl child" on May 15, 2021, as a component of the programs on the occasion of the "International Day of Families", with the support of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Women Agency (UN Women) and the "Regional Development" Public Association.

Different competitions on various topics aimed at preventing the phenomenon of favoring boys, promoting the value of the girl child and promoting the model of equal care in the family, contributing to the fight against gender stereotypes were held during the Family Festival on May 15, 2022.

Regular basis training programs including "Study of international experience in the field of prevention of sex ratio violations" trainings are organized in the field of family planning and gender selection, especially in the prevention of gender selection of children before birth within the framework of the close cooperation of the Committee and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and promote gender equality.

As part of the 16-day activism campaign against gender-based violence, "The family and its members have the right to equal protection!", the presentation entitled "Say NO to child marriage", the electronic posters entitled "Gender equality starts from the womb" can be mentioned in 2021. Within the framework of joint cooperation with "ASAN service" centers, "Let's say NO to

early marriage for the sake of a healthy life!" memory sheet (3000 pieces) and booklet "Marriage between blood relatives and its complications" (2000 pieces) were sent to Baku "ASAN service".

At the same time, if the Child and Family Support Centers acting under the State Committee receive information from media and social networks about families with children and early marriage of girls, they immediately visit families in a dangerous situation with the participation of representatives of relevant institutions and take them under control, preventive work is carried out with such families. Thus, in the first half of 2023, 14 applications related to the facts of early marriage were received, visits to families were organized together with the employees of the relevant state institutions, and the facts of early marriage were prevented.

b) In 2023, a conference on "Reproductive health: challenges and prospects" was held under the joint organization of the Ministry of Health, ISIM, TABIB, Scientific Research Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Azerbaijan representation of the UN Population Fund and SCFWCA. On the eve of "International Women's Day" on March 8, a free medical examination and laboratory analysis campaign was held for low-income, vulnerable women who use the services of the Shuvelan Children and Families Support Center, jointly organized by the Healthy Family Medical Center and SCFWCA.

d) 860 hotlines have been established under the committee for the appeal of persons who have been subjected to gender-based violence, especially women and girls who have faced violence. Electronic materials related to the topic are prepared, published on the official website of the Committee and social networks, displayed in places used by the general population, and printed materials are distributed among the population.

e) The mentioned financing is not considered as a separate direction in the state budget, and there is no control mechanism in this regard. But it is planned in the future. The "Regulation on the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of state programs" was approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated March 6, 2021. According to the document, draft state programs should be prepared according to the established structure, and measures should be monitored and evaluated.

2. In 2011, the Family Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan was amended and the minimum marriage age was equalized for women and men, and it was set at 18 years. In addition, forcing marriage was defined as a criminal act and Article 176-1 of the same name was added to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Proposals regarding the removal of the possibility of reducing the marriage age by 1 year from the legislation have been submitted to the government.

Starting from 2020, a new strategy of state policy to prevent early marriages was defined. Thus, with the Resolution No. 213 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated June 23, 2020, the "Educational Rule on the importance of family and marriage among young people, on the negative consequences of early marriage and marriage between relatives in order to protect and strengthen it" was approved. According to the requirements of the regulation, the State Committee summarizes the annual data on the work done in the mentioned direction across the country and submits it to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Annual

information is posted on the official websites of executive bodies. A joint meeting of the executive bodies is held to discuss the results of each year and the next activities.

Last year, on average, about 45 cases of early marriage detected by the State Committee and Child and Family Support Centers, as well as Women Resource Centers were prevented.

3. 4 sociological studies on early marriages were conducted in the country;

1. Research on "Early marriage is a violation of children's rights" by the State Committee in 2009 with the support of the UNICEF;

2. Selective statistical examination by the State Statistics Committee for the purpose of studying the causes of early marriages.

3. Based on the data of 2018 and 2019 in the republic on the provision of children's rights, the ANALYTICAL REPORT contains extensive analyzes on relevant topics in separate sections called "Cases of early marriage among children" and "Offences committed against children";

4. Analytical report "Early marriages in modern Azerbaijan: Sociological Analysis" by the State Committee in 2022 in order to study the current situation regarding early marriages in the country, their causes and consequences.

Since early marriages are not state registered, their statistics are not kept.

However, statistics of children born to mothers under the age 18 are presented annually by the State Statistics Committee. Based on these indicators, it is possible to determine the approximate figures of child marriages.

So, according to statistics, the number of children born to such women:

- 4392 people in 2011
- 2320 people in 2019
- 1917 people in 2020
- In 2021, this number decreased to 1650 people.

As a result of the implemented preventive measures, these cases have decreased by 2.6 times in the country.

4. Electronic materials related to the topic are regularly prepared, published on the Committee's official website and social networks, as well as sent to relevant institutions for publication, displayed in places used by the general population.

Electronic booklets on "Early marriage - don't take away our childhood", "Early marriage-child marriage", a video about the negative consequences of early marriage together with relevant institutions, "Let's say NO to early marriage for the sake of a healthy life!", "Let's recognize and protect the rights of our girls! Let's value them highly," e-education materials called "The family and its members have the right to equal protection" within the framework of the 16-day activism campaign against gender-based violence is posted on the official website and Facebook page of State Committee in 2021.

In 2022, within the framework of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence campaign, starting from November 25 - International Day of Combating Violence against Women and continuing until "December 10 - International Human Rights Day", "Domestic Violence: From Dream to Reality" "Let's protect the rights of children in the family!" electronic educational materials were prepared and published on the Committee's website and social network pages.

In addition, a brief presentation on the results of a public opinion poll and sociological research called "Existing Family Relations in Azerbaijan: Social-Psychological Analysis" prepared by Center for Social Studies by order of the State Committee in 2020 and published in 2021 was prepared and posted on the Committee's official website.

5. According to subsection 4.5.1 of the "State Program on Improving the Health of Mothers and Children for 2014-2022" approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 550 dated June 13, 2014, the normative legal acts of the international criteria for were prepared in our country and adopted in 2015. Since January 1 of this year, the new criteria of live birth have been applied in our country. The rules adopted in accordance with WHO recommendations on international live birth criteria are applicable to all medical institutions in Azerbaijan, regardless of their form of ownership. Information about the birth given by the medical institutions subordinated to the Management Union of Medical Territorial Units is recorded in the "Date of Birth" (AZS-096) and "Date of Development of the Newborn" (AZS-097) and entered into the Citizens' Electronic Health Card system of the Ministry of Health and transferred to the electronic information base.

Birth information is transferred to the State Agency for Compulsory Medical Insurance (child's birth date and sex, mother's surname, first name, father's name, place of residence, ID card number and date of issuance) by the medical institution subordinated to the Management Union of Medical Territorial Units immediately, and by another medical institution to the Ministry of Health. That information is transferred By the Ministry of Health and the State Agency for Compulsory Medical Insurance to the information system of the Ministry of Justice through the Electronic Government Information System (EHIS) and from there to the registration department of the mother's place of residence in an automated mode.

-The list of documents required for registration of birth is reflected in the "Rule of state registration of acts of citizenship" approved by the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 145 dated October 31, 2003.

6. As a continuation of the work done in this direction, Azerbaijan has joined the Council of Europe Convention "On the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Violence" (Lanzarote Convention).

The "Regulation on educating young people about the importance of family and marriage, and the negative consequences of early marriage and marriage between relatives in order to protect and strengthen it" was approved on June 23, 2020. The rule defines the principles, means, directions of education about the negative consequences of early marriage among young people and marriage between relatives, the range of state institutions that carry out education and their functions.

Special mention should be made of the "Children's Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2020-2030" and the "Action Plan for the Implementation of the Children's Strategy for 2020-2025" approved by the Decree of the President in 2020. The strategy defines the main directions, such as the creation of an effective mechanism for the protection of children, providing state support for their development in early childhood, the protection of children in difficult living conditions.