



"Women's resource center"



"Democracy Today"

*Association for  
the Protection of  
Women's Rights  
after D. Aliyeva*



"YUVA Humanitarian Center"

## INFORMATION BULLETIN

**PROLOGUE**

**RESOLUTION 1325**

**RESOLUTION 1325 IN ARMENIA**

**MY GREAT IMPRESSION OF  
REGIONAL WORKSHOP**

**A FRESH APPROACH TO A  
WOMAN-LEADER**

**ARMED CONFLICTS AND WOMEN**

**WE WOMEN DO NOT WANT WAR**

**ONE CAN NEVER IMAGINE PROGRESS IN THE  
WORLD WITHOUT LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN**

**GENDER ISSUES IN ARMENIAN SOCIETY**

**VIOLENCE AS A RESULT OF NATIONAL  
TRADITIONS**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**



Kvinna till Kvinna

Yerevan 2013

## PROLOGUE

For many centuries peace was considered to be one of the most important conditions for the development of the nations and adoption of stable values. People have been engaged in war for peace.

Perhaps it is not a surprise that both in national and international levels human rights are efficiently protected, but, still, only on the paper. Hence, what kind of picture do we have in our actual life?

There are many vulnerable groups, whose voices and problems are not heard. Unfortunately, many women worldwide are one and constant part of these groups. Women's voices are ignored especially during armed conflicts. In spite of the fact, that women are greatly affected by the war, still, women are unable to participate equally in decision-making and conflict reconciliation processes along with men. The ongoing conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh is the best example of aforementioned. Both Armenian and Azerbaijani women are underrepresented in negotiations and reconstruction processes.

There are many organizations, which stand for women's human rights. They take many essential steps in order to insure women's participation in negotiations and peace building processes. In frames of "European Partnership for Nagorno-Karabakh" project on 5th April 2013, took place the first meeting of this year. There were 2 parties; Armenians and Azerbaijanis. It was 3 day seminar in Tbilisi, Georgia. The most highlighted topics of the seminar referred to the empowerment of women and the role, which they have in the society. This bulletin illustrates participants' impressions. Here you can also find many articles referred to the roles of women, which they have in the society, and the images of a strong woman.

## RESOLUTION 1325

*"...The work of educating the world to peace is the woman's job..."*

**Jeanette Rankin, (1880-1973) First woman to enter U.S. House of Representative in 1917. Lost her seat in Congress when she voted against entry in WWI.**

UNSCR 1325 is a landmark international legal framework that addresses not only the inordinate impact of war on women, but also the pivotal role women should and do play in conflict management, conflict resolution and sustainable peace.

UN SC Resolution 1325 was adopted on 31 October 2000. The needs and reasons for this document were many, we will mention several which are especially important for us.

Particularly:

Concern, that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and increasingly are targeted by combatants and armed elements, and recognizing the consequent impact this has on durable peace and reconciliation .

The need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of woman and girls during and after conflicts .

Recognition, that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security .

Need to consolidate data on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls .

The 18 articles of resolution are presented in tree directions.

Participation:

Urges Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict .

Further urges the Secretary-General to seek to expand the role and contribution of women in United Nations field-based operations, and especially among military observers, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian personnel.

Protection:

Calls on all parties to armed conflict to take



special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict.

Prevention:

Urges Member States to increase their voluntary financial, technical and logistical support for gender-sensitive training efforts, including those undertaken by relevant funds and programs, inter alia, the United Nations Fund for Women and United Nations Children's Fund, and by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant bodies.

Calls on all actors involved, when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to adopt a gender perspective, including, inter alia: Measures that ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary .

Invites the Secretary-General to carry out a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution, and further invites him to submit a report to the Security Council on the results of this study and to make this available to all Member States of the United Nations.

Thus the key Provisions of SCR 1325:

- Increased participation and representation of women at all levels of decision-making.
- Attention to specific protection needs of women and girls in conflict.
- Gender perspective in post-conflict processes.
- Gender perspective in UN programming, reporting and in SC missions.
- Gender perspective & training in UN peace support operations.

Though increasing of women's participation seems the most important, and advocacy of this resolution is mainly directed to it (i. a. in Civil Society saying Resolution 1325 people firstly mean rising women's representation in negotiating process and their count in state services ), the prevention and the protection are also very important, and this policy attempts to protect women during the conflicts and prevent all possible types of violence toward them. Therefore being represented equally means to have more chance to rise the voices and reduce the risks.

## RESOLUTION 1325 IN ARMENIA

*On the way to execute the SCR 1325's recalls 40 Member States has developed and adopted National Action Plans. Apart from this every year Member States monitor Resolution 1325's indicators and report their context.*

*As UN Member State Armenia automatically adopted Resolution 1325. However, there is a big lack in performing this Resolution in Armenia, the awareness and understanding is still low even among CSO's. Armenia never present monitoring to UN on resolution 1325 and still seems far from NAP. There are difficulties on performing the resolution as there few reliable researches on 1325.*

*Counting this problems our international colleagues, particularly Operation 1325 initiated a workshop in Yerevan, on April 2013. Training was headlined Women Count: Training on Civil Society Monitoring and Evaluation of UNSCR 1325. The main objectives were:*

- *Raiseing awareness and understanding of how to monitor the implementation of UNSCR 1325 among civil society organizations in Armenia.*
- *Enhanceing the capacity of CSO's in Armenia in advocating for the effective implementation of UNSCR 1325 – including their analysis of the applicability of the resolution and the appropriate advocacy strategy given the current socio-political, economic and cultural realities.*
- *Facilitateing the development of a civil society advocacy strategy on UNSCR 1325 implementation in Armenia including a strategy for developing and adopting National Action Plan.*

*After the workshop a number of CSOs initiated the monitoring report on UNSCR 1325, wich will be presented this year in New York. Monitorin is in process.*

**Siradeghyan Syuzanna**

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## MY GREAT IMPRESSION OF REGIONAL WORKSHOP

It was two weeks ago, when I was told that there is such an opportunity to participate in Regional workshop for Armenian and Azerbaijani young women, 2013 Tbilisi. Fortunately, having background information about the topics according which the workshop would have been based on, (though without having any practical experience) I agreed at once.

And now, after having spent that of three days in Tbilisi, with Armenian and Azerbaijan intelligent and leader women, I would like to share my best impressions and memories. I have classified my memories according to the importance for me, and I want to introduce them in separate three paragraphs, though their interconnections. Here they are: people with whom I have made friendship, then highly interesting presentations and group works, and then the feelings of excitement, inspiration and motivation, involved by which, I returned to my country.

The first, which is one of the important things to me, is the personal relationship and communication. During those three days I managed to get acquainted with so many excellent people from both Armenia and Azerbaijan. And for that chance, I want to say “thanks” to those coffee breaks during one of which I had a really exciting talk with a girl from Azerbaijan. During our dialogue, which was very sincere, she told me that her mother’s ancestors were from Armenia, and very often her mother are saying stories about Yerevan, and it’s streets. She also added that she knows some Armenian words, and she even pronounced them as clear as we. It was very amazing! After our conversation, I saw candies in her hands, (that candies were brought in Tbilisi by one of the representatives from Armenia) and she said: “I am going to take these candies with me for my mother, she will be happy...!” After the last sentence I really felt myself excited and it was something that I will never forget.

The second, which impressed me a lot, were the presentations and group works together. All the presentations both by Armenian and Azerbaijan representatives were so full of information and truth, that it is difficult to say which one was the best. All presentations about “Implementation of 1325”, “Gender socialization and its impact on conflict and war”, “Women involvement in peace building”, “Women in politics in South Caucasus”, “International tools for empowerment women” were really fantastic.

After each presentation, there were group works

with Azerbaijan women, which were so enthusiastic and bright, that I will never forget. Everybody in a certain group was helping to her “coworker”; it could be either language or assistant help. In all groups there existed harmony!

The third are the emotions and feelings, with which I returned to my country. In those three days I have accumulated so much motivation inside me, to do something for peace building process and women empowerment. All that presentations and speeches made me seriously think about my future plans and activities, and in general, what I will do from now and then. And, in the end of the workshop, what I liked most of all is the fact that when the duties were all done, we did not say just “Good bye!” to each other and left the conference hall. We seriously thought altogether what will be our next step in this sphere, when returning our countries. We thought, prepared our action plan, discussed, and then, with happy smiles, separated.

In conclusion, I would like to say that all my impressions which refer to the Regional workshop (April 5-7, 2013 Tbilisi) are unforgettable. I got new friends, learned a lot and also shared with ideas I have, practiced my knowledge during the group works and finally, I returned to Armenia highly motivated and impressed!

**Nane Pirumyan**

Berdavan village,  
Tavush region, Armenia  
“Democracy Today” NGO



Photo from one of the regional meetings, Tbilisi, Georgia



This initiative is funded by the EU

## A FRESH APPROACH TO A WOMAN-LEADER

### 5 success factors

Most of the research made with regard to leadership is based on men's policy and strategies of management. It was determined to reveal the policies and strategies of women in the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) which enables them to become leaders and feel successful. More than 60 women-managers at the age of 26 to 58 years old took part in the biennial qualitative research. Half of the participants have children less than 18 years of age, master or doctor's degree. All those asked are interested in further development and they have studied by CCL program. The research results are reported upon authorization of Center for Creative Leadership.

What do we mean by saying successful? For a modern woman holding a senior role, success is more than overcoming the barriers and achieving professional goals. Success also implies how one can achieve them. "Certainly successful women overcome the existing barriers, get senior leadership positions and accomplish many purposes,- says Sara King (CCL). – However, to achieve these results one should perform great internal work. Our research shows that successful women lay emphasis on 5 key components in their personal and professional life: active position, commitment to one's own self, networking, clear knowledge of one's own self and integrity".

The aforementioned components detected in the process of biennial research carried out with 61 women are intervolved in the individual management style and professional decisions of a woman-leader. These components brought together reveal the image of an accomplished business woman more deeply and fully, and what is more according to King, they enable to find new discoveries for beginning women-leaders.

### Active position

You take the responsibility for you own carrier, realizing that you create your own job responsibilities, management style and the life as a whole. You yourself and not somebody else controls your destiny. Active position means conscious activity oriented to accomplishment of identified goals, as for example by applying one's authority, or becoming a subtle politician in the organization. Strategies for developing active position in yourself includes analysis of your

career steps, realistic and distinct goal setting, as well as implementation plan development, taking an interest in projects, being beyond the scope of job descriptions and search for possibility to take acknowledgement of your own achievements, something you really deserve.

### Commitment to one's own self

This is a skill to be as you actually are the real. According to CCL research results, importance of this component can hardly be overestimated. The ability to be as you are appears when you find your own image, management style. By developing self-awareness you have s a more clear vision of your values, preferences and talents. Choose the area of activities, position and organization, which can open you.

### Networking

Relationships are of utmost importance to women. Willingness to strengthen friendship or family ties stand for many goals and decisions taken by women, taking part in the CCL research. Even the busiest top-managers invest in relations both personal and professional. To strengthen your professional relations, you should slightly ease off and find time for valuable people by making effective interrelations and opening a net of contacts.

### Clear knowledge of one's own self

It is based on understanding of personal values, motivating factors, behavioral reactions. To clarify psychological me, feedback line should be used. This will help you to clearly see the privileges and fields for development and to understand what kind of influence you have on others. Evaluate how your needs, goals, motivation change in due time and keep watching what is important for you. Let the acquisition of fresh knowledge and its analysis become one of foreground tasks for you.

### Integrity

This refers to the willingness to find roles out of working atmosphere or to unite various life roles into the single unit.

Some women taking part in the research expressed concern with respect to their integrity, feeling that they burst between the role of employee and other life roles. Many roles are important for them: life beyond office and a wider success definition. Integrity is prioritization and possibility to pay due attention to everything which is valuable and important. It is the ability to say no to those roles and responsibilities, which are of no benefit.



## ARMED CONFLICTS AND WOMEN

During many centuries men had dominant position towards women. This fact has certain reasonable and logical fundamentals, since during many centuries men provided their families with food and were the main source of financial income. Another strong reason is directly connected with armed conflicts; men were and are the main actors and decision makers during armed conflicts, which give them extra power and make them much stronger. But even in such kinds of circumstances it is wrong to say, that women's role is overshadowed. Women have indispensable role in their families and in the society. Consequently, their voices should be heard and taken into account during armed conflicts as well. The spread of the ideas about human rights gave birth to the struggle headed by women for women suffrage (Rochford, 2007).

Many changes have occurred during the time. But still, there are certain stereotypes, which are very common for many societies and do not let women take important positions in various spheres of life. In order to improve the situation many countries have ratified international treaties and declarations (for example UDHR, CEDAW and etc.) and adopted much more democratic Constitutions. In spite of the existence of internationally adopted documents countries like Armenia and Azerbaijan, have many unwritten norms, which in their turn have a significant influence on the general atmosphere. "Good woman" in Armenia means good wife for her husband and good mother for her children. There is no need to prove that these aspects are of no importance, since they create an environment of inequality and intolerance. But we should note that all these stereotyped roles come out as strong obstacles for women in career developing processes. Gender inequality is very obvious in a broad range of spheres; in particular, the military aspect can be highlighted from this perspective. According to the survey made by National Statistical Service Republic of Armenia, by 2011 there was no female minister in the Ministry of Defense (Armenia, 2012).

As it was mentioned above, men are the main actors in warfare. They are combatants and decision makers. According to UN Security Council surveys 60-70% of war victims are women and girls. They constitute the most vulnerable part of societies during armed conflicts along with children and old-aged people. The discussed attitude towards women has been in the middle of scholar attention throughout the world.

*It can be highlighted that an unequal attitude towards female exists worldwide, though with lower prevalence in developed democracies.*

During the time women increasingly "take over" the main burden of warfare and armed conflicts (Judith, 2000). In recent years there has been a very strong attention on the issue of violence or, more specifically, sexual abuse against women. During the war women share with men the whole injuries caused by war. This refers to the transportation, mental, moral and psychological abuse, wastages, property loss and most importantly; the loss of security. It is generally believed that combatants are the most vulnerable group, because they are the first, who face physical attacks of armed conflicts. But there is also another aspect; they can protect their selves (simply by weapons) and they can kill in order to survive; war gives the right to kill (Nations, 2011).

If we go back to the history, we will see that during 4000 years the representatives of both sexes had participated in wars along with men. Moreover, now there are many women who serve in armed forces and in conflicting areas, though the vast majority of combatants have been men nearly in all nations and cultures (Carreiras, 2006).

Sometimes the issue of women's participation in armed conflict is very controversial and faces many debates. No one can deny the fact that many brave women have been engaged in warfare as nurses and aids ignoring the fact of being killed.

During the 20th century two World Wars occurred. The huge quantity of wounded soldiers within these wars made the urgent necessity of females to be involved in the conflict as nurses to show the first aid. This need gave the new importance to women's contribution in two World Wars and increased the general role of women in warfare (Searle, 2004).

Before the First World War in Western World women's roles were mainly connected with the domestic issues and concrete types of jobs. Politics, military issues were considered to be mainly males' affairs. For example in Great Britain before The First World War around 1.7 million women out of an adult population worked in domestic sphere (such as teacher, servant and etc.), 800.000 women worked in textile manufacturing industry, 600.000 in the clothing trades (Searle, 2004) and etc. Of course, certain quantity of women could enter the business sphere, but the biggest part of women stayed in their "corners" offered and obliged by the male population. But the World War changed the situation; since there was a big need in extra sources, states started to use women as a "helping hand in



war". Women were involved in such areas, which were out of their traditional gender roles. For example in Great Britain this process was called "Dilution" (Adams, 1978). During the period of First World War in Great Britain women involved in such spheres, which were traditionally considered to be "men's business". But after the World War women lost their positions, since men were back...

Initially one of the most important roles of women during the war was nursing. In the USA Navy and Marine Corps more than 12.000 women were involved during the First World War. Nearly 400 women of 12.000 died during the war.

During the Second World War women's roles were more increased. For example in the USA during the Second World War, nearly 400.000 U.S. women served in armed forces and more than 460 women (some sources say that the number is closer to 543), were killed.

There is an urgent need to note that according to our "gender roles" women should stay at their homes during armed conflicts. This fact quite often creates an illusion as if women have no input in war and have much safer situation. Is this true? No... The whole burden of house holding falls on women's shoulders. They should feed their family members, they jeopardize their own lives in order to satisfy all the needs of the family.

There are many questions of big importance, which should be answered very clearly; what kinds of measures has the international society taken in order to protect girls' and women's rights during armed conflict? At the same time it is important to highlight the question of effectiveness of those measures.

In contemporary world human rights protection is one of the most important issues on national and international levels. In the second part of the 20th century and the beginning of 21th century many steps have been implemented in order to promote new techniques to pursue democracy and human rights protection processes. One can argue that the idea of human rights is a very general issue and includes the rights of all members of the society, thus there is no need to go into details and divide them between two sexes. But on the other hand because of the gender inequality, stereotypes, lack of democratic norms and values, patriarchal norms and outlooks, women's rights are violated quite often.

If women's rights protection during peace is problematic, in conflicting situations the issue becomes more complicated. It is very important to take immediate steps to pursue existing Conventions and norms

to protect women's rights during armed conflicts and create new ones, which will have more effective impact on the situation. At the same time, all of us must have particular perceptions of gender problems in general, which are the bases of the discussed phenomena. The rising of this issue in all international arenas and making decisive steps in order to regulate the situation are the matters of high priority and importance. The public policy of international dimensions seems to be the most powerful actor, which is able to prevent the harmful effects of conflicts on the female population. This is a long and intricate process. But together we can overcome everything, because we are women, consequently we are strong.

**Knarik Mkrtchyan**

"Women's Resource Center,  
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Photo from the training in Arevik village, Armenia



## WE WOMEN DO NOT WANT WAR

*I was honored to participate in the project “Armenian and Azerbaijani young women activism for peace and security”*

*The conflict over Nagorno Karabakh is discussed in many different aspects. For some reason, women’s voices are not often heard, but the fact is that this conflict affected not only men, but women and children too.*

*It is natural for women to take care of their children and think about the future of their families and this fact always unites women. The impact and role of women in the peace settlement is very important. Woman is associated with the image of a wise homemaker and peacekeeper in her family and in society. That is why women have equal rights with men to sit at the negotiating table, to make important decisions, to seek a peaceful resolution of any conflicts.*

*Despite the fact that our both countries have unsolved problems we can, and we are ready to work together and work for building peace and democratic societies, where the views and positions of women are not ignored. And I am confident that together we will be able to have great contribution to the peaceful solution of the conflict.*

*We clearly understand that the pain is one for everyone and that we must unite in the name of peace in our region.*

***We, women, do not want war!***

*Our bounden duty is to ensure a peaceful future for our children.*

*Conflict resolution should be through mutual concessions and tolerance. I am sure that women can become the missing link to unite the broken chain and become a symbol of peace.*

**Lilit Mkrtumyan**

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## ONE CAN NEVER IMAGINE PROGRESS IN THE WORLD WITHOUT LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN

*US secretary of state*

### **John Kerry US secretary of state**

Most of the political, economic, and social progress of the last few decades could never have been imaginable without the leadership and courage of women. This was highlighted by John Kerry, US secretary of state in his message on the occasion of International Women’s day.

“It is a great global success story, often untold: so much of the political, economic, and social progress of the last few decades could never have been imaginable without the leadership and courage of strong women”, mentioned head of American overseas record.

He highlighted that on March 8, the United States along with other countries “celebrates women and highlights their contributions toward building a peaceful, just, and prosperous world”.

Kerry recalled his predecessors of female gender in the capacity of US secretary of state – “strong, smart and remarkably capable diplomats” from Madeleine Albright to Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton and more senators-women in the upper House of Congress. He also mentioned that for the first time during the history South Korea and Malawi presidents had been women.

However, the head of American diplomacy remarked that there was still much to do to protect the rights of women and girls. “Too many women do not have opportunity to talk; they are abused, and subjected to violence simply because of their gender. Many of them risk their lives in the pursuit of justice. Their courage must inspire us to continue to work toward a world where every woman can live free of violence and pursue her fullest potential” – highlighted the US secretary of state.



## GENDER ISSUES IN ARMENIAN SOCIETY

*Why society bears gender discrimination nowadays, in this free and wide life? Who created this nonsense which put dilemmas only the two sexes which were are and will exist till the end of the world? When, who, how and thousand Whys.... These are questions which till now fret Gender scientists, the nations, societies and just the ordinary people at any age groups, which are the barriers of that stereotypes and sexism roles according to their cultural background. And Armenia, a very old South Caucasian country, with highly preserved stereotypes and rules, is not indifferent in that global issue. Armenia, as being a developing country, usually adopts novelties very rapidly. So, the gender problems in Armenian culture can be easily considered as a highly discussed and propagates issue nowadays among Armenian active society. Recent polls indicate that Armenians' attitude has changed for the better in all gender issues and gradually disclosure and repeal of ancient "dangerous" stereotypes and habits. Now I am going to introduce the development of gender issues in Armenian society via theses three facts: world globalization effect in Armenian society, the recent genesis of many NGOs in Armenia, and the evolution of men's and women's roles in Armenian history since the ancient times.*

*The first, globalization finally has come to Armenia from which Armenians picked things which are relevant for our society, one of which is gender equality. Via globalization waves Armenia adopted such new ideas, habits and traditions which changed the way of peoples' thinking and lifestyle. And among that of changes we can very rare find any gender discrimination signs. Though some people fear, that in the result of globalization the Armenian spirit and identity loses, but anyway not taking into consideration these facts, thanks to globalization which somehow make Armenians forgot some stereotypes.*

*The second, after the independence of RA many new NGOs and other international organizations opened their branches in Armenia, which still now provide information about women and men rights. Due to that of organizations both men and women can reveal themselves, their duties and purposes meanwhile respecting and knowing others. It is one of hundred ways of being educated for protecting their rights for both genders.*

*The third, the evolution of men's and women's roles in Armenian history since the ancient times, in differ-*

*ent period built such formation that even today many people lead to that. If we examine ancient battles' we can see that women always were near to their husbands, they had the same laws as men had have, the both sides battled, won , helped each other, created, built and continues the history.*

*Thus, coming to the conclusion, we can see not so mist picture for Armenia, there is real chances that one day Armenia will become absolutely equal gender roles country. Only both men and women should be strong enough not to lose their identity and courage to struggle in any situations and structures.*

**Nane Pirumyan**

*Berdavan village,  
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*Photo from the training in Yerevan,  
Armenia*



*This initiative is funded by the EU*

## VIOLENCE AS A RESULT OF NATIONAL TRADITIONS

Violence against women is one of the topical issues in the modern society. Statistical data annually increase, and in the ambit of our acquaintances we recognize a growing number of women for whom the life turned into poisonous fence. What connects traditions with violence? Why do we notice that women undergo violence in different cultures? How to break link between violence and traditions and how to discharge women from prison called “violence”? Firstly we should learn how violence is connected with traditions. Thus if we consider the tradition as one of moderator of public relations passed from generation to generation and the violence as a widely spread, goal-based and meaningful human activity, definitely we shall see a distinct connection between these two concepts. Since traditions and violence are exceptionally social phenomena, it should be mentioned that each society has its unique social experience and special history, which determine the distinctness of nation tradition. Hence tradition of “red apple”, women kidnapping, “honor killing” are common in the countries of South Caucasus. However, exact statistical data on how many women are annually kidnapped in Armenia are missing and as a rule, “honor killing” is covered up in Azerbaijan families.

The modern form of women kidnapping is something like this: “the bridegroom” forces the girl into the car taking no notice of her tears and resistance (provided the kidnapping takes place without the girl’s consent). The mere fact of kidnapping becomes fatal for the girl, since according to local traditions if the woman does not succeed to run away (or be liberated by her relatives) before morning, she will not be able to avoid marriage. If the single woman overnights in the house of man even without sexual contact, she is automatically considered to be his wife otherwise she is disgraced.

Honor killing is an act of violence (usually killing) made by male family members against female family members, who, in their opinion, brought disgrace on the family. According to the traditions a young woman may appear outdoors only accompanied by her husband or male relatives. When women’s innocence is in doubt her family is “disgraced”. Whereby the tribe is at threat, which will result in difficulties to spouse single sisters, and male relatives are convinced that they will be disdained by the surrounding people, unless they make “honor killing”. Fathers, husbands, brothers,

uncles and sons kill the dishonored. As a rule secretly, at home. Such crimes are often considered as accidents or concealed.

The tradition of “red apple” is also a traditional violence. Hence in accordance with the tradition, after the wedding-night the husband of husband’s relatives (husband’s mother – mother-in-law as a rule) check the innocence of the bride and if no “proof” is found the woman is returned to her parent’s house where she is disgraced and is exposed to violence.

Another tradition...not to speak of violence...this is the reason why no statistical data record the exact number of women exposed to violence... One can rarely hear in the ambit of acquaintances of how husband treated rough to his wife, saying nothing of how he lifted hand against his wife, this is not spoken out. Unfortunately that is not the case that no such problem exists in modern families. The case is the sense of shame and humiliation that the victim being afraid of gossips behind her back and sense of fear.

All these incidents of traditional violence is hidden by the society, since everybody believes that by not keeping up the traditions we shall have cultural crisis, neglecting the fact that because of our silence not only the victim of violence suffers but also the society as a whole and thus we have a “chain” of violence, and the source of the chain is our society, you and I, as we prefer to remain silent and not to interfere in the personal life of others. Finally, one theoretical question: why don’t we remember that woman is the earth of the state and without the earth we cannot talk of strength of society? It is also a tradition.

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