

Information on the report to be prepared by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on children's rights at the High-Level Political Forum in 2021

1. The "Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Children for 2020-2030" was approved by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated July 2, 2020. The draft "Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Children for 2020-2030" in 2020-2025 was prepared, approved by the agencies and submitted to the government.

In connection with the proclamation of 2020 as the "Year of Volunteers" by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 30, 2019, the Committee established the Assembly of Children's Ambassadors. The aim is to develop children's ability to express themselves independently, increase social activity, improve leadership qualities, ensure children's right to participate, as well as the formation of a culture of governance; guiding children in the spirit of active citizenship and the rule of law; In case of violation of the rights of the child or the circumstances that may lead to it, to raise the relevant issues before the relevant institution and take measures to address these problems.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs (SCFWCA) together with members of the Assembly of Children's Ambassadors held online conferences with different audiences on 3 different topics:

- An online video conference was held on the occasion of June 1 - International Children's Day with the participation of the Chairperson of the SCFWCA and the members of the "Assembly of Children's Ambassadors". The main purpose was to note the importance of promoting modern technologies and innovations in the field of education in our country, the development of children's cultural and aesthetic tastes, general outlook, parental responsibility, psychological state of children during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as effective organization of leisure time for children with disabilities.
- Members of the Assembly of Children's Ambassadors and children from 7 different regions of Azerbaijan took part at the online conference to discuss the main threat to human life posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the effective organization of leisure time during quarantine. Each of the children exchanged views on interesting projects implemented in the field of children's rights, healthy lifestyle, Internet security, environmental protection and their activities in this area.
- Together with the Deputy Chairperson of the SCFWCA, the Deputy Minister of Education and members of the Assembly of Children's of Ambassadors, an online conference was held on the topic "Modern education, technology and quality. Children join the discussion". The conference discussed the implementation of new projects in education during the pandemic, the rules of organization of the next school year, increasing students' access to the Internet, especially access

to online education for the children with disabilities, study abroad opportunities during the pandemic, promotion of vocational education.

On November 20, 2020, on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) an international online conference will be held with the support of the SCFWCA and with the participation of children representing various foreign countries. The aim of the conference is to raise children's awareness of their rights, develop their leadership and management skills, as well as provide them with the opportunity to be represented in conveying the initiatives of their peers. During the video conference, proposals will be discussed on the establishment an "International Children's Platform".

Protection from violence:

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs (SCFWCA) sent an appeal to the Operational Headquarters under the Cabinet of Ministers on issues related to the Jovid-19 pandemic, as well as in response to calls from the UN Secretary General to governments. The appeal identified the elimination of violence against women and children as one of the main goals of the Sustainable Development Goals. Ensuring the sustainable protection of women and children in both ordinary and crisis situations is becoming one of the most important issues today.

Thus, based on the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Prevention of Domestic Violence", strengthening the activities of relevant government agencies to prevent domestic violence and ensure the safety of victims of domestic violence, prompt investigation of appeals and taking preventive measures by the law enforcement agencies and local executive authorities, provide information on domestic violence and, provision of operative and urgent assistance to victims of domestic violence by the relevant executive authorities are the main priorities during the pandemic.

- On January 9, 2020, the SCFWCA held another event with the participation of children in order to protect children from violence in society, to increase their knowledge and protection of their rights. Emphasizing the importance of the role of parents and adults in the safety of children, the importance of being more active in protecting their own rights of children, they were advised to be active in school and public life in order to raise awareness in this area, as well.
- On June, 2020, the SCFWCA prepared a video on "Early marriage and its consequences" for both children and parents and conducted an e-training. The training provided detailed information on marriages concluded in accordance with the law, the concept of early marriage and its negative consequences.
- In September 2020, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs conducted a training on children's rights for employees of the State Migration Service and its regional offices. The participants were informed about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child addressed to the

Government of Azerbaijan. The discussions were held on the issues of ensuring the rights of refugees, migrants and unaccompanied children reflected in the Convention, registration of their births, providing equal access to education and health services, and the organization of work in shelters.

2. In connection with the new coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a number of measures have been taken by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs (SCFWCA) in accordance with the rules of the special quarantine regime announced in the country:

- Within the project implemented by the SCFWCA, UNICEF Azerbaijan and Regional Development Public Union several web seminars were organized in order to provide recommendations for volunteers on how to protect their physical and mental health from coronavirus, the importance of social distance, psychological support for parents and children during quarantine, recommendations for teachers to provide digital support / assistance to children facing difficulties during the pandemic, and as well as to share various information materials about Internet sources and train citizens on the rules of distributing them within the country.

In addition, a special digital communication platform has been created to provide continuous support to people over 65 living alone, low-income families and other vulnerable families during the quarantine period. Through this platform, volunteers are in constant contact with this group of people and provide them with various social services.

- The SCFWCA, also conducted a live training on "How to instruct children during a pandemic" on Public TV. Parents were counseled on parental responsibilities and told about the importance of taking children's age into account when communicating this information to them and, to do it accordingly, in a language they could understand.

At the same time, an online meeting was held on the Committee's official Facebook page on "Parental Care - Children's Safety". Participants called on parents to always be responsible and caring for their children, considering the dangers that may occur as a result of parental negligence and irresponsibility.

- The SCFWCA on its official Facebook page hosted a live online discussion for parents on "Psychological rehabilitation of children with disabilities during quarantine." During the training, various aspects related to the rehabilitation and social adaptation of children with disabilities were discussed for parents, and a presentation on "Psychological rehabilitation of children with disabilities during quarantine" was made by a psychologist.

- The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and the Baku Metropolitan agreed to place e-posters at Baku Metro stations demonstrating informational materials and social videos on billboards and monitors on "Keeping distance is a guarantee of our unity!", "Parental care - the safety of children", "Let's protect children from information harmful to their health and development!", "Marriage under 18 - Child marriage!", for promoting a healthy

lifestyle, preventing bad habits, eliminating environmental, domestic and nutritional problems affecting children's health, strengthening parental responsibility in this regard, raising awareness of children, as well as raising awareness of the population, especially adolescents about the negative consequences of early marriage.

Ensuring child participation:

- An online training was held for children on the topic "Mastering life skills!". The main goal is for children to acquire knowledge and skills in accordance with the requirements of modern times, to develop these skills and inculcate ways to use them effectively. In this regard, the important role of preparing a CV for children, joining volunteer activities in their future activities, increasing their social activity was noted at the training.

In addition, an online training on the Committee's official Facebook page was organized by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, jointly with BP's regional vice president for Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey and a representative of ADA University on "Successful Career Choices for Children and Youth". On the training video, the majority of viewers were 13-17, 18-24 and 35-44 years old people groups. The purpose of the training was to discuss the issues to be considered during the profession selection process and provide useful advice on the topic, emphasizing the importance of creating opportunities for children and young people to freely choose any profession and specialty for their future.

- The SCFWCA conducted an online training on "Effective organization of children's leisure time" during quarantine at home. Discussions were held on the effective and useful time arrangement, children's productive activities, and the selection and acquisition of fiction from online resources for reading, in accordance with their age characteristics. At the same time, the Committee organized a webinar for both children and parents on "Children's Internet safety and ways to ensure it". Participants were informed about the emergence of the Internet, the rules of its proper use, the existing Internet channels in the country, the benefits and harms of the Internet, the Internet addiction of young children, the dangers of the virtual world, special programs that block antivirus and viruses.

Gross violation of children's rights:

Since 27 September, 12 children were killed and 50 were injured as a result intensive shelling residential settlements, civilian facilities, government buildings, schools and hospitals in Azerbaijan by the armed forces of Armenia.

Armenia violated all the norms of United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Armed Conflicts and Emergencies, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Geneva Conventions on the the Rehabilitation of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces, Protection of Civilian Persons in War, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocol on the Participation of Children in Armed Conflict, and targeted the civilians, minors and women not only during the war, but also during the ceasefire.