

# Kazakhstan: Climate Change and Women Rights

---

**ANTI-DISCRIMINATION INITIATIVE “MYQTY WOMEN”**

# Context – 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.

# Drinking water access - issue

---

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**.

# Drinking water access - recommendation

---

**Provide access to tap water, especially in rural areas and places vulnerable to Climate Change challenges.**

# Outdoor working conditions - issue

---

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.

# 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.**

**Implement mandatory health and safety training for all outdoor employees, and include these terms there.**

# Inclusion vulnerable groups in decision making process - issue

---

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.

# **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.**

**Also, involve vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, pedestrians, LGBTQIA+ in development of policies and programs on Climate Change.**

# Gender-based violence and police - issue

---

Despite legal changes criminalizing domestic violence, **femicide persists in Kazakhstan due to unchanged police practices.**

CSOs report that in **89% of cases, 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.

# Gender-based violence and police - recommendation

---

Take measures:

- **to ensure police officers strictly adhere to Kazakhstan's legislation and international law when assisting victims;**
- **to train them on how to interact with survivors of gender-based violence.**
- **Develop a protocol for the ethical treatment of victims.**

# Harassment, Stalking, Rape, Consent and Hate Crime - issue

---

Kazakhstan's legislation fails to address harassment properly, as the term is not included in its legal framework.

**Sexualized harassment** is classified as “Minor hooliganism” only punishable by up to **15 days of arrest**.

Additionally, the laws rely on outdated, narrow definitions of stalking, rape, and consent.

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

# Harassment, Stalking, Rape, Consent and Hate Crime - recommendation

---

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