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“ЗЎРАВОНЛИККА ҚАРШИ 16 КУНЛИК ФАОЛЛИК” КАМПАНИЯСИ  
“ГЕНДЕР ТЕНГЛИГИНИ ТАЪМИНЛАШДА ХАЛҚАРО ҲАМКОРЛИК”

“INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY  
UNDER THE CAMPAIGN “16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE”

РОДНОЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО В ВОПРОСАХ ПРОДВИЖЕНИЯ  
В РАМКАХ КАМПАНИИ “16 ДНЕЙ АКТИВИЗМА ПРОТИВ ГЕНДЕРНОГО НАСИЛИЯ”



# LEGAL REFORM PROGRAM FACT SHEET

The USAID Legal Reform Program supports Uzbekistan’s efforts to ensure further development of rule of law principles, build the capacity of legal professionals and training institutions, enhance citizens’ access to justice, improve the legal operating environment for civil society, promote gender equality, and create a healthier investment climate. USAID partners with the Ministry of Justice, Chamber of Advocates, Academy of the General Prosecutor’s Office, Uzbekistan’s Higher Education Institutions, and key actors in civil society to meet these objectives.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Support for rule of law development in Uzbekistan
- Development of the legal profession
- Development of the legal enabling environment for civil society and non-governmental organizations

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### RULE OF LAW DEVELOPMENT

- The Legal Reform Program provided expert input to prepare a draft Model Investment Agreement for the Ministry of Justice. This agreement was used by the Government of Uzbekistan to negotiate 22 investment agreements that leveraged approximately \$2 billion in investments from the U.S., Canada, Germany, France, Turkey, UAE, and other countries.
- The program supported the development of recommendations to incorporate international best practices into several legislative acts, including on civil legislation, competition, intellectual property, licensing and permits, international arbitration, the establishment of an Ombudsman for children, and gender equality.

- **11,000** specialists of the Ministry of Support of Mahalla and Family, government officials, journalists, and representatives of NGOs trained on the implementation of gender legislation. In addition, over 200 members of Parliament improved their knowledge of gender approaches to law-making and budgeting.
- In May 2021, the Senate adopted a Gender Strategy of Uzbekistan, which consists of recommendations, including those proposed by LRP, for the effective implementation of gender legislation.
- **3,000** copies of the handbook “Gender Equality: from Idea to Law” which offers a historical and sociological overview of gender equality issues and the development of gender legislation in the country developed, printed, and donated to national partners in Uzbek and Russian.
- The first research on the effectiveness of existing legal measures to prevent gender-based violence and on the judicial response to the cases of gender-based violence was conducted.
- LRP supported the MOJ in conducting an international conference that analyzed the legal aspects of the implementation of New Uzbekistan’s National Strategy for 2022-2026.

### **LEGAL EDUCATION**

- More than **4,000** legal professionals improved their skills and knowledge of international best practices in the following legal subjects through study visits and training: trial skills, judicial ethics, enforcement of arbitration decisions and foreign court judgments, provision of free legal services, mediation, legislative drafting, and intellectual property rights.
- **Forty** new courses, including Legal English, Common Law, Legal Research, Legal Writing and Research, International Investment and International Private Law, and others, have been included in the permanent curriculum of leading legal education institutions such as the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, the Tashkent State University of Law, and the Academy of the General Prosecutor’s Office. These courses will enhance law graduates’ skill sets in line with international practices.
- The program supported capacity building for the Ombudsman’s Office and its regional representatives to ensure access to justice across the country and provided equipment that has already enabled over **600** citizens to apply online for legal assistance.
- LRP supported the creation of sustainable distance learning programs and remote access to legal aid by providing equipment for TSUL’s Center for Professional Training of Lawyers, 14 Technical Law Schools under TSUL, the Ombudsman’s office, the Chamber of Advocate’s offices in 11 regions and Nukus, the Project Management Office at the GPO Academy, and the central office of NGO Madad.
- The program presented almost **450** legal textbooks from the USA into libraries of Law Schools that enable Uzbek students to get international knowledge from sources.

### **ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY**

- The program facilitated the signing of a trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation among the Ombudsman, the Chamber of Advocates, and national NGOs to establish a sustainable system of free legal aid for citizens with a focus on vulnerable populations.
- Almost **400,000** citizens benefited from the program-supported free legal website advice.uz, which hosts information on basic legal issues covering all areas of public life. Over **4,000** entrepreneurs received free legal advice from online consultants through the interactive online portal *Advice for Business*.
- Through the program, NGOs provided free legal advice to over **300,000** citizens and increased the awareness of over **140,000** citizens about their rights and opportunities to access justice.

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