STATEMENT

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69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Parallel Event

"An Inclusive Student-Engaged Learning Model to Empower Mountain Women and Girls" March 10, 2025

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank our friends at Utah Valley University for allowing me to speak during today's event through a student-engaged learning model. This model stimulates students to work together as one team in resolving certain problems when the teacher assists them as a mentor. Since 2023, it involves our two universities in advocating for mountain women during the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Today I would like to discuss here one of the most pressing and painful social problems – the problem of domestic violence in mountain countries and in particular in Kyrgyzstan.

According to the National Statistical Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic, the number of registered cases of domestic violence in our country increased by 22.1% compared to last year. So, in 2024, about 8956 cases of domestic violence were recorded in 7 months. This data indicates that the problem is becoming more acute.

The latest UN report states that Kyrgyzstan occupies one of the leading places in Central Asia in terms of the number of cases of domestic violence.

Local non-governmental organizations, such as "Janyryk" and "Kylym Shamy", are engaged in research and collection of statistics on domestic violence. Their reports show that many cases remain hidden from the authorities, as victims are afraid to seek help. This creates additional difficulties in combating this problem.

A recent sociological survey among the population showed that the majority of people are aware of the seriousness of the problem of domestic violence, but only a small part is ready to speak openly about it. This fact indicates the need for a broad information campaign aimed at raising public awareness.

The judicial authorities provide data on the number of cases related to domestic violence and on the penalties applied to violators. As practice shows, not all cases reach the court, and many cases go unpunished. This casts doubt on the effectiveness of existing legal mechanisms.

Medical institutions record a significant number of appeals for help from victims of domestic violence. Often these appeals are associated with severe physical injuries, mental disorders and even suicide attempts. These statistics clearly demonstrate the horrible impact of violence on the health and well-being of victims.

Therefore, the current laws of Kyrgyzstan in this field need serious improvement. Many experts point to the need to introduce harsher penalties for perpetrators and create specialized support services for victims of violence.

We can gain valuable ideas for improving the situation in our society, for example, in the European Union. Some EU countries have created special shelters for women and children who have been subjected to violence, where they can receive not only temporary shelter, but also psychological assistance. An important solution can be provided through education and such student-engaged learning models are one of the examples.

Thank you for your attention.