



## **Reaching the heights for the rights of the child**

### **Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016-2021**

#### **High-Level Launching Conference**

**Sofia, 5-6 April 2016**

#### **Statements**

**Ms Aynur Sofiyeva**

**Deputy Chairperson of the State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs  
Azerbaijan**

#### **Main priorities of Azerbaijan in the sphere of the protection of children rights**

Dear Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

It's a great honour for me to participate at this conference. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Council of Europe, the government of Bulgaria for organizing this important meeting on the protection of children rights. We believe that new Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) will contribute to the protection of child rights in the member states. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that Azerbaijan government is fully committed to provide equal opportunities for children and their direct access to the education, health and social protection. With the adopting special amendment "Family, Children and the State" | to the Constitution, the special action plans and series of governmental programs have been carried out for solving children's problems promotion of their healthy lifestyle and rights. The Development Concept "Azerbaijan 2020: Outlook for the future" considers the preparation of Children Code and National Strategy on Children. "The rule of state control on realization of children rights" approved in 2012 coordinates the activities of concerned institutions and provides legal basis for the establishment of special monitoring groups for the investigation of the situation on children rights. The government prepares annual report on the situation on



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ensuring children's rights and identifies the coping strategies for the country. Currently Electronic information bank on children rights is being implemented to better coordinate situation in this field.

The State pays special attention on the protection of the rights of children with disabilities and children deprived of parental care. Special state programs have been adopted to develop social services for children with disabilities and also their rehabilitation and integration process. Heydar Aliyev Foundation, headed by the first Lady of Azerbaijan, supports the children deprived of parental care by providing them with alumni houses after reaching the adulthood

The country has achieved great progress in the strengthening national health care system, including the protection of children health, decrease of child mortality by adopting the law on "Children's mandatory dispensarization" of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted in 2013.

Today the restoration of the violated rights of about 400 children as a result of Armenian occupation is the main concern and priority for us. The government takes measures to provide social, medical and psychological care to children from this category and their access to modern education, healthcare, social services.

Eliminating violence against children, exploitation of child labor, improving educational opportunities for girls, preventing early marriages, providing safe internet use are the actual problem of our days. Preparing experts and professionals working with children on violence, child suicide contributes to the early detection and removal of these facts. The establishment of monitoring groups on combating domestic violence and preventing early marriages representing local communities, non-governmental organizations and state agencies is one of the gained achievements. Taking into account the necessity of increasing parental responsibility in bringing up child and education, reforms were made to some legislative acts in 2015. As a result of such policy, we observe decrease in the number of violence acts against children, also their involvement to begging and idleness, early marriages and dropping out of school.

We actively work on increasing children participation. Recently, the tendency on children involvement in public life, discussion of their rights, learning their attitude and opinion on legislation. All Republican Forum of Azerbaijan Children is held annually in every two years and shows positive results. The main feature of the Forum is that children manage the event themselves, discuss their problems with the representatives of relevant state agencies, parliamentarians and make their proposals. As a result, proposals made by children have been reflected in the newly adopted state programs and laws. The Coordinating Council of the Forum was formed by the children - participants for supporting discussions and sharing experience with their peers.

As you are already, aware about the last days attacking on the front line as a result of the next provocations of Armenians number of civilians were killed and number of children seriously wounded. I would like to draw your attention that, generally, the result of the Armenian occupation of Azerbaijan lands (192) one hundred ninety two children were killed, (54) fifty four

were lost and (18) eighteen children were taken as prisoner/ during the ceasefire 4 children were killed and 5 wounded.

Dear delegates,

In conclusion, I would like to mention that children cannot be enemies, Children is the symbol of peace, love and friendship. Thank you for your attention.