

## Implementation of the Beijing Platform for action

### Part One.

ly important role in development of the nation and condition of women in it. Concerning the role of a into account the considerable influence of past, but tained during years of independence, with regards to

Undeniably, women existence of any society i woman in Latvia today, v also the experience and ac

There is no law in Latvia presented on equality of gender, but the notions concerning the gender equality principle, are incorporated in the legislation of Latvia and legal acts in separate fields.

1. The Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the Civil Law, as well as the Constitutional Law The Rights and Obligations of Citizen and Person anticipate and stipulate equal rights and opportunities for all people, implementation of which cannot be subject to any discrimination.

Latvia has joined several international documents, regulating issues of gender equality, including:

The Convention of UN (1979) on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women;

The Convention of the International Labor Organization (1951) Equal Remuneration Convention.

By the legislation of Latvia, normative acts and documents follow and of both gender, but it is necessary to elaborate the national plan and

ation of these issues for the equality to be really implemented.

ing is under preparation for the political work of gender equality to be

recognized:

measures of gender equality

#### III

• wider investigation of gender issues, by paying attention

in connection with certain age group, educational level, employment group, certain region or taking into account family condition, national belonging, as well as other factors;

• analysis of the legislation of Latvia concerning discrimination de jure and de facto, the political basic principles of national gender equality and activity plans, as well as delivery to the public for discussion to provide equal opportunities in all fields.

The following measures are to be carried out in order to implement the national mechanism:

• to create consulting inter-ministry work group. Its task will be to accept decisions and to search for common solutions, by taking into account many different fields and issues of state institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations;

• to cooperate with the international partners in the fields, concerned with issues on gender equality.

Ministry of Welfare is decided to be responsible for coordination of these issues and

the Parliament

after election of

Each Year though slightly representation of women

and the Government. There were 18 women out of total 100

the 7<sup>th</sup> Parliament (Autumn 1998), but out of 16 members of the Cabinet of Ministers there are 4 women. The higher the governmental level, the less women are there. The decisive word in politics and activities of parties is still with men, but women execute work of the replacer or executor. Men initiate laws, accept them by themselves, but women have to work with them.

Organization of women and joining into different groups, clubs, public organizations provide evidence about

of women exactly during last years.  
to unite women according to interests, provide  
facilities, consult and educate women in  
organizations is very essential, which promotes  
of their rights and understanding about their place

..... The women organizations of Latvia  
assistance to women, with  
international cooperation  
women organizational skills

Council of the Women Organizations of Latvia (LCWOL) was  
correct understanding of the gender equality of people and to promote it, to develop  
their educational exchange of information between women  
possibilities to formulate and express opinion about leg  
d laws, concerning possibilities to formulate and express opinion about leg  
difficult family life problems, employment of women, equality of men and women at  
work in family, public and political life, social, economical and culture policy, to promote

Latvia After the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Women Conference in  
of solution of gender equality issues, are to be  
Baltic and Nordic countries' Women and Men in  
als of this conference was by day attention of state  
policy as an essential pre-condition for many-sided  
discuss men and women problems and search for

Among the activities  
Being to be considered a  
mentioned. The common con  
Dialogue August 1997. One  
authority institutions to gender  
and sound development, as  
possible solutions together to

seminar "On Situation of Women in the Baltic  
USA and Finland took place in Riga. The main  
groups, such as working conditions in  
in education and information of public about issues  
maximum extent objectively demonstrate a woman  
of the Baltic and Nordic countries had an important

Recently March 15  
Countries" within the conf  
gender equality issues  
violence, prostitution and t  
Mass media has an  
of gender equality. Some r  
as a part of society. The ab

learning about  
mass media in

was as possibly briefly and concisely provide general outlook and  
actuality of gender equality also in Latvia, as well as active divo  
explanation of these issues to public

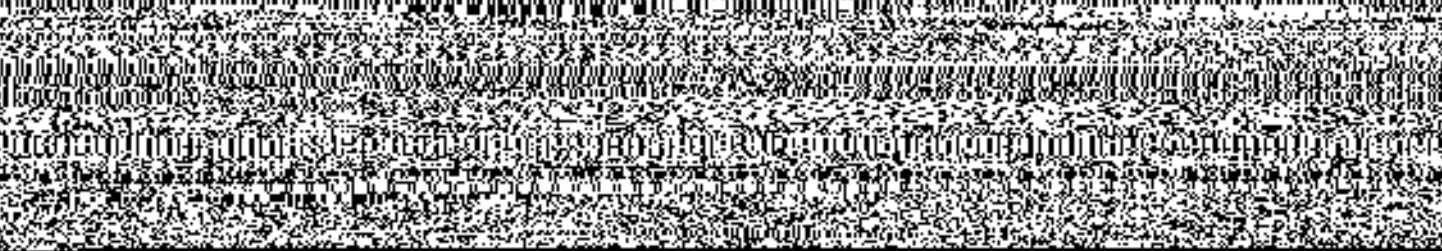
to different  
of women  
of families)  
men's family  
than men's

The majority of population in Latvia are women (54%  
statistical data, the family and upbringing of children are mostly  
(70% of women alone bring up children, are not married or men  
However, statistical data demonstrate also that educational level  
higher than men's, as well as there are more women with hi

the large number of women in universities, we should conclude, that girls

.....

There have been rise periods and periods of crisis in the socio-economic situation and development of Latvia during last eight years. The basis for market economy and good macroeconomic preconditions for development of economy have been created in the course of the economic reforms. The social reforms have been implemented in the social field with the aim of creating a more just and equitable society.



candidate for this work, are not to be asked by the employer during the work interview. The questions of the employer can not offend personality and respect of the employee.

Economical and social changes in the country have promoted stratification of the population. One part of the population has very high living standard, but a cons-

part of the population has still low living standard. Increase of poverty is similar to many other transition economies. Taking into account the data when the divorce level in the country is very high, the women is the so subject to larger possibility to be trapped in poverty. The women, who are even in more difficult situation, because in the most cases a child under support of the mother.

Latvia about the risk groups of the population, which are affected by economical changes, as well as about the depth and character that there are distinct differences between the numbers in cities is much more visible, but also in rural areas. Because there are no systematic data about the situation in cities, therefore one of the main tasks of the research program is to

These are researches that have the highest exposure to poverty in the urban areas. In rural areas the poverty is more anonymous, but in the rural area the poverty is more sharp contrasts of living conditions as can be seen. One of the main measures to reduce poverty in the country is to improve the situation of the poor population.

It is planned to elaborate a conceptual issue about stabilization of the

poor population.

Latvia of criminal responsibility is determined by law for violence against

against women and children in Latvia has become a serious problem.

Due to a lack of actual data, statistical indicators to be able to analyze and judge

about the extent and dynamics of this problem. Women themselves

report about the performed acts of violence, thus threatening themselves and creating

possibility to repeat the violence. Out of the registered cases, approximately 80% are

against children has been topical also earlier, but now there is much more

media and in public in general going on about this topic. It is admitted in

that violence against children exists and therefore the guilty ones are to have serious

different assistance and support centers created in Latvia, which are

Part Two.

Human development of the nation is basically financed by the budget funds. The national amount of funds is, however, not sufficient for complete implementation of the programs in Latvia is increasing. The society feels necessity to create new programs, as well as to improve the existing ones by including execution of new functions and financing in their budget. The budget of Latvia consists of the state budget and municipal budgets. The state budget is divided into different categories according to special criteria and in all fields these funds are distributed independently on gender, race, or any other criteria. In concrete fields, for instance, more active involvement of women in the state budget are encouraged, for example, by providing credit exemptions for rural entrepreneurs - women. It is necessary to elaborate the action program of the government of Latvia for solution of equality issues and its implementation in real life in order to implement the Action Plan for the Beijing declaration in Latvia on the governmental level and to develop the work for its execution. The work is going on concerning further improvement of the situation of women of Latvia - how to work with these issues and how to create state policy in this field. Activity has been just started, therefore we can not talk about concrete results.





Women  
conflict

Women







<p>             ently in              respond to              e, for              child care              IS, not              it the              of the              contrary              treated              the parents              child and              to join              es.              ed in the              employers              ers about              k payment              tly              ticipation              ds not              k part              till the              does not              about their              ions do              al              awareness           </p>	
<p>             very              ence of              es about           </p>	<p>             It is necessary to work specially with              journalists and mass media              managers.              By using mass media, it is necessary           </p>















Total	Males	Females
-------	-------	---------

458403 1138501 1319902

08842 55961 52881

73337 242110 231227

205177 598885 606292

88009 167733 320276

697686 775548 922138

60717 362953 397764

0,87

1,11

1,22

**Mortality**

Life expectancy at birth (1997)

infant mortality rate (1997)

Under-five mortality rate (1997)

Maternal mortality rate (per 1000 live births, 1997)

69,99

15,2

3,03

42,5

64,21

16,2

3,36

75,88

14,2

2,69

**Reproductive health**

	1997
--	------

Contraceptive prevalence rate per 1000 females 15-44

Pre-oral contraceptive

IUD

surgical

94.1

102.6

0.6

HIV adult prevalence rate per 100 000 population 1997 - 1.0

**Gender equality in education**

Ratio of boys in primary and secondary education combined 1997/98 - 89.1% (50.5% of total number of pupils)

**Economic activity**

Unemployment rate, %

Employment-population ratio, %

% of employed persons engaged in:

agriculture

industry

services

% of employed persons by employment status:

employers

13.8

50.7

18.8

26.2

55.0

3.3

Self-employed 83.0  
 Unpaid family members/relatives 5.1  
 other 0.2  
 Source: Labour Force Survey  
 Period: November, 1998  
 Coverage: Population aged 15 years and over

Year, quarter	GDP			GDP		
	LVL		USD	LVL		USD at current prices
	at current prices	at average prices of 1995	at current prices	at current prices	at average prices of 1995	
1993	1467012	2353178	2176576	5667.29	909.97	841.68
1994	2042555	2368435	3647420	801.73	929.64	1431.65
1995	2349223	2349223	4449286	933.86	933.86	1768.68
1996	2829135	2427705	5134546	1135.83	974.67	2061.40
1997	3211188	2586679	5527002	1300.50	1047.58	2238.38
1998	3504111	2643451	668356	1446.07	60.00	925.50
1999	427792	396.49	281.92	64.13		1792
2000	688273	163.023	398.36	280.13	607.60	

poverty

	1997	1998
average household income per capita, lats	55,45	60,91
population below poverty-line (under the value of crisis minimum per capita)	68,4	

enrolment ratio - 91.8%  
 secondary enrolment ratio - 81.0%  
 tertiary enrolment ratio - 63.3

security and social justice (1998)

persons in prison per 100,000 people - 239

and environment (1997)

air person, m <sup>2</sup>	21.5
persons per room	1.2
% population with access to adequate sanitation	
% dwellings with access to safe drinking water	78.7
% dwellings with access to electricity	99.7
% dwellings with central heating	63.4
Arable land per capita, ha	0.7