

## 1979 – 2009: 30 Years of the Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women



### Press-release

#### **UNIFEM supports the Tajik National University to introduce a course on women's human rights for students of the law faculty**

- On 26 May 2009 UNIFEM signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Tajik National University to expand cooperation in the field of protection of human rights. The memorandum specifies areas of cooperation between the parties on capacity development of staff of the University on theory and practice of protection of women's human rights and support to develop new education materials on the topic. The implementation of the Memorandum is being started now with the initiative of the law faculty to develop a textbook on women's human rights. The textbook will be used by students within a new course on women's human rights to be introduced from September 2010. With this initiative the Tajik National University and UNIFEM will contribute to implementation of recommendations made by the CEDAW<sup>1</sup> Committee to Tajikistan in February 2007, having responded directly to a suggestion by the Committee to the State "to ensure that the Convention and relevant domestic legislation, in particular the Law on State Guarantees, are made an integral part of the education given in law departments of universities..... , in order to firmly establish a legal culture supportive of women's equality and non-discrimination in the country".

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<sup>1</sup> CEDAW (Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) was adopted by UN General Assembly in December 1979 and by now it has been ratified by 185 countries. In December 2009 the global campaign to celebrate 30<sup>th</sup> of anniversary of CEDAW will be culminated by a global meeting. Within the global campaign a collection of stories on CEDAW implementation is undertaken. You can share your stories, ideas and thoughts by sending them to [info@stories-of-cedaw.net](mailto:info@stories-of-cedaw.net)



The initiative falls under implementation of the UNIFEM Strategic Plan for 2008-2011, specifically identifying the objective to strengthen formal justice systems to better protect and promote the human rights of women in all spheres and levels. Capacity development of judges and other legal practitioners is a key priority issue and improvement in this field can be effectively achieved if it covers not only

currently operating practitioners, but also their next generations currently studying at the University.

The introduction of the course on women's human rights will support implementation of priorities addressing women's rights education within the State Programme "Education in the field of Human Rights" for 2001-2010. One of the planned measures by the State Programme is "to introduce special classes and courses in secondary schools, vocational training schools and Universities on the role of women in the family and the society and their human rights".



More information could be provided by Nargis Azizova, UNIFEM Adviser for Tajikistan ([nargis.azizova@unfiem.org](mailto:nargis.azizova@unfiem.org)) and Aziz Dinorshoev, head of the department of International Relations of the Tajik National University ([dinorshoev@hotmail.com](mailto:dinorshoev@hotmail.com)).