

BACKGROUND ON SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**SERAFIMA MENITSKAYA, ALEXEY RADYUK**

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The article is devoted to the problems of social discrimination against women in society on the basis of a study of historical events, as well as the search for solutions to eliminate problems in this area of law enforcement.

An integral part of the social policy of any state is concern for respect for human rights. In this case, it is necessary to talk about women's rights in the context of human rights. Women are a socio-demographic group of the population that especially needs social protection. In terms of numbers, women make up 53 per cent of the population and perform the main social and family function – childbearing.

Social discrimination against women is the restriction or deprivation of rights based on gender in such spheres of public life as labor, socio-economic, political, spiritual, family and domestic. Social discrimination is a form of violence against woman's personality and a threat to her security, which leads to a deterioration of woman's social status [1]. The idea of equal rights for men and women presupposes their equal opportunities, because a woman is not inferior to a man in terms of her intellectual and physical potential. There is no such mental and physical labor that is inaccessible for women to do. There is no such law that prohibits a woman to engage in this or that business, to master this or that profession. A woman's natural right is full freedom to choose any kinds of activity for her self-realization.

The origins of social discrimination against women should be found in ancient times. Even then, scientists and politicians covered up women's unequal status in society, their oppression and exploitation of disputes about whether a woman is a human and whether she has a soul. The idea that women are inferior is reflected in the theological and philosophical works of the ancient world. Although a woman performs the most important reproductive function for the continuation of the human species, but it did not give her any social benefits even in primitive society. Moreover, until the 20th century, her civil rights were prejudiced.

For the first time, the ideologists of the French Revolution were interested in the issue of the equal rights of men and women. In 1791, the Law on Women's Education was adopted, according to which women were given certain civil rights. But during the Thermidorian Reaction these rights were not exercised properly. In Great Britain, the Law on ten-hour day for women was passed in 1847, and a teaching profession was available for women. In 1848, married women in the United States acquired the right to own property. In 1880, women were given the opportunity to become members of trade unions. In 1893, women exercised the right to vote for the first time in New Zealand [2].

At the present time, many government and public figures, scholars and sociologists are against the concept of "social discrimination against women." It is replaced by calls to fight for equality with men. But this is not the same thing. The basis of this concept is overcoming all forms of infringement of the rights and interests of women. Having so many views on the problem of discrimination against women, one should not forget the fact of historical significance. The October Revolution in Russia of 1917 gave an opportunity to solve the key issue of equality of women and men in all spheres of life, including civil and legal rights, at work and in education, in family. But discrimination against the "weaker sex" remained during Soviet rule. Women couldn't serve in the armed forces and other law enforcement agencies [1]. Women were legally denied access to the "heavy" and "harmful" industry, which completely excluded the freedom of personal choice.

The Second World War, as a result of which whole nations were on the verge of destruction and which led to countless disasters for millions of people, affected the entire population of the warring countries, regardless of gender or age. It made the problem of gender discrimination more important, which was expressed in the search for a mechanism for their protection. Therefore, on December 10, 1948, the United Nations, created in June 1945, adopted the Charter of Human Rights - the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is considered as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all states [3].

The women's rights continue to be one of the most pressing problems of international human rights law. Since the development of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it forced to review a lot in understanding this problem. The idea of equality of people goes back deep into the past. But it took centuries to ban discrimination against groups of people for one reason or another.

One of the most important provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is that everyone should have all the rights and freedoms proclaimed in the Declaration, without any differences, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs, national or social origin, property or other status. On the basis of this article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the next fifty years of the 20th century, all international and national anti-discrimination legislation was developed.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights begins with the words: "All people are born free and equal in dignity and rights" [3]. As for half of humanity - women, the above definition of human rights does not take into account the fact that depends not only on nature and the person himself, but also on society: the true freedom of the individual means not only equality of rights, but also equality of their enjoyment. Namely, during the entire epoch of patriarchy, women did not have such opportunities. The Second World War provided the understanding of the commonality of women's collective destinies, their dependence on men, women of the West, occupying leading posts in the state, society and the economy. At the beginning of the war, the States parties called on women to replace men who had went to the front for jobs, and when the war ended there was a massive dismissal of women. The reason was the same everywhere: women were dismissed as unwanted competitors of men who came back from the war of post-war state-building. The state must influence social reality in order to create genuine and equal freedom that could really exist in society.

In recent years, only a few areas of sociology have achieved such development, or occupied a central place in this discipline, as the study of gender relations. To a large extent this reflects changes in society itself. Women are limited to the "glass ceiling" that does not allow them to occupy leadership positions, and they often face the so-called "hidden" discrimination in the labor market. There is also a tendency of a sharp decline in women's participation in the decision-making process and in the political life.

The objective reason for the discrimination against women is that in the course of the society development, the role of "earners" was initially for men, and the role of "keepers of the hearth" is for women. Over time, men changed the ways of earning a livelihood, but the role of "earner" still belonged only to them, which allowed them to occupy a leading position. Women were engaged in raising children and doing housework.

In connection with these two gender roles, other gender stereotypes about sex began to appear, for example, that women are confined to family and household activity, while men are mostly confined to the "public sphere", where power and property differences have their origin. Their world is a well-paid job, production and politics. It is also believed that men are more ambitious, rational, independent and unemotional, while women are more gentle, sensual, emotional and sociable. The presence of such obviously certain attitudes in society formed the further different social position of men and women in society.

But the content and seriousness of gender stereotypes changed throughout history in one and the same culture along with gender roles, and when a huge gap in rights between a man and a woman became obvious to everyone, the world was confronted with the concept of "women's emancipation." There were good reasons for this: women had no equal rights with men in social, labor and family life: they could not vote and be elected, get an education, work and receive the same salary as men, women had no economic independence.

In the French Civil Code, after concluding the marriage contract, a woman lost her civil capacity: her property passed into the management of her husband, she could not take any action without her husband's consent. Violation of marital fidelity is punishable by law only with a fine; if this happens on the part of the wife, then it is punishable by imprisonment for two years. In Russia, a married woman could not conclude a personal labor contract without the permission of her husband. The wife must live at her husband's place of residence. If in other countries laws are less severely related to women, then the principle of subordination of the legitimate wife to her husband is emphasized to a greater or lesser extent [4].

In the modern world, sustainable society development is impossible without achieving gender equality. The third millennium is often called the era of gender equality, when women can fully realize their abilities and abilities in relation to the whole spectrum of human relations, including business, politics and public service. The basis of this process is the generally recognized international norms, enshrined in a number of documents, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Declaration and the Platform for Action of the World Conference on the Advancement of Women [5].

Today, the role of women in society has increased in the economic, social and political spheres of public life. But all this is the result of a long and hard struggle of women for several centuries, sacrificing everything: family, well-being, and sometimes their own lives. A woman is often wiser than many men and, therefore, she

has been in power for a long time, as evidenced by the rule of Queen Elizabeth and Prime Minister of England Margaret Thatcher.

It follows from the above that discrimination can take place in different places and circumstances. Women face many challenges due to the high level of discrimination in society that has developed over the centuries. Special attention to the social and economic role of women is not only important in its nature, but also a necessary condition for achieving sustainable development and improving the well-being of society as a whole. Defending the principle of gender equality, we stand for equality of rights, social justice, labor productivity and business development. Thus, making one more step towards universal social progress.

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