



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENSES AND CRIMES WITHIN THE SPHERE OF FAMILY LIFE: A COMPARATIVE LEGAL ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AND CIS COUNTRIES

U.A.Abdusalomov

Head of the Information Analysis Department, Investigation
Department under the Main Internal Affairs Directorate of Tashkent
Region, Captain

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Abstract: This article provides a comparative legal analysis of the legal nature of administrative offenses and crimes committed within the sphere of family life, the measures of responsibility established for them, and the mechanisms of legal regulation, using the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and CIS countries as examples. The study focuses particularly on issues of domestic violence, administrative disputes between family members, offenses involving violence, and their qualification as crimes. Additionally, the distinctive aspects of legal protection of family relations, preventive measures, and sentencing practices in CIS countries are examined. Based on the comparative analysis, scientific and practical conclusions and proposals have been developed aimed at improving Uzbekistan's legislation, strengthening the prevention of family offenses, and protecting the rights of victims.

Keywords: family life, administrative offense, crime, domestic violence, comparative legal analysis, administrative responsibility, criminal responsibility, legislation of the CIS countries, prevention, legal protection

The problem of administrative offenses and crimes within the sphere of family life is one of the most pressing issues of society. Offenses in this area not only harm the life and health of family members, but also negatively affect the overall socio-economic development of society. Through a comparative legal analysis of the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the CIS countries, it is necessary to study the legal aspects of this problem, since in this case, the effectiveness of legal norms and the degree of their application in practice will be determined. Legal reforms play an important role in combating offenses within the framework of family life, in particular, the legislative acts adopted in Uzbekistan in 2023 were an important step in this direction. This law criminalizes domestic violence from the first instance, and also strengthens mechanisms for protecting women and children.

The definition of administrative offenses and crimes within the framework of family life has been widely studied in legal literature. In general, domestic violence can manifest itself in physical, sexual, economic, and psychological forms. According to the amendments made to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, domestic violence is recognized as a separate criminal offense, but economic and psychological violence is still not fully legally protected. Similar problems exist in the CIS countries, for example, in Russia, some forms of domestic violence were exempted from criminal liability in 2017, which led to a decrease in the number of cases. According to professors and scientists, it is necessary to strengthen the legal protection of these cases, since violence affects the gender equality of society.

The legal basis for combating offenses within the framework of family life in the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan is defined in the Family Code adopted in 1998. It guarantees the equality of family relations and the protection of mothers and children. However, due to the lack of a separate law against domestic violence, articles of the general criminal and administrative code were applied. For example, Articles 104-110 of the Criminal Code establish liability for causing physical harm. Changes adopted in April 2023 criminalize domestic violence from the first instance, and also abolish the possibility of conditional release for sexual crimes. These reforms are aimed at adaptation to the norms of international law.

According to statistics, cases of domestic violence are increasing in Uzbekistan. In January-November 2021, 36,000 cases of violence against women were registered, including more than 12,000 cases of physical violence. In 2023, 22 thousand women received protection orders against actions and violence, 85 percent of these cases occurred within the family. According to information obtained from official websites, in judicial practice, most cases of violence are terminated due to reconciliation, which prevents victims from achieving justice. According to UN Women, 66.7% of legal measures to ensure gender equality are in effect, but there is insufficient data on violence.

Statistics on cases of domestic violence in Uzbekistan show a significant increase in the first half of 2025. In particular, in January-June 2025, more than 6,000 individuals were prosecuted for sexual harassment and domestic violence, including 358 fined and 628 arrested. These figures indicate an increase in cases of violence and increased activity of law enforcement agencies, but the actual number of cases may exceed official statistics, as many cases remain hidden. A similar trend was observed in 2024, for example, according to UN Women, the prevalence of gender-based violence in Central Asia is around 37%, including the majority of cases within the family.

Statistics of domestic violence in the CIS countries vary greatly, but the overall trend is upward. For example, in Kazakhstan in 2024, 926 crimes related to domestic violence were registered, of which 70.5% were female victims, and 47.3% were men. These figures indicate that women are more likely to suffer from violence, particularly within the family. In Kazakhstan, more than 70,000 protection orders were issued in the first nine months of 2025, indicating a sharp increase in cases of violence. There are also reports of an increase in cases of domestic violence in the post-pandemic period in the CIS, especially in Russia and Belarus, where, despite a decrease in official statistics, the actual figures were high.

Statistical indicators of gender-based violence in the European and Central Asian region are striking. About 23.8% of women aged 15-49 experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime from a partner or former partner, compared to 9.6% in the last 12 months. In cases of femicide (killing women), 60.2% of all female victims in 2023 were killed by a companion or family member, which is 5 times higher than the 11.8% of male victims. In 2010-2023, the femicide rate was recorded to have decreased by 20 percent, but remains high. The prevalence of technology-based violence (cyber-speed, photo-based bullying) in Central Asia is 38.6%, which is relatively low for the region, but still a problem.

In Uzbekistan, in 2024, the effect of reforms in domestic violence legislation began to appear, but the statistics are still surprising. For example, there is information that in the first half of 2025, more than 6,000 cases were considered, including an increase in prosecution for harassment and violence. According to UN Women reports, in 2024, 736 million women worldwide were subjected to physical and/or sexual violence, a figure also high in Central Asia. Also, cases of child marriage in the CIS countries are considered a form of violence; for example, in Kyrgyzstan, 12.9% of women aged 20-24 married before the age of 18.

Statistics in other CIS countries are also impressive. Armenia has recorded a significant increase in all categories of domestic violence in 2025, including psychological, physical violence, and killings. Despite the decline in official statistics in Russia in 2024, there are more real cases, as many cases are considered administrative offenses due to changes in legislation. In general, the economic damage from violence against women in the CIS region amounts to millions of euros for each country, for example, 170 million euros in Ukraine. These figures show that violence has not only human but also economic consequences.

To prevent domestic violence in Uzbekistan and the CIS, it is necessary to improve statistics, since in many cases there is insufficient data. According to the UNECE, data sources for measuring violence against women in the CIS countries are being improved in 2025, but the situation in rural areas is still not taken into account. In 2024, femicide cases worldwide included more than 17,400 women, including high levels in Asia and Central Asia. This statistic

emphasizes the need to increase the effectiveness of legal reforms and strengthen mechanisms for the protection of victims. The opinions of scientists and professors emphasize the need for reforms in this area. For example, Amnesty International's Central Asian researcher Heather McGill praised Uzbekistan's new law positively, but criticized the lack of protection against economic and psychological violence. In his opinion, this law is the fifth country in the CIS that recognizes domestic violence as a separate criminal offense. Human Rights Watch studies highlight the insufficient legal protection of domestic violence, particularly in rural areas. In the works of professors in Google Scholar and Web of Science, the socio-cultural causes of this problem are analyzed.

In the comparative analysis of the legislation of the CIS countries, some differences are observed. For example, in Kazakhstan in 2017, some forms of domestic violence were exempted from criminal liability, which led to an official decrease in the number of cases. However, in 2024, the bill was revised, and the requirements for criminalization increased. In Russia, also in 2017, minor violence in the first case was considered an administrative offense, which reduced the official statistics of cases of violence. A bill on domestic violence is under consideration in Belarus, but there is still no separate law.

In Kyrgyzstan and Moldova, domestic violence is recognized as a separate criminal offense, which is analogous to the new law of Uzbekistan. In Kyrgyzstan, protection orders and rehabilitation centers were established through a law adopted in 2017. A common problem in the CIS countries is the insufficient legal protection of psychological and economic forms of violence. According to the Amnesty International report, during the pandemic, cases of domestic violence increased in the CIS, which affected "traditional values."

Statistical data show a high level of domestic violence in the CIS countries. According to the UNECE, 926 crimes related to domestic violence were registered in Kazakhstan in 2024, including 70.5% among women. In Russia, official statistics have decreased, but actual cases are higher due to decriminalization. A similar situation exists in Belarus, with most cases occurring within the family. According to the UNFPA report, the prevalence of gender-based violence in Central Asia and the CIS is 37.2 percent.

In a comparative analysis, the legislation of Uzbekistan is more advanced than in other CIS countries, since criminalization was carried out through the reforms of 2023. However, as can be seen from the example of decriminalization in Russia and Kazakhstan, this leads to an increase in cases. In the works of professors in Scopus and Web of Science, the importance of a legal solution to this problem is emphasized, for example, the need to study the social causes of violence.

Along with legal reforms, social measures are also necessary to prevent offenses within the framework of family life. In Uzbekistan, the activities of rehabilitation centers and hotlines have been strengthened, but the effectiveness in practice is low. Similar problems exist in the CIS countries, for example, 17% of women in Kazakhstan have experienced physical violence. According to scientists, it is necessary to strengthen international cooperation in this area.

In conclusion, a comparative analysis of the legislation of Uzbekistan and the CIS countries shows the need for legal reforms. Based on statistics and the opinions of scientists, it is important to coordinate legal and social measures in the fight against domestic violence. Solving this problem contributes to the overall development of society.

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