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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the Latter's Note-Verbales (*ref:OHCHR/DESIB/15/NV2; 02.09.2015 and ref:OHCHR/RRDD/HRESI Section/Children Rights; 04.09.2015*), has the honor to transmit herewith the information on the themes of "Protection of the family" and "Information and communication technologies and child sexual exploitation".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at 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.

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### **Activities on children's proper use of ICT and safety implemented by SCFWCA**

There are some effects of ICT that have a negative impact on the formation of the correct identity of children. Therefore, it is important to ensure child policy in shaping the electronic safety. In this regard, the Committee has conducted some activities in the direction of "Children's Internet Safety". They are as follows:

- In order to protect children from harmful ICT habits, special electronic-visual presentations were prepared regularly and directly distributed to parents through Internet.
- Online conferences on the proper use of social networks were regularly held for parents.
- State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs prepared the first structure and form of the "Children's safe use of the Internet software" and it is expected to present this software to parents for free, what is considered in the next year's budget. The main goal of this project is to conduct control and security of the usage of Internet through private computers and Internet clubs' computers by children. It is aimed at prevention of negative impacts of psychological, sexual violence and bad habits available in Internet.

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs (SCFWCA) organizes trainings for children on various topics (such as "Children's Rights", "Childhood without Violence", and "Internet Safety for Children"). Discussions during the trainings are conducted by experts, children are informed of relevant information, as well as issued a certificate of participation. Next training on "Internet Safety for Children" will be held on 30 September, 2015.

A National Forum on Azerbaijani Children is held in the country. The forums include children representing all cities and districts of Azerbaijan. Their discussions cover pressing issues for children (e.g. equal rights and opportunities for children, education, internet safety, the environment, healthy lifestyle, managing recreational time, as well as the roles and responsibilities of families and society in the development children's personalities) with the participation of experts from relevant state agencies. Moreover, children make presentations incorporating their suggestions and recommendations in regard to each of the subjects mentioned above. At the end of the forum, the children create a Coordination Council which will help them to cooperate for the next forum.

The implementation of the Article 13.1.4 (preparation of suggestion with the purpose of safe use of internet and mobile phones by the children) of the Action Plan for the implementation of National Action Plan on "Combating trafficking in human beings in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2014-2018" approved by the presidential decree dated 24 July 2014 was assigned to the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs.

A package of proposals to the national law on "Children's rights", law on "Telecommunication", Law on "Mass media" and Code of Administrative Offences has been prepared by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs. This project is on the stage of agreement between relevant organs.

The Criminal Code was amended by Article 171-1 on the circulation of children's pornography. This article provides punishment for the acts of spreading, advertising, selling, transferring, suggesting, creating condition for spreading the children's pornography.

For this purpose, training entitled "Children's Rights: Learn and Share our Rights" was conducted by the children of Coordination Council instructed by a trainer. Children representing all districts of the capital city of Baku participate in this trainings. Children in need of special care participate at the forums as well. During the training and workshops internet safety, the environment, healthy lifestyle, and managing recreational time of children, and social videos are being displayed relating to the children's issues. The training created vital opportunities for children, raising awareness of child rights and encouraging public activities, likewise ensuring participation rights, and the improvement of their social and leadership skills. Moreover, the participants of these trainings initiate the organization of similar events at their schools. Training on children's rights is going to be planned and will be continued in the future.

The State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs (SCFWCA) attaches special attention to awareness campaigns for the prevention of child neglect and closely cooperates with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in these issues. The employees of the SCFWCA participated in the "Preventive Measures on Minor's Neglect" project as experts aiming to give social rehabilitation services to children who are in socially-risky situations or neglected; the employees likewise provided them with legal, social, medical, and psychological assistance conducted by the "World of Law" Legal Advocacy Public Union, jointly with Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of People (MLSPP). The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the provisions of the Law on the

1. National law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on "Social Service" was adopted on 30 December 2011. This law considers social services for the families living in socially difficult condition.
2. Amendment was made to the law on "Social allowance" in 29 October 2013. According to this amendment, social benefits will be paid to the women having more than five children.
3. Preparation of suggestion on strengthening the rights and the social protection of women and children from vulnerable group of population is considered in the part 13.1.3 of the Action Plan for the implementation of National Action Plan on "Combating trafficking in human beings in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2014-2018" approved by the presidential decree dated 24 July 2014 to decrease the risk of being victims of the human trafficking.
4. Amendments were made to the Criminal Code and Code of Administrative Offences to increase the parental responsibility on 29 March 2015.

Since 2006 for the purpose of drawing attention of the society to family issues, preserving of family values and passing them to young generation, preparing of young people to family life, demonstrating traditions and customs of national minorities, propaganda culture of peace and tolerance, healthy life style in the families, integration of people with restricted physical abilities in society the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs permanently carries out different awareness raising projects and events.

On 15 May International Family Day the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs celebrates Family Holiday. Within the framework of the

holiday the Committee from 1 till 15 May usually holds a range of events, focused on integration of people with restricted physical abilities in society and on 15 May - the final event, Family Holiday

One of the projects successfully implemented in this direction using the abilities of cinematograph is the "Azerbaijani Family" film festival, already held in 2009-2014-th years in cooperation with Heydar Aliyev Foundation and United Nations Population Fund. During the 6 years of carrying out this festival more than 170 films were introduced to the Committee, among which were also the films of foreign countries such as Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Kazakhstan, and etc. The materials presented to the Committee and fitting to the aim and idea of the festival (short feature film, documentary film, a chain of TV programs, social wheel and photo) are evaluated by the jury consists of distinguished scientists and representatives of cultural sphere and awarded with diplomas, cups and gifts.

On 28 November of 2014 The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs in cooperation with the State Committee for Affairs with Religious Organizations held the Conference under the title "National and moral family values: traditions and modernity". Within the framework of the conference between the two Committees was signed the Action Plan for 2015-2016.

On 6 of February 2015 within the framework of "Action plan for organization cooperative work on 2015-2016" signed on February 6 of 2015 between the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations the Conference under the title "The calls of present time: Institute of family and the unities of the religious values" was held.

One of the large scaled projects is the project under the title "A Healthy family is guarantee of a healthy future" focused on preserving family values and promoting a healthy lifestyle among the young generation implemented by the Committee in cooperation with the Ministry Defense. The meetings with the participation of soldiers and officers within the project were held in the High Military School named after Heydar Aliyev and different military departments of the Ministry of Defense.

The awareness-raising project under the title "The role of modern family in development of Society and influence of internal relations between the members of family on the process of work", implemented by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs in cooperation with the Trade Unions Confederation of the Republic of Azerbaijan. During 2013-2014 years. The project was held in all regions of Azerbaijan with participation of the representatives of 26 member organizations of Confederation from all regions of Azerbaijan. Taking into consideration that the Trade Union is the organization focused on protection of labor, social and legal interests of the members, the aim of the project is to promote the increasing role of the family in the society, to protect family values, to propagandize healthy lifestyle, to provide legal awareness of population, to increase public control between the members of the Trade Unions Confederation. The large scaled project "Let's get profit from experience of the elder persons" has started in 2013. Since 2013 the meetings within the framework of the project had been held in all districts of Baku city and different regions of Azerbaijan. The project is going on.

On 16 December of 2013 the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs for the purpose of implementation of measures within the framework of provision 7.4 related to gender equality and development of the family envisaged by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on "Azerbaijan 2020: look into the future" Development Concept approved on 29 december of 2012 was held the first stage of discussions of the project of the Azerbaijan Family Strategy. The representatives of appropriate state bodies participated in the event: Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population, State Committee of Statistics, Ministry of Health, Public Health and Reforms Center under the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Trade Unions Confederation, State Committee of Religious Affairs, Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law of ANAS, "Healthy family" Medical Center", international and non governmental organizations.

On February 18 of 2014 the Committee in cooperation with the Ministry of Education launched a large-scale awareness project under the title "Family, school and society" focused on strengthening parent-teacher-pupil relations, learning the impact of family and school atmosphere on the psychological state of the child. Within the framework of the project discussions for psychologists were held in Baku district schools with the participation of experts on the following topics: protection of national moral values, promotion of family peace and tolerance culture; the factors influence on the psychological climate of the family (the influence of domestic relations and domestic violence on the children's learning and behavior, and solutions of this family problems ); the correct establishment of relations between parent-teacher-pupil, healthy lifestyle and reproductive health (blood relationship, consequences of early marriage, the importance of a medical examination before marriage, give up harmful habits)

On June of 2014 the Committee held training for the representatives of mass media under the title "Highlighting of family values in mass media" focused on the role of mass media in propaganda and highlighting of family problems. The main purpose of training was to analyze problems caused by influence of mass media on children, youth, families and the way of solving this problems.

In february of 2015 the Committee in cooperation with the Ministry of justice, National Council of Youth Organization and "Healthy family" medical Center organized the conference under the title of "Healthy family- healthy society- strong state". The main purpose of the conference was to raise awareness of young generation about amendments related with the "Law on amendments made to Family Code" dated after 17 October 2014 about the necessity of check up before marriage.

In July of 2015 the Committee started a new awareness raising project under the title "The sun shines for everyone" focused on drawing attention of society to needs of children with restricted abilities, adaptation and integration of families

involved children with restricted physical abilities into society. The first event was held on 30 July of 2015 in Baku . The project is going on.

In August of 2014 the Committee started a new awareness raising project under the title "Be for the healthy life style. Say No to early marriages focused on combating early marriages improving the health of mother and children, raising awareness of population in reproductive health. The events within the framework of the project have been held in Baku and regions of Azerbaijan. The project is going on.

On 10 July of 2015 the Committee started a new awareness raising project under the title "Our power is in our unity!" focused on propaganda of family values, healthy life style, tolerance and peace in the family relations, combating domestic violence. The events within the framework of the project have been held already in Baku city and several regions of Azerbaijan. The project is going on.

#### Published material

The booklets under the title "Family violence and child", "Healthy life style. Say No to drugs, alcohol, smoking", "Don't become a victim of human trafficking", "Take care and respect older persons", "Alphabet of family", "Psychological climate of the family", "Family and the work". "Interrelation between parents and children" were prepared and published by the Committee/ All these booklets are distributed in all awareness raising events organized by the Committee.