

INCREASING THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF WOMEN IN UZBEKISTAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

Usmonova Latofat ¹

¹ Master's Student in Social Sciences and Humanities Methodology (History)

Email: Lotofat1988usmonova@gmail.com

Phone: +998500151488

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT:

ARTICLE HISTORY:

Received: 10.05.2025

Revised: 11.05.2025

Accepted: 12.05.2025

KEYWORDS:

women, social
activity, political
activity, Uzbekistan,
gender equality, societal
development, political
parties, opportunities.

This article analyzes the importance of increasing the socio-political activity of women in Uzbekistan and the main factors involved in this process. It emphasizes that women should directly influence the development of society, participate in political parties, and be actively involved in decision-making processes. The article also highlights the opportunities being provided to women, existing problems, and ways to address them.

INTRODUCTION. In today's era of globalization and rapid reforms, the sustainable development of any nation is closely tied to the active participation of all segments of society, particularly women. In Uzbekistan, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, large-scale democratic reforms have placed significant emphasis on women's issues and on increasing their involvement in the country's socio-political life. Enhancing women's roles in various spheres of society has become one of the key priorities of state policy.

A major milestone in this direction was the establishment of the Commission on Supporting Women and Ensuring Gender Equality, which was initiated by a Presidential Decree on September 2, 2019. The creation of this commission laid a solid foundation for institutional support of gender-related policies in the country. Furthermore, the adoption of the Law "On Ensuring Gender Equality" on March 7, 2021, marked a crucial step toward strengthening the legal status of women and providing them with equal rights and opportunities in all areas of life. Additionally, the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan

for 2022–2026 places special emphasis on women's issues. The strategy outlines specific tasks aimed at increasing women's social and political engagement, as well as promoting their appointment to leadership positions across various sectors. These efforts reflect the government's firm commitment to building an inclusive society where women play a key role in shaping the nation's future.

Furthermore, in his address to the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) on February 18, 2020, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized the vital role of women in society with the following statement:

“A woman is the pillar of society, a force that awakens the nation. Supporting women and expanding their opportunities is our highest priority.”

This visionary approach has led to significant changes in the role of women within the social and political landscape of Uzbekistan. Notably, the number of women serving in the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) and local councils has been steadily increasing. Women are becoming more actively involved in political parties, civil society institutions, and public organizations, where their participation is becoming increasingly visible and impactful. This article provides an in-depth analysis of the legal frameworks, state programs, and practical measures implemented to enhance the social and political activity of women in Uzbekistan. It also explores the challenges that persist and discusses proposed solutions aimed at overcoming them.

Historically, women in Uzbekistan have always been an integral part of society. However, for many years, their participation in social and political life was restricted. Deep-rooted patriarchal views and cultural stereotypes confined many women to domestic roles, limiting their ability to engage fully in public life. Since the country gained independence—and especially in recent years—this situation has undergone a significant transformation. Women's presence in social and political spheres has been growing, and they are now increasingly recognized as an influential force in national development.

To support and accelerate this progress, a number of important laws and policy documents aimed at strengthening women's rights and increasing their political participation have been adopted. These include:

1. The Law “On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men”, which provides a legislative foundation for gender equality across all sectors of society.
2. The Law “On Protection from Domestic Violence”, which aims to safeguard women from various forms of abuse and ensure their security and dignity.

3. Amendments to the new edition of the Constitution of Uzbekistan, which now includes specific provisions on gender equality, demonstrating the country's commitment to creating an inclusive legal system.

Reforms in the Law on Political Parties which introduced a mandatory 30% gender quota for women on party candidate lists in parliamentary elections. This step is designed to ensure a more balanced representation of women in the country's legislative bodies. In recent years, the proportion of women in the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) has significantly increased, with women now making up over 25% of the Senate and more than 32% of the Legislative Chamber. Similarly, the number of women in local councils, civil society institutions, and leadership positions within political parties has grown markedly. Thousands of women have been actively engaged in social life through major national initiatives such as the “*Women’s Register (Ayollar daftari)*,” “*Iron Register (Temir daftar)*,” and “*Youth Register (Yoshlar daftari)*.” These projects have provided targeted support to women and helped integrate them more effectively into the public sphere. Women across Uzbekistan are achieving remarkable success in fields such as entrepreneurship, science, education, healthcare, and culture, reflecting the increasing scope of opportunities available to them.

Opportunities Provided to Women

Since gaining independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan has prioritized women's issues as a central element of its state policy. In recent years, especially under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a number of innovative reforms and modernization efforts have created broader opportunities for women, strengthening their rights, boosting their social participation, and enabling them to play a more dignified role in society. One of the key focus areas has been expanding access to education and vocational training for women:

- ❖ Women from vulnerable and low-income backgrounds are being offered free vocational training to acquire professional skills.

- ❖ University admission quotas have been introduced to ensure greater access for women to higher education institutions.

- ❖ Specialized support programs are being implemented to empower women in IT, business, pedagogy, and healthcare sectors.

In order to support women's economic empowerment, several financial initiatives have been launched:

- Through the “*Women’s Register*”, women in need receive preferential loans, subsidies, and grants to improve their livelihoods.

- Banks offer concessional loans to support the development of women-led businesses.

➤ In cooperation with international organizations, financial and advisory assistance is being provided for female entrepreneurship projects.

Conclusion, significant reforms are being implemented in the Republic of Uzbekistan to increase the social and political activity of women. Under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the open and fair political approach has led to substantial achievements in women's political participation and the protection of their rights and interests. The adoption of important legislative documents, state programs aimed at ensuring gender equality, and the privileges and opportunities created for women represent significant milestones in this area. However, despite the positive outcomes, there remain several challenges and tasks that still need to be addressed. For instance, there is a need to further increase women's political literacy in some regions, strengthen their self-confidence, and encourage greater social activism. Ongoing efforts to combat social stereotypes against women, while shaping them as equal members of society, are crucial for continued progress.

Without a doubt, as women's political activity grows, democratic values in the country will become more deeply rooted, social stability will be strengthened, and the path to the sustainable development of New Uzbekistan will continue to advance in a more consistent manner. The opportunities being created for women in Uzbekistan are not only aimed at achieving gender equality but also at reinforcing one of the key pillars of the country's sustainable development. By supporting women, the nation can foster an environment of social justice and active citizenship. Therefore, effectively utilizing the opportunities provided to women, encouraging their participation, and continuously supporting them remain essential tasks for the continued development of Uzbekistan.

References:

1. Shavkat Mirziyoyev. New Uzbekistan: Social and Political Reforms. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan State Publishing House, 2020.
2. X. Tursunov. The System of Supporting Women: Theory and Practice. "Science and Education" Publishing House, 2019.
3. S. Davronov. Gender and Social Justice. "Tafakkur" Publishing House, 2018.
4. A. Karimova. Political Participation of Women in Uzbekistan: Analysis and Future Prospects. "Uzbekistan Today" Publishing House, 2020.
5. Z. Rajabova. The Role of Women in the Socio-Political Development of Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan Republic Information Publishing House, 2017.
6. M. Azimov. Political Reforms and Women's Rights: The Experience of Uzbekistan. "Shark" Publishing House, 2021.