



**UN Human Rights Council
Forty-seventh Session**

Agenda Item 3

Interactive dialogue with the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

Statement

**expressed by Ms. Narmin Huseynova,
Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

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Thank you, Madam President,

In the spirit of these compelling best practices, I would like to contribute some of Azerbaijan's approaches.

Azerbaijan has taken significant steps to institutionalize gender equality and is working to not only eliminate discriminatory laws but to provide tools and protections critical for women and girls to fully claim their rights. Justice reform, appointing and electing women to decision-making and leadership positions, especially in human rights and legislative contexts, have laid the necessary legal foundations to sustain practical solutions.

Eased access to social services and business opportunities empower and deliver effective advocacy to women across the spectrum. Working women enjoy generous maternity and childcare benefits, single mothers are supported with strict alimony enforcement mechanisms, victims get access to shelters and legal services.

Amid COVID-19 lockdowns, public outreach on gender issues continued on television, radio and online formats, even covering debates on previously sensitive topics such as feminism and sexual health. Awareness campaigns across the public transportation system have been especially effective - lending powerful images, posters and billboards bring attention to the often-overlooked signs of domestic violence, sexual abuse and child abuse, display a bolded hotline number and promise to deliver relief. These are widely placed and reach the audience of more than 5 million men, women and children who use public transportation in Azerbaijan each day.

That being said, as our discussion unfolds it becomes clear that equality has not been achieved in any part of the world. Sharing our experiences might just be the breakthrough we need to fully advance women's rights. In that regard, Azerbaijan commends the constructive and supporting tone of this discourse and welcomes any initiatives and resolutions for exchanging best practices.

Thank you.