



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN-LAWYERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

The Regional Conference

“Empowerment and Rights of Communities: Lessons & Best Practices from the Region”

RSPN, Islamabad, April 29-30, 2013



A brief review

- The League of Women-Lawyers is non-governmental organization, established on May 28, 1999
- The mission is enforcement and advocacy of civil and social rights and freedom of citizens, promotion gender equality and elimination violence against women
- A member of the Association “NGOs for Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence Against Women” and International Association for Protection of Female Labor Migrants
- Over the last fourteen years was implemented more than 30 projects
- Has six branches over the Tajikistan





The main directions of our projects

On the grassroots level

- Free legal consultations and assistance to poor and vulnerable groups of population
- Individual advocacy for victims of violence
- Development and dissemination materials focused on protection rights of women, children and other vulnerable groups

On the decision making level

- Neutral evaluation of legislation
- Lobby for gender-sensitive legislation
- Training of lawyers, judges and law enforcement personnel



Achievements on decision making level

- The League initiated a law of protection against domestic violence in 2004 and designed the very first draft of the one
- The way between the first draft of the law and its adoption takes years and years. The draft went around various official bodies a few times. The League reminded the decision makers about the draft of law again and again by round tables with NGOs, MM and officials
- In 2005 the League became a member of association ‘NGOs for Gender Equality and Prevention Violence against Women’
- Finally the Law was adopted in December 2012



Achievements on decision making level

- The League conducted training of law enforcement officers, judges and lawyers on prevalence domestic violence since 2006
- The League did promotion statistics on violence against women to the reporting of law-enforcement agencies and courts since 2006. For reminding, the Law of protection of domestic violence and definition of domestic violence was adopted just in December 2012
- The League co-operates with the Law Council of the Republic of Tajikistan on conducting gender education for young judges



Achievements on grassroots level

- Advocacy for victims of violence at the pre-judicial and judicial stages;
- Under the semi-annual review of the clients' resorts the League defines the main issues and makhallas (local communities) for advocacy campaign;
- Conducts awareness campaign for women's and children's rights in the pilot makhallas;



Achievements on grassroots level

- Most cases of clients' resorts are family problems – divorces, alimonies, the partition of property, housing problem ect. Last decades a new widespread phenomenon like unregistered married and labor migration challenge women's and children's rights; the current legislative framework doesn't take into consideration those phenomenon, a court can't protect women from unregistered family status or abandoned wives of labor migrants. The League supports such clients by mediation way
- There is no the mediation law in Tajikistan, but recent years the League takes advantage the mediation ways for resolution to some problems without court
- The League worked out more than 85 successful cases under the mediation last year



A case

- A woman married without official registration her marital status. She had two children. She never had paid work. Her husband left her after four years. Our client had no any legal rights to receive alimony, some property or housing. The League assists to do petition the court with paternity lawsuit and then to sue for alimony for legitimated children
- Women in unregistered married never do petition the court, because they don't know about their children's rights. A lot of effort and time has been spend by the League to raise awareness of the such group of women about their rights
- Last two years more than 200 cases were resolved successfully



A case

- ▶ A woman was divorced. The court entitled her to alimony. But her ex-husband left the country to the labor migration. He didn't enforce of the court decision. The League conducted mediation between our client and her ex-parents-in-law. A father of her ex-husband promised to provide alimony to ex-doughter-in-law himself while his son was abroad. The court is helpless in the matter
- ▶ The similar cases are widespread phenomena in modern Tajikistan. For your information, the population of Tajikistan is 8 million and labor migrants are more than one million



A case

- ▶ A woman was pregnant, but was dismissed from her job. The League conducted mediation between the woman and her employer. As a result of the mediation the employer reinstated our client in a job, and liquidated payment for maternity and early child care leave. The League resolved the problem out of the court
- ▶ The employer must be a subject to fine if our client does petition the court. But both sides got satisfaction of the resolution under the mediation way



Thank you for attention!

