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# Complex Systems Approach to Preventing Violence Against Women: International Experience

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**Abstract:** This article examines the foreign experience of supporting women who have suffered pressure and violence, protecting their rights and interests, and implementing social rehabilitation.

**Keywords:** harassment, violence, family violence, shelter, legislation, women, protection order, psychological support, migrant women.

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One of the urgent social problems recognized on a global scale today is harassment and violence against women around the world. Humanity has always consisted of representatives of two sexes, the need to treat each other with respect in their mutual relations, to be able to accept each other as full-fledged human beings with equal rights has become one of the most important requirements of the modern world. Unfortunately, in most cases, women become victims of various forms of violence committed by men. According to the UN, approximately 736 million women worldwide (almost one in three women) have been victims of violence in one form or another at least once in their lifetime. The saddest thing is that most of the violence against women is committed by their spouses (including ex-husbands), sexual partners [1]. Of course, these numbers do not fully reveal the importance of the problem. First, less than 40 percent of women who have been subjected to violence usually seek help [2]. So, in practice, such cases can happen 3-4 times more often. Secondly, the state of violence has a negative impact on the development process both directly and indirectly, and it is not possible to express its economic damages in exact numbers. Thirdly, every violence is a severe social and psychological blow for a woman and her children. Many negative consequences, such as depression, suicide, have a negative impact on social development.

Today, special attention is paid to the protection of the rights of women who have been subjected to oppression and violence all over the world, and to support them in every way. Laws on domestic violence have been adopted in 155 countries of the world. For example, on September 2, 2019, the law "On protection of women from harassment and violence" was adopted in Uzbekistan, which states that "harassment and violence against women in society to create an environment of intolerance, to ensure that women's rights, freedoms and legal interests are protected from oppression and violence, to raise legal consciousness and legal culture in society, to strengthen legitimacy [3]" in the field of protection of women from oppression and violence determined as one of the main directions of state policy.

Each country has its own approach to working with women who are subjected to oppression and violence. In general, in most studied countries, the activities of state and non-state bodies operating in this direction are summarized and coordinated by a certain state

organization. For example, in Singapore, the Ministry of Social and Family Development implements public policies related to family and women's issues, in particular, reducing harassment and violence, protecting and rehabilitating victims of violence. Or the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity in Argentina, the Bureau of Gender Equality in Japan, and the Ministry of Women, Gender Equality and Youth Affairs in Canada summarize the activities in this direction.

In Singapore, 2022 was called the "Year of Singapore Families", and the National Program "A Singapore Made For Families 2025" (A Singapore Made For Families 2025) until 2025 was adopted[11]. According to this National Program, the direction "Ensuring the safety of families" is defined. A national hotline against violence and sexual harassment has been established - 1800-777-0000. In 2023, it is set to strengthen the system of legal protection against family violence, to improve the system of accountability and rehabilitation for abusers. 48 family service centers in different directions across the country, 2 special centers for family violence (TRANS SAFE center and Care Corner Project Start) have been improved.

In Switzerland, shelter centers are called frauenhaus. In 2018, a total of 1,771 cases of domestic violence were reported by women to the existing 19 women's shelters, and 487 of them were rejected due to lack of space or staff. Another 319 people were not admitted to shelters for other reasons. Almost half of all applications were rejected, 41 percent of these women were able to find a place in other crisis centers. The average length of stay of 965 women in 19 shelters was 37 days [12].

Oppression and violence against women is one of the main social problems for Argentina. In January-June 2022, a total of 63,202 applications were received by the 144 line (Línea 144) service through three means (telephone, WhatsApp and e-mail), 91% of which were committed within the framework of family relationships. Compared to the corresponding period of 2021, the number of cases of violence increased by 11 thousand 117. Psychological violence was committed in 94 percent of cases, physical in 64 percent, economic in 41 percent, sexual violence in 14 percent, and weapons or sharp instruments were used in 13 percent of cases. In 97 percent of cases of violence, the victims are women, and in 87 cases, the perpetrators are men[13].

In Buenos Aires, the capital of the country, an interactive map of urban violence has been developed, which reflects the cases of harassment and violence committed in 2021. Information such as the results of the "administrative unit"), which type of violence is more often committed in which commune, the analysis of violence by months, which country's citizens were committed against, and what measures were taken.

Canada also has problems with protecting women and their children who are victims of harassment and violence. For example, 80 percent of domestic violence victims who apply to women's shelters are turned away. According to the results of studies in November 2019, an average of 620 women and their children who faced harassment and violence in one day were rejected. This means that almost 19,000 women a month cannot be accommodated in the centers. The main reason for this is the lack of space in these shelters.

In Singapore, a cooperation system of state and non-state organizations has been established to support and rehabilitate victims of oppression and violence. Family courts, family service centers, police, hospitals, educational institutions, and social service agencies work together to support women who have experienced violence.

As part of the Ministry of Social and Family Development, Adult Protective Service - APS has been introduced [18], this structure operates in two directions:

1) supervises organizations that help persons in need of social protection and who have experienced family violence, coordinates the referral of such persons to appropriate services, and ensures their safety;

2) supervises the joint activities of strategic partner organizations for the protection of victims of violence - the police, hospitals, social service agencies, family courts, and develops a general strategy.

APS also improves the professional skills of professionals working with people who are victims of harassment and violence.

Argentina has adopted a National Action Plan against Gender-Based Violence for 2022-2024, which includes 100 short, medium and long-term actions by 20 ministries and 5 national agencies. The national action plan stipulates cooperation between ministries, federal and municipal authorities. As part of the action plan, 6 months of minimum wage benefits for women victims of violence, 47 times to 70 times the minimum wage for legal entities and 23 times the minimum wage for individuals to support women victims of gender violence allocation of subsidies is set [19]. In Argentina, the cooperation system for preventing violence against women and supporting women is coordinated by the National Council of Women and Girls, and this Council and the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity are the competent bodies. The cooperation system also includes the National Council for Juvenile and Family Affairs (coordinates public and private services for women who are victims of oppression and violence), the Court, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Justice (maintains the register of free legal aid centers), Ministry of Public Education, Health Institutions (provides free first aid), Observatory of Violence Against Women (researches the causes of violence, scientifically analyzes the problem), non-governmental non-profit organizations, specialized police corps ( works with crimes related to women and committed against women), municipal authorities, lawyers, trade unions.

In Canada, the main focus of support for women who are victims of violence is to restore their health and mental state. In general, federal bodies such as the Ministry of Health, the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, provincial and regional governments, ministries, NGOs and centers, charitable organizations, educational institutions, bar and other state and non-state organizations are operating.

Section 7, articles 64-67 of the "Women's Charter" adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Singapore on September 15, 1961 are entitled "Protection of the Family". The concept of family violence is explained in the charter. Article 65 of the Charter specifies the procedure for issuing a protection warrant by the court in case of violence. If necessary, a system has been developed for the court to issue a short-term (28 days) protection warrant within one day (Article 66). According to the Singapore Penal Code adopted in 1871, abortion of a woman (Article 312), abduction of a woman for marriage or sexual satisfaction (Article 366), bringing women into the country for prostitution (Article 373A) Criminal liability is established for such cases of violence.

Argentina has created a strong normative legal system to protect women from violence. In particular, by the National Congress of Argentina on December 28, 1994 No. 24,417 "On protection against domestic violence" and on March 11, 2009 No. 26,485 "On comprehensive

protection of women" on" have been adopted. The concepts of "domestic violence" and "violence against women" are included in Argentine legislation.

Based on the study of the international experience of supporting women who have suffered oppression and violence, the following can be suggested:

- Introduction of the concept of "family violence" into the national legislation. Classification of family violence as a separate crime in criminal law;

- Strengthening responsibility for crimes related to oppression and violence against women. For example, in Singapore, defamation is punishable by up to 20 years in prison. In our country, the responsibility in this case is determined by deprivation of liberty from three to seven years (Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Article 118, Paragraph 2);

- To protect women who have been subjected to oppression and violence, to organize their rehabilitation, in addition to state rehabilitation centers, non-governmental non-commercial crisis centers and temporary shelters. On the one hand, this leads to an increase in the number of centers and places in them, on the other hand, due to competition, the professionalism of specialists in the field increases;

- Location of women's rehabilitation centers, ensuring anonymity of information about women sheltered there; - Conducting social actions and promotional activities to support the activities of rehabilitation centers;

- Creating an interactive map of harassment and violence. At the initial stage, it will be formed as a pilot project for a certain administrative unit (for example, the city of Tashkent), ensuring automatic updating of map data;

- Creation of a single register of addresses and phone numbers of state and non-state organizations (hospitals, internal affairs bodies, rehabilitation centers, prosecutor's office, courts, NGOs, etc.), to which women can apply in cases of harassment and violence, as well as forms of assistance, posting as public information on the Internet;

- Organization of the website of the centers for the rehabilitation and adjustment of women, creation of an opportunity for the online application of abused women and their online referral to relevant state agencies and services.

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