



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Closing of the Symposium & Launch of the Publication:
Bringing Security Home: Combating Violence against Women in the
OSCE Region.
A Compilation of Good Practices

Closing remarks by Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov

8 June 2009, 12:25 p.m., Ratsaal

Dear Ambassadors,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor for me to close this important symposium.

During today's event we have heard many interesting contributions from experts who have shared with us their particular experiences and the challenges and successes they have encountered working to eliminate violence against women. The compilation of good practices presented today provides all participating States with a useful tool for future work and an aid to exchange information and lessons learned on how best to address this universal problem.

We have also learned details of the activities that the OSCE structures are undertaking in support of the implementation of OSCE commitments in this area. And, of course, the presentations were followed by a discussion made richer with contributions from all of you.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to take the opportunity of talking to you to briefly mention the efforts that Kazakhstan has taken to promote equality between men and women and to combat violence against women at the national level.

First, on the legislative level, and thanks to the support of the OSCE Centre in Astana, the parliament is working on a draft law on Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men. This law addresses equality in employment, education and political representation. Also with OSCE support, a law on domestic violence was drafted, outlining means of protection and prevention of domestic abuse. We envisage that both laws will be passed soon, thus providing an equality framework, full protection to victims of violence as well as means for prosecuting offenders.

Second, at the policy and programmatic level, a comprehensive gender equality strategy was prepared by the Kazakh Government covering the years 2006-2016. I am also pleased to share with you that in 1999, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has already created specialized units within the police dedicated to combating domestic violence, assisting victims and investigating these cases. At present, these units are functioning well and have developed close cooperative ties with local NGOs. In fact, we just jointly celebrated the 10th anniversary of the establishment of these specialized units.

Dear Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to close the symposium by reassuring all of you that following the Finnish and Greek priorities, promoting gender equality and combating violence against women will surely remain among the priorities on OSCE agenda during the Kazakh Chairmanship in 2010. I am sure that during our Chairmanship I can count on the support of the OSCE structures and

participating States to continue our efforts in making the terrible crime of violence against women disappear from all our societies.

I thank all of you who came to join us today, I thank our distinguished key note speakers and all our panelists and lastly, my sincere thanks go to the Gender Section of the Office of the Secretary General for the effort of bringing us together today to learn from each other and hopefully to launch common actions towards eradicating gender based violence.

On behalf of the Gender Section, I would like to invite you for a lunch reception.

Thank you.