

## **Statement of ant-discrimination initiative Myqty Women**

### **Slide 1: Kazakhstan: Climate Change and Women's Rights**

#### **Slide 2: Context on Climate Change:**

Kazakhstan is warming faster than the global average, with the 2022 annual temperature 1.8°C higher than in 1961-1990. Given its environmental challenges and reliance on fossil fuels and agriculture, climate change amplifies risks such as water stress, extreme heat, floods, wildfires, and hurricane winds.

#### **Slide 3: Drinking water access**

Many villages face severe water access issues. The Myqty Women initiative documented 24 villages where residents struggle to obtain tap water, which is often available only a few hours a day and located far from homes. High costs and extreme weather make store-bought water inaccessible. Women bear the burden of collecting water for household needs, a task that becomes especially challenging in extreme weather, leading to health issues.

**Slide 4: Drinking water access Recommendation** - provide access to tap water, especially in rural areas and places vulnerable to climate change challenges.

#### **Slide 5: Outdoor working conditions**

Kazakhstan experiences frequent heatwaves, with 2022 temperatures exceeding 35°C, reaching 40-45°C in some areas. Despite labor laws granting rest rights during extreme heat, enforcement is lacking. This issue disproportionately affects poor people and migrants, who often work outdoors, particularly in construction, where they are vulnerable to extreme temperature.

**Slide 6: Outdoor working conditions Recommendation** - create legislation regulating outdoor work, defining temperature limits for "hot" weather (e.g., 30°C), and ensuring paid rest for outdoor workers when temperatures reach 30°C. Include these terms in mandatory health and safety training for all outdoor employees.

#### **Slide 7: Inclusion vulnerable groups in decision making process.**

In Kazakhstan's 3rd UPR Cycle, the Commonwealth PIF recommended ensuring meaningful engagement of women, children, and persons with disabilities in climate and disaster policies. This was marked as "partially completed," but measures remain insufficient. For instance, while a 2022 law introduced a 30% quota for vulnerable groups in deputy mandates, it falls short of ensuring their representation in decision-making. The April 2024 flood response highlighted their lack of full participation.

#### **Slide 8: Inclusion vulnerable groups in decision making process.**

**Recommendation** - increase the number of quota for women only from 30% to 50%, especially when it comes to their involvement in the development of legislation, policies and programs on climate change and disaster risk reduction.

**Slide 9: Gender-based violence and police**

Despite legal changes criminalizing domestic violence, femicide persists in Kazakhstan due to unchanged police practices. CSOs report that in 89% of cases, women face pressure during investigations, including coercion to withdraw statements, ignored complaints, and efforts to "cover up" cases. This results in fear, anxiety, and further trauma for survivors. Women also encounter victim-blaming, insults, hate speech, and sexual harassment when contacting the police. Between 2022 and 2024, Myqty Women documented 31 cases of police siding with perpetrators, obstructing justice based on personal values rather than the law.

**Slide 10: Gender-based violence and police Recommendation** - take measures to ensure police officers strictly adhere to Kazakhstan's legislation and international standards when assisting victims, train them on how to interact with survivors of gender-based violence, and develop a protocol for the ethical treatment of victims.

**Slide 11: Harassment, Stalking, Rape Consent and hate crime:**

Kazakhstan's legislation fails to address harassment properly, as the term is not included in its legal framework. Moreover, sexualized harassment is classified as "Minor hooliganism," punishable by up to 15 days of arrest. Additionally, the laws rely on outdated, narrow definitions of stalking, rape, and consent.

LBQT women are stigmatized and their rights to freedom of assemblies, associations are violated by the government. We cannot have any peaceful meetings at streets. According to OSCE ODIHR from 2019 to 2023 the amount of hate crimes increased 4 times from 11 to 41.

**Slide 12: Harassment, Stalking, Rape Consent and hate crime**

**Recommendation** - revise and clarify definitions of rape and sexualized violence, tighten penalties for sexual harassment, introduce the term "harassment," and finally adopt anti-discrimination legislation which will include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected characteristics.