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*Women's Integrated Legal Literacy  
(WILL) Project  
2002 - 2003 Evaluation Survey*



**WINROCK**  
INTERNATIONAL

**Women's Integrated Legal Literacy (WILL) Project**  
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## 2002 - 2003 Impact Evaluation Survey

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Winrock International  
Ul. Suleymanova 33  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan 700015  
Tel: (998 71) 120 7589  
Fax: (998 71) 120 7586  
E-mail: Will@willproject.uz

**Data processing and analysis  
were implemented in collaboration with**



**Written by Vyacheslav Suricov  
Translated into English by Ramesh Sultanov  
Original design and lay-out Ilja Serduk**

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## INTRODUCTION

In September 1999 Winrock International launched the Women's Integrated Legal Literacy (WILL) Project. Financed by USAID/CAR under Cooperative Agreement No. 122-007-A-00-9022-00 since October 1999, the goals of the WILL Project are to:

- Increase legal awareness of Uzbek women;
- Improve women's ability to exercise their legal rights; and
- Encourage women to participate in decision making to improve their social status.

Significantly, project implementation is informed by careful attention to local traditions and cultural practices as well as rural and urban differences. The WILL Project includes the following activities:

- Trainings for women legal literacy
- Advocacy Program
- Information Program
- Technical Assistance by US volunteers
- Grants Program

In 2001 Winrock International launched Phase II of the WILL Project.

In 2001, current changes were made to the training program in order to improve general efficiency of the program and broaden the target group. They included:

- Adaptation of the unique training program to better meet the needs of men and youth in Uzbekistan.
- Balanced expansion of trainer base so that every region is represented in the WILL trainers' network.
- Preparation of male trainers to conduct trainings.
- Development of an original training manual with input from WILL Project trainers.
- Expansion of training topic list.
- Conducting of trainings by male trainers for male-only and mixed groups in cities.
- Provision of TOTs and training conferences to ensure continued professional growth of trainers.
- Creation of a Regional Coordinators' Network (of trainers) to coordinate training outreach, organize local seminars, maintain training material libraries, and provide consulting and support to new trainers.

Introduction of the changes resulted in improvement of general impact of the training program and the project in whole, as well as project's institutionalization. Particularly, by the end of the project in 2003, a Regional Coordinator's network functioning irrespective of the project can be attested. At present, consideration is given to different options for registering the network, which is capable to claim implementation of national-level projects.

In 2002-2003, 4 advocacy fora were carried out **under the advocacy program** in different regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In 2002 - 2003 6 issues of the WILL News Bulletin were published **under the information program** in Uzbek, Russian and English presenting useful information about the activity of women's NGOs and organizations dealing with women's issues in Uzbekistan. In addition, Winrock International financially supported the translation and publication of different training manuals on subjects corresponding to WILL Project goals.

In 2002-2003, administration of 12 Small Grants was completed, which were aimed to encouraging women and women's organizations in improvement of the status of women in Uzbekistan.

## Methodology of Evaluation

The main goal of the survey was to collect and analyze the data required for evaluation of WILL Project activity in 2002-2003. The survey team was concentrated on the matter of quantity, quality and impact of different types of activities implemented under the WILL Project in 2002-2003.

### Data collection methods.

1. Semi-formal interviews with regional coordinators of the training program
2. Questionnaire survey among the following:
  - Training participants
  - Trainers

- Participants of advocacy fora conducted in 2001, NGO members
  - Participants of advocacy fora conducted in 2001, government representatives
3. Informal consultations with WILL Project personnel
  4. Analysis of different project documentation

**Data collection instruments.**

1. Semi-formal guides (scenarios) of interview with experts.
2. Questionnaires for each of the 4 respondent categories

**Number of respondents**

During the evaluation, 264 training participants in 13 regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan were surveyed in total. At first completeness check, 5 questionnaires were missing necessary information. They were excluded from processing and analysis of data. Thus 259 training participant questionnaires were processed and analyzed.

**Number of training participants interviewed, by region**

Region	Number of training participants interviewed
Tashkent	22
Navoi	20
Jizzak	20
Bukhara	18
Fergana	21
Andijan	20
Syrdarya	20
Kashkadarya	20
Khorezm	20
Samarkand	18
Namangan	20
Surkhandarya	22
Republic of Karakalpakstan	20
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>259</b>

**Number of training participants interviewed, by locality type**

Locality type	Number of training participants interviewed
Regional capitals (total number of inhabitants over 100.000)	87
District centers (total number of inhabitants 5.000 to 100.000)	88
Villages (total number of inhabitants under 5.000)	82
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>259</b>

In addition, 65 trainers who conduct trainings for the WILL Project were surveyed. At first checking, 2 trainer questionnaires were found invalid for the reason defined above. Thus 63 trainer questionnaires were processed and analyzed.

**Number of trainers interviewed, by region**

Region	Number of trainers interviewed
Fergana	5
Tashkent	6
Andijan	4
Andijan	4
Navoi	5
Navoi	5
Syrdarya	4
Syrdarya	4
Kashkadarya	5
Kashkadarya	5
Khorezm	5
Khorezm	5
Jizzak	4
Jizzak	4
Samarkand	3
Samarkand	3
Bukhara	6
Bukhara	6

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Namangan	5
Surkhandarya	5
Republic of Karakalpakstan	6
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>63</b>

In order to evaluate the Advocacy and Information Programs of the WILL Project, 30 participants in 5 regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan were surveyed. Of them, 15 were NGO representatives and 15 were representatives of governmental bodies. At first completeness checking, 2 questionnaires for representatives of governmental bodies were missing necessary information. These questionnaires were excluded from processing and analysis of data. Thus a total of 28 questionnaires for advocacy forum participants was processed and analyzed.

The quantitative data obtained during the evaluation was supplemented with qualitative information gained from the Training Program conducted by regional coordinators.

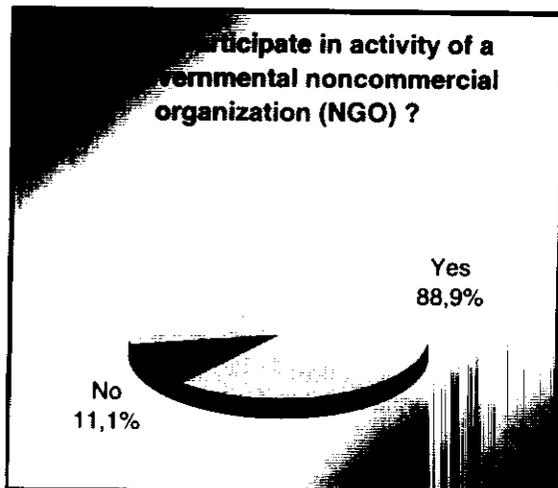
**Data analysis and processing methods**

1. Qualitative data were classified using ETHNOGRAPH 4.0 software.
2. Quantitative data were classified, calculated and subjected to statistical analysis using SPSS 10.0 software.

## EVALUATION OF IMPACT OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

### Profile of trainers who were surveyed

Of the trainers surveyed, 50% had been WILL trainers for over 22 months (as of July 2002). The average (among the whole sample) was 24 months. 88.9% of the trainers surveyed are active in non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Half of those who are began their NGO work before January 2001.



87.3% of the trainers surveyed reported that the NGOs in which they are active deal with women's legal issues (protection and promotion of women's rights).

Here, 21.8% of trainers from the specified category noted that within the framework of NGO activities for protection and promotion of women's rights they organize and conduct trainings and seminars, and 21.8% provide consultations. 18.2% of respondents from this category render assistance to women and representatives of socially vulnerable groups in case of violation of their rights. Also, other answers of trainers to the question "What exactly is the scope of your NGO activity for the protection and promotion of women's rights?" included:

*I promote development of women's leadership.  
I cover in mass media the cases of women's rights violation.  
I work with children and fight against forming of gender stereotypes.*

*I help businesswomen protect their rights.*

*As a director of Trust Centre I closely cooperate with law enforcement organs for protection of women's rights.*

*I facilitate rights of women occupied in public sector.  
I consult women on the matters of NGO establishment.*

and others.

Only 7.9% of the trainers surveyed did not participate in the training and educational programs of any other international and local organizations. 77.8% of trainers mentioned in this context the Counterpart Consortium, 71.4% - the Open Society Institute/Soros Foundation, and 31.7% - the American Bar Association (ABA). The training and educational programs of other organizations were also cited:

- UN Development Program (UNDP) – 25.4% of trainers;
- Global Training – 23.8%;
- USIS (US Information Agency) – 20.6%;
- Eurasia Foundation – 19.0%.
- Asian Development Bank – 17.5%;
- Peace Corps – 15.9%;

In this connection the following was named less often:

- Abt Associates (Zdravreform) – 14.3%;
- UN Children Foundation (UNICEF) – 12.7%.
- World Bank – 11.1%;
- Freedom House – 9.5%;
- OSCE – 9.5%;

The trainers surveyed took part, on average, in the training and educational programs of 4.1 organizations.

## Profile of training participants who were surveyed

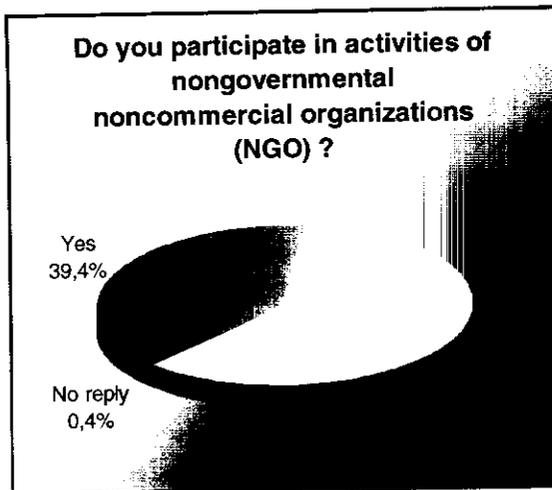
39.4% of the surveyed training participants stated that they participate in NGO activities, while 85.3% of those who do claimed that the NGO(s) in which they are active deal with women legal problems (protection and promotion of women's rights). 8.0% of training participants from this category noted that their specific NGO work included consulting and advising on rights protection, 6.9% – hold seminars, 4.6% – help arrange training and seminars or assist in media coverage of the problems related to violence against women, 3.4% facilitate legal protection of business women, 3.4% execute activities in makhalla, aiming to reduce abuse of women. Also, in this context other kinds of activities were also cited, particularly, such as:

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*I help women in preparing documents necessary for protection of their rights.  
I have established a microcredit association on the basis of gender club.  
I popularize the knowledge obtained at training among my community.  
I hold psychological consultations at local NGO on volunteer basis.  
I help NGO in issuing a bulletin.  
I have conducted a series of trainings at the college, where I work.  
I participate in protection of reproductive womens' rights.*

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and others.



Of the WILL training participants surveyed, 27.8% had not attended a training by various international and local organizations. 31.3% of respondents cited in this context the Counterpart Consortium, 18.9% - the Open Society Institute/Soros Foundation, 8.9% - the UN Children Foundation (UNICEF). Also, other training and educational programs of other organizations were named:

- Asian Development Bank – 6.2% of respondents;
- Eurasia Foundation – 6.2%;
- Global Training – 3.9%;
- UN Development Program (UNDP) – 3.5%.

The following was mentioned less often in this connection:

- Abt Associates (Zdravreform) – 3.1%;

- American Bar Association (ABA) – 3.1%;
- Peace Corps – 3.1%;
- Conrad Adenauer Foundation – 2.7%.

Also, the surveyed training participants cited other organizations, whose training and educational programs they attended.

On average, the WILL training participants surveyed took part in the training and educational programs of 1.1 other organizations.

## IMPROVEMENT OF TRAINING PARTICIPANT SKILLS

Factually, the WILL Project's Training Program has had significant impact in terms of increased awareness among training participants of national and international mechanisms to protect the human and civil rights of women. Only 22.0% of WILL training participants claimed that they do not know any national or international mechanisms establishing equal rights between men and women and/or protecting the rights of women and girls in Uzbekistan. A full 78.0% of training participants were able to cite various relevant documents and organizations. Talking of a mechanism establishing equality and protecting rights, 61.4% of respondents from this category specified the *Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan*, 48.0% – the courts, 40.1% – the *Ombudsman*, 28.2% – *women's committees*, and 28.7% – *Prosecutor's Office*.

The following documents and organizations were indicated in this relation as well:

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*Family Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan* – 28.7% (of the training participants, who reported awareness of national and international mechanisms ensuring equality and/or protecting rights of women and girls in Uzbekistan);  
UN and UN agencies – 27.2%;  
General Declaration of Human Rights – 21.3%;  
NGO – 18.3%;  
*Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan* – 15.8%;  
Citizen assembly – 12.4%;  
Makhalla Committees – 12.4%;  
*Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* – 11.9%;

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The training participants also cited other national and international documents and organizations as mechanisms ensuring equality and/or protecting rights of women and girls in Uzbekistan.

On average, WILL training participants surveyed could name 5.3 such documents and organizations.

94.6% of the surveyed training participants reported Islam as their religion, 1.5% - Christianity, 0.4% - Buddhism, and 3.5% did not adhere themselves to any religion. When asked whether the respondent's religion contains any principles supporting women's rights and gender equality, 5.8% of the training participants surveyed stated "No", 38.6% replied "Yes", and 52.5% found the question "Difficult to answer".

Of those respondents who responded affirmatively that their religion supports women's rights and gender equality, only 3.0% did not explain what exactly did they mean. The other 97.0% (of this respondent group) gave various explanations.

Analysis of the examples cited by respondents revealed the following:

13.0% indicated that Islam prescribes to treat women respectfully, 11.0% mentioned the Koran, another 10.0% – Hadiths, however, nominally, without further details.

A large number of respondents referring to text of the Hadiths and other sources stated that Islam praises the role of the mother. In this context, the following quotations were cited:

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*"Husband must not wound his wife, but maintain her and provide with property"*  
*"When making presents, do it equally without fail. If I were to prefer I would choose a woman". – says the Prophet.*  
*«First bow to mother, then again to mother, and again to mother, and then to father -;*  
*«The Paradise is under mother's feet -;*  
*«Mother is the great Kin».*  
*A woman who brought up three daughters and gave them in marriage comes to Paradise:*  
*"Allah supports a man, who respects his wife":*  
*"I have created man out of woman and woman out of man".*

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Some of the respondents particularly noted principles in their religion stipulating respect for aged women.

Some quotations and phrases cited by the respondents have an institutional and regulating meaning and refer to regulating family relationships.

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*After marriage, a man has no right to refuse from his wife for a minimum of 6 months.*  
*When divorcing, a portion of property should be paid to a wife.*  
*Woman should be charged with easy job only.*  
*Both daughter and son are equal.*  
*Before Islam (here), a custom was to kill newborn daughters, if they were not needed. Islam does not allow for that.*  
*If a husband puts on new clothes, he must buy new clothes for his wife as well.*

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Some statements of the respondents indicate equality of men and women in social and religious aspects.

*Muslim men and women have equal rights for obtaining knowledge  
 Everybody has right to learn a trade.*

In order to evaluate the degree to which "active" knowledge increased during WILL trainings, in course of questioning respondents were asked to consider three cases in which women's rights are violated. The first case concerns domestic violence. Only 0.4% of the training participants surveyed could not specify any structure or organization they would advise to appeal for help, or any documents probably needed in such case. The rest of the respondents named various institutions which can assist a woman who has experienced domestic violence at the hands of her husband or another family member.

The following were cited most often:

1. A husband or another family member of your female friend beats and verbally abuses her. What organizations or structures would you advise her to turn to for assistance? What documents may she need?

Court – 35.1%;  
 Makhalla Committee – 22.8%;  
 Women Committee – 21.2%;  
 Militia – 21.2%;  
 NGO – 16.9%;  
 Makhalla citizen assembly – 12.7%;  
 Prosecutor Office – 12.0%.

The training participants surveyed also indicated documents, which can be necessary in such cases.

2. A friend married in an traditional ceremony and marriage was not officially registered. After a while she was locked out of her husband's house with two children. She is seeking alimony and living space in her husband's house for herself and her children. However, her husband has locked her out and makhalla committee workers, refusing to recognize her marriage, require her to move back to her parents. Where would you advise her to turn for help? What documents may she need?

Petition to court – 26.3%;  
 Certificate of forensic examination – 19.7%;  
 Written testimonies of witnesses, neighbors – 9.3%;  
 Doctor's reference on availability of injuries – 8.9%;

and others.

The next situation proposed in the survey concerned violation of a woman's rights after dissolution of her unregistered (contracted by religious custom) marriage. Only less than 4% of the training participants surveyed could not specify any structure or organization where they would advise to appeal for help, or any documents probably needed in such case.

The rest of the respondents offered various structures and organizations, which are helpful in such situation.

The following structure and organizations were cited most often:

3. An organization where your female friend works cannot pay her salary for four months. Where would you advise her to complain? What documents may be required?

Court – 59.3%;  
 Prosecutor Office – 6.6%;  
 NGO – 6.2%;  
 Makhalla Committee – 4.2%

The training participants surveyed also indicated various documents which could be helpful in this case:

Child birth certificate – 42.6%;  
 Neighbor evidences – 19.3%;  
 Petition to court – 17.8%;  
 Reference from residence place (from makhalla committee) – 10.4%;  
 Certificate of paternity – 9.3%.

and others.

The last of the situations proposed during the survey, concerned violation of a woman's economic rights at work. 8.3% of the training participants surveyed could not specify any structure or organization they would advise to appeal for assistance, or any documents probably needed in such situation. The rest of the respondents suggested various structures and institutions that could be of assistance in such a case:

The following structures and organizations were cited most often:

Trade union	37.8%
Court	30.1%
Prosecutor Office	11.2%
Higher echelons	9.7%
Hokimiyat	8.5%
Company management	6.6%

The training participants surveyed also indicated documents, which can be necessary in such cases:

Petition to court	18.1%
Labor agreement	16.2%
Certificate from accounting department on charging of salary	9.3%
Certificate from job office	6.6%

and others.

## Awareness of factors blocking women from equal participation in social life

Only 1.2% of the training participants surveyed believe no barriers hinder women and girls from participating on par with men in all spheres of Uzbek life. The remaining 98.8% named various factors blocking women from equal participation in social life. The following factors were cited most often:

- Responsibilities related to child-bearing and raising;
- Lack of legal literacy and knowledge of gender issues by all of society;
- Lack of economic means;
- Personal status within the family.

The full distribution of answers to this question (% of respondents who chose one option or another) is given in the table below.

### What barriers block women and girls from participating equally and equitably in all spheres (government, non-government, politics, business, family) of Uzbek life?

Lack/unavailability of education/training	39.0
Lack of leadership skills	34.4
Lack of economic means	44.0
Personal status within the family	44.0
Written religious rules	20.5
Applied religious beliefs	24.7
Responsibilities related to child-bearing and raising	63.3
Low self-esteem and self-respect	27.0
Lack of laws establishing and protecting equality between men and women	19.3
State of legal rights enforcement	11.6
Socially accepted gender roles (stereotypes) between men and women	34.0
Lack of legal literacy and knowledge of gender issues by men/boys only	29.3
Lack of legal literacy and knowledge of gender issues by women/girls only	30.5
Lack of legal literacy and knowledge by all of society	45.6
There are no obstacles	1.2

Analysis of the responses revealed the following noteworthy facts:

Female respondents more often than men chose the following options in reply to the question above:

- Lack of economic means (selected by 46.4% of female respondents vs. 34.0% of the men surveyed);
- Lack of leadership skills (35.9% vs. 28.0%);
- Low self-esteem and self-respect (28.2% vs. 22.0%);
- Socially accepted gender roles (stereotypes) of men and women (35.4% vs. 28.0%);

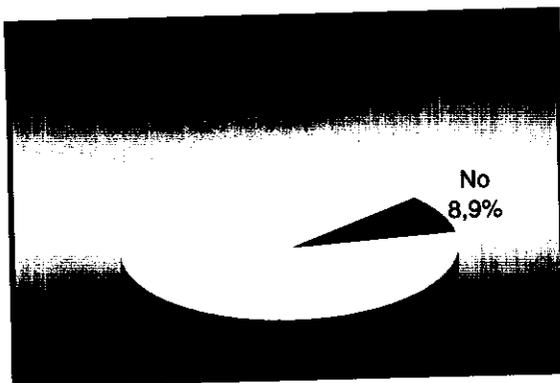
Male respondents chose the following answers relatively more often than women did:

- Lack/unavailability of education/trainings (44.0% of male respondents vs. 37.7% of women);
- Responsibilities related to child-bearing and raising (68.0% vs. 62.2%);
- Lack of leadership skills (33.3% vs. 28.2%);
- Lack of laws establishing and protecting equality between men and women (26.0% vs. 17.7%)

Surveyed trainers also expressed their opinion of what barriers prevent women and girls from equally participation in all spheres and sectors of Uzbek life. Distribution of trainer answers is given in table below.

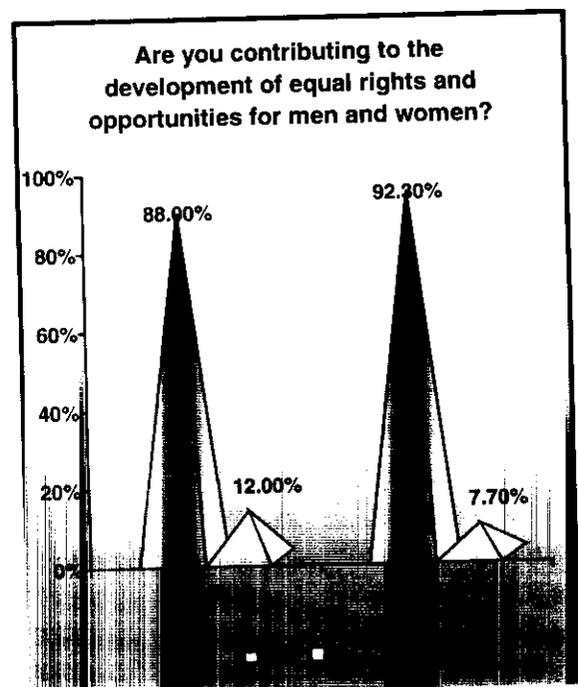
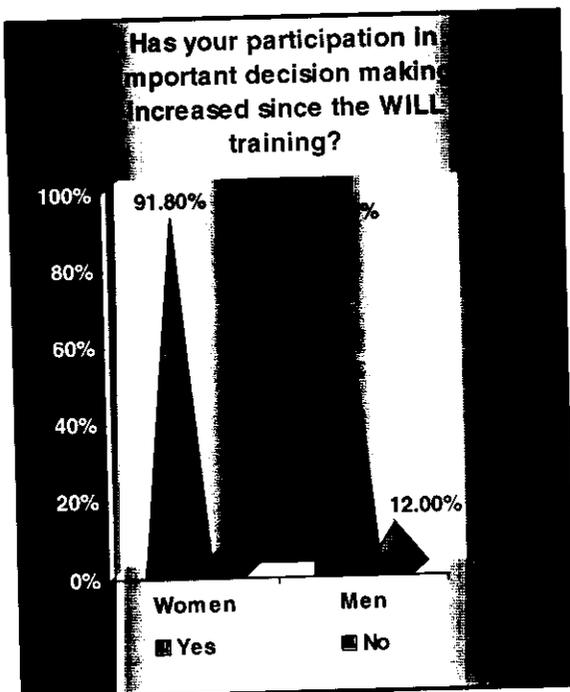
Lack/unavailability of education/training	44.4
Lack of leadership skills	46.0
Lack of economic means	57.1
Personal status within the family	49.2
Written religious rules	15.9
Applied religious beliefs	33.3
Responsibilities related to child-bearing and raising	47.6
Low self-esteem and self-respect	57.1
Lack of laws establishing and protecting equality between men and women	27.0
State of legal rights enforcement	38.1
Socially accepted gender roles (stereotypes) between men and women	63.5
Lack of legal literacy and knowledge of gender issues by men/boys only	54.0
Lack of legal literacy and knowledge of gender issues by women/girls only	36.5
Lack of legal literacy and knowledge by all of society	55.6

### Increased participation in important decision making



Significantly, over 9 out of 10 training participants surveyed (91.1%) claimed that the share of their participation in important decision making has increased since attending a training. 70.5% of those **who reported such an increase of own participation in important decision making, said** it occurred in the sphere of personal and family finances, including own time management and allocation of work/chores around the house, while 59.1% reported the increase in activity level and high regard at work. The full breakdown of answers to the question "Please, specify namely the spheres where your participation in important decision making has increased" is shown in the table below.

Personal and family finance, including time management and allocation of work/chores around the house	70.5
Activity level and high regard as a leader and decision-maker at home	56.5
Activity level and validation at work	59.1
Activity level, professional respect and high regard on self-government boards, such as makhalla committees (both official and unofficial)	24.9
Activity level, professional respect and high regard in municipal institutions (women's committees, hokimiyats, business and non-government sectors)	20.3
Activity level in civic initiatives at work with NGOs or initiative groups	27.0
Other	0.4



When analyzing the data, the following noteworthy patterns in distribution of answers within some socio-demographic groups were revealed:

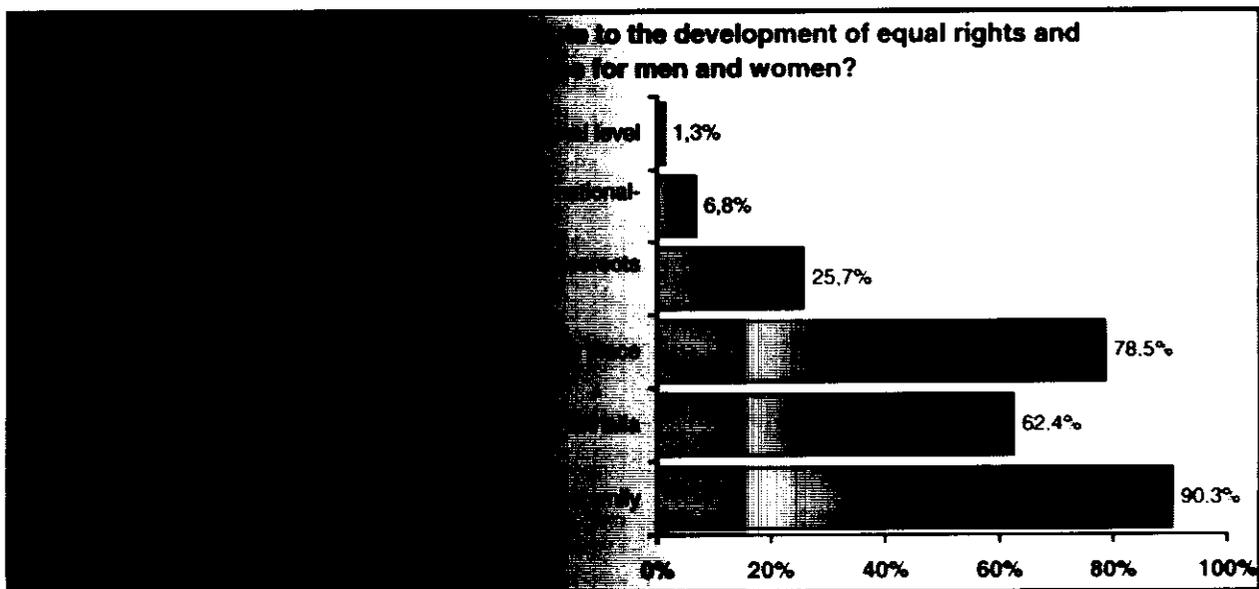
- Female respondents (relatively) more often than men surveyed chose the answer "Activity level and high regard on self-government boards" (26.1% vs. 20.0%), as well as the option "Activity level and high regard in municipal institutions" (21.3% vs. 15.6%)
- Male respondents (relatively) more often than women surveyed chose the answer "Activity level in civic initiatives at work with NGOs or initiative groups" (42.2% vs. 23.4%).

The respondents noted different factors (in one way or another related to their participation in trainings), which influenced their activity level and opportunity to effect changes in women's and men's social roles and social development. Among these factors the following were specified:

- Improved leadership capabilities, resulting from better communication and getting conflict resolution and gender analysis skills – 69.5% (of those reporting an increase in participation in key decision making);
- Greater knowledge and improved understanding of how to utilize human and civil rights laws – 52.1%;
- Awareness of how gender-based discrimination is manifested in society (public and private) – 47.0%;
- Improved self-esteem – 45.8%;
- Ability to separate traditions from human rights, and stereotypes from abilities – 43.6%;
- A sense of connectedness with women's organizations and a larger community that understands who I am – 32.2%;
- Broadened access to the network of women and legal NGO – 22.0%.

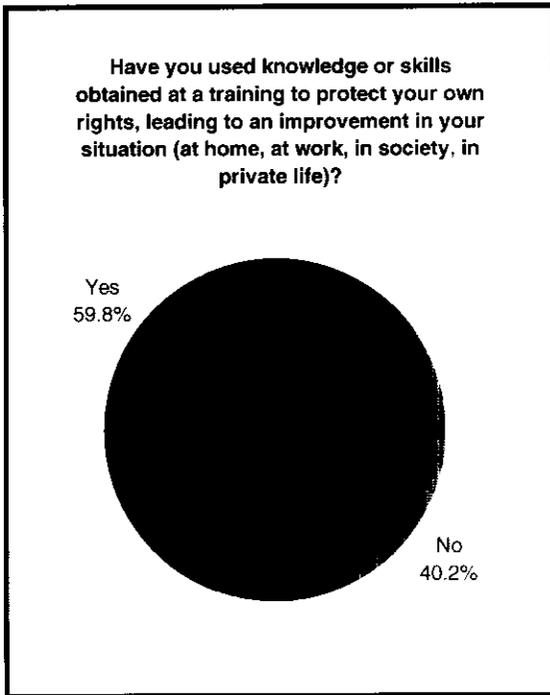
An overwhelming majority of training participants (91.5%) responded positively to the question "Are you contributing to the development of equal rights and opportunities for men and women?" (Distribution of answers within the groups formed by sex is shown in chart). When then asked "Please specify how you do so," most respondents declared "As an individual within my family" (90.3% of those who previously reported their ability to contribute to the development of equal rights and opportunities for men and women). Other answers were also noted:

- At my work place – 78.5%;
- As a member of my makhalla – 62.4%;
- As a member of an NGO working at the grassroots community level – 25.7%;
- As a member of an NGO working at the level of national-political decision making – 6.8%;
- As a member of an NGO working at the international level – 1.3%;



In general, such structure of levels, at which respondents feel empowered to exert such influence is specific for analysis of data of socio-demographic profiles (gender, age, etc.)

## Use of knowledge and skills gained at trainings



Analysis of data obtained during the evaluation, revealed relatively high level of application by training participants of the legal knowledge and skills obtained at trainings. When asked whether they had applied the new knowledge and skills to defend their own rights, resulting in an improvement of their situation, fully two thirds of the respondents replied "Yes" (see chart).

Respondents went on to name various spheres in which they had applied the new knowledge and skills gained during the trainings.

10.3% (of the respondents who applied the knowledge and skills) stated that they could apply the knowledge and skills *at home, within the family.*

7.7% reported that *they applied the obtained knowledge and skills at their work, within their collectives.*

Also, some examples of specific situations in which respondents used the knowledge and skills obtained at trainings to defend their rights and improve social status are described below.

*Now my attitude to my daughter-in-law and her attitude to me has changed.*

*I took over more chores on a par with my wife and children. I show more initiative in all things.*

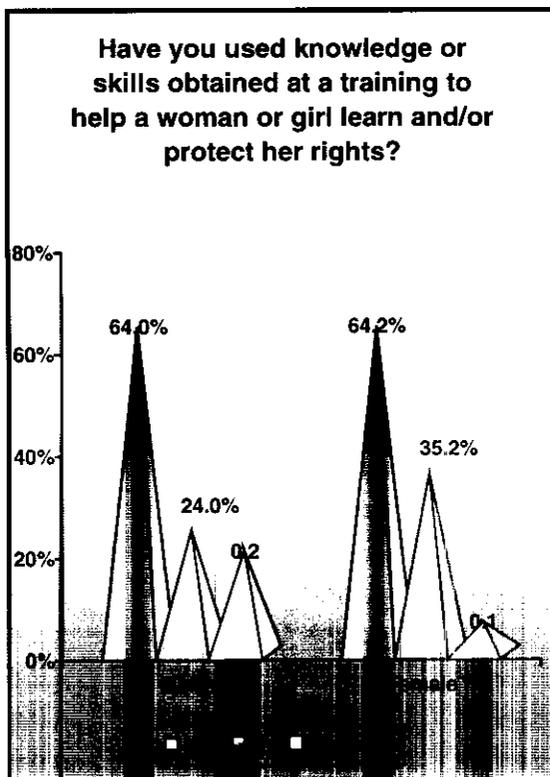
*Previously I was allowed to visit my mother in another region only once a year. Now I go more often and my relatives do not mind.*

*I have established a private farm and defended my right at Hokimiyat. I refused to marry an unloved man. I managed to convince my parents.*

*I have get equal within my family. I'm not wounded now.*

*I have changed my attitude to men at my work. I feel less shy of them and debate if necessary.*

*I feel more self-reliance and purposefulness. Now my standpoint is respected within my family an at work.*



Many training participants reported that they not only applied the knowledge and skills obtained at trainings to **defend their own rights**, but also to **help their female friends protect their rights and improve social status**. Almost 2/3 of the men and women surveyed claimed that they had used knowledge and skills obtained at trainings to help female acquaintances protect their rights and improve their social status. Some of the specific situations described are cited below.

*I have prevented divorce after discussion with all family. I have convinced them that daughter-in-law's life needs to be eased.*

*I advised on how to claim alimonies correctly.*

*My female friend was to be married by force, and I advised her to turn to the Women Committee. Now she is married to loved man.*

*I convinced my neighbor to let her daughter go for study.*

*My friends married their son off and did not want to register the marriage at a civilian registry office. They planned to hold a "nikoh" only. I convinced them that the marriage should be registered.*

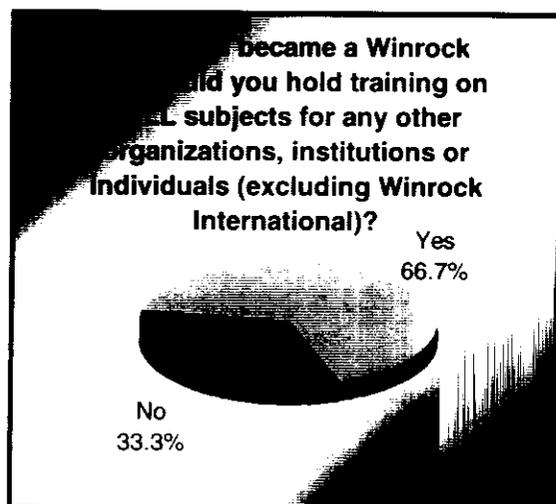
*I helped eliminate violence within the family of my female friend.*

*I helped a woman to collect documents for getting child allowances.*

*My female friend was beaten by her brother. He was dissatisfied with her. He thought her frivolous. I made him ashamed.*

*Now there is no violence.*

## Demand for WILL trainings from organizations, institutions and individuals



Demand for WILL trainers from other organizations, institutions and individuals may be considered as resulting from the impact of the WILL training program (and, indirectly, other project components). During the evaluation WILL trainers were asked "Since you became a Winrock trainer, have any other organizations, institutions or individuals invited you to hold trainings on WILL subjects?" 2/3 of the trainers surveyed replied "Yes" to this question (see chart).

The following organizations, institutions and individuals were listed specifically by WILL trainers:

19.0% (of the trainers who reported invitations to holding WILL trainings) noted in this connection various educational institutions, 11.9% - different NGO.

Also, different governmental boards (hokimiyats, Hokimiyat departments, Justice department), donor organizations, makhallas and makhalla committees were noted.

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## EVALUATION OF IMPACT OF THE ADVOCACY PROGRAM

### Profile of advocacy forum participants – NGO members and representatives)

During evaluation of the WILL Project's advocacy program, 15 participants of advocacy fora held by Winrock International in 2002-2003 were surveyed; they represented various NGOs from 4 regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

40% of organizations, whose representatives were surveyed, exist for less than 2 years (as of July 2003) and the other 50% – over 2 years.

The NGO representatives surveyed defined the main activity of their organizations. In particular, the following areas were specified:

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*Psychological aid to women – violence victims – 40.0%(of surveyed NGO representatives);*  
*Medical aid and consultations – 33.3%;*  
*Legal assistance and consultations – 26.7%;*  
*Professional education – 13.3%;*  
*Legal education – 13.3%;*  
*Business trainings – 13.3%;*  
*Legal counseling – 13.3%;*  
*Protection of economic rights – 13.3%.*

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Other activities (in single cases) were also stated, such as:

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*Microcrediting program;*  
*Preparation of television and radio programs;*  
*Training of mass media staff;*  
*Civil society support;*  
*Reproductive health program.*

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and others.

In answer to the question "Does your NGO deal with women's legal problems (protection and promotion of women's rights)?" 80.0% of the NGO representatives surveyed replied "Yes." The kinds of women's rights activities which the respondents are personally dealing with at their NGO include:

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*Protection of rights and interests of business women;*  
*Support in the cases when a woman is pressurized by local authorities or law enforcement bodies;*  
*Prevention of family violence;*  
*Issuing of an informational bulletin;*  
*Preparation of legal documents for trials, and other documents;*  
*Participation in preparing a methodical guidelines to hold media-campaigns for elimination of domestic violence;*  
*Consultations by trust telephone;*  
*Legal consultations for women.*

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and others.

### Profile of advocacy forum participants – government representatives

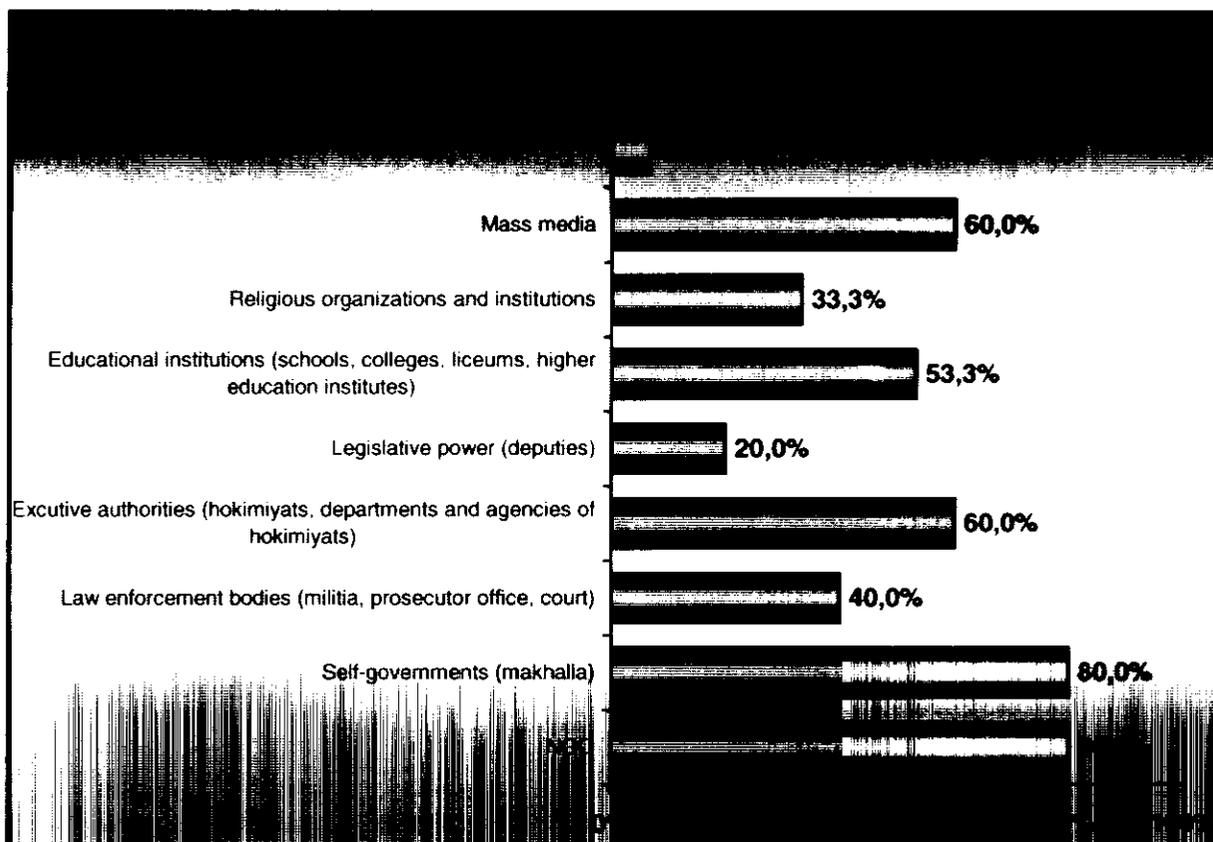
During the evaluation of the WILL Project's advocacy program, 13 government representatives who had participated in advocacy fora held by Winrock International in 2002-2003 were surveyed; they represent different government bodies from 4 regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Over a half of the government officials surveyed (53.8%) represented hokimiyats, including various departments and agencies of hokimiyats. In this category, 23.1% of respondents represented law enforcement bodies, and 23.1% - mass media.

## Establishment of partnerships at advocacy fora Use of partnership relations

93.3% of the forum participants – NGO representatives surveyed declared that they have established partnership relations with government authorities during a forum held by Winrock International. 80.0% noted new partnerships with other NGOs, and 60.0% reported establishing partnerships with executive authorities (hokimiyats, departments and agencies of hokimiyats).

Also, in this context the respondents- NGO members cited the following structures and boards (see chart):



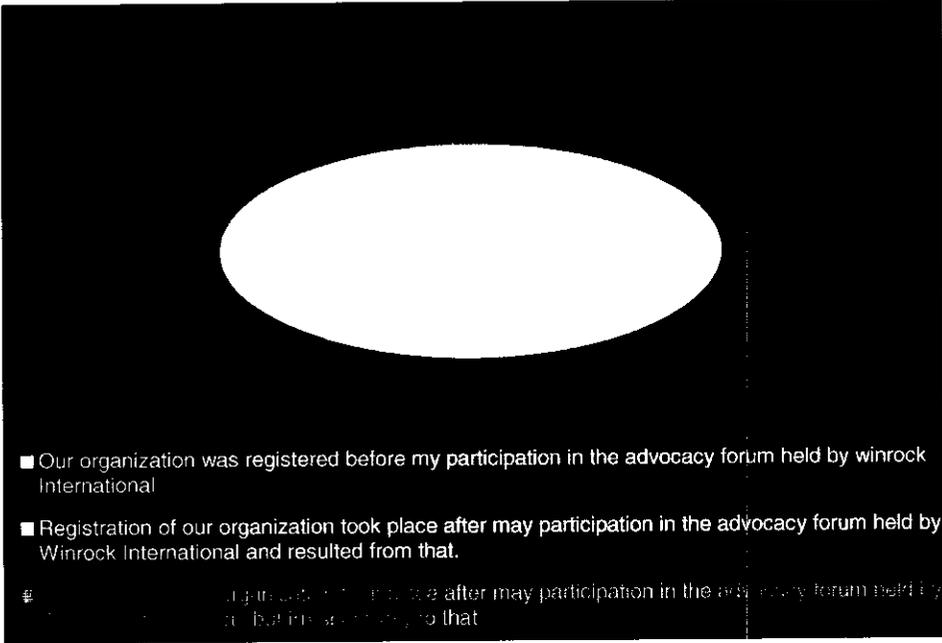
The majority of the government representatives surveyed also reported establishment of new partnerships during a forum, specifically, with representatives of:

NGO	61.5
Self-governments (makhalla)	53.8
Law enforcement organs (militia, prosecutor office, court)	53.8
Executive authorities (hokimiyats, departments and agencies of hokimiyats)	53.8
Representatives of legislative power (deputies)	23.1
Educational institutions (schools, colleges, lyceums, higher educational institutes)	30.8
Religious organizations and institutions	23.1
Mass media	46.2
No reply	7.7

80.0% of the NGO members surveyed claimed that later they used new partnerships established at the fora to solve problems hindering their organization's activities. Specific examples of using partnership relations include:

*I have received a consultation on registering an organization.  
 Together with mass media staff we developed social advertisement reels and showed them on local television.*

*We were assisted in opening a credit line for women launching their own business.  
 We distributed information about activities of crisis centers in Uzbekistan.*

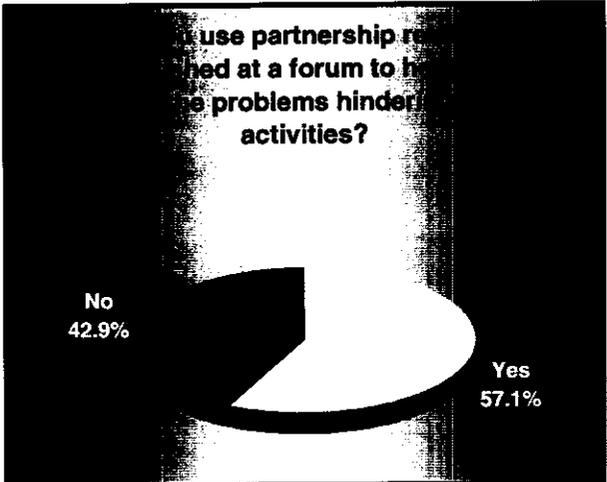


- Our organization was registered before my participation in the advocacy forum held by winrock International
- Registration of our organization took place after my participation in the advocacy forum held by Winrock International and resulted from that.
- #

6.7% OF THE NGO MEMBERS SURVEYED ATTRIBUTED REGISTRATION OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS TO THEIR PARTICIPATION AT A WILL ADVOCACY FORUM.

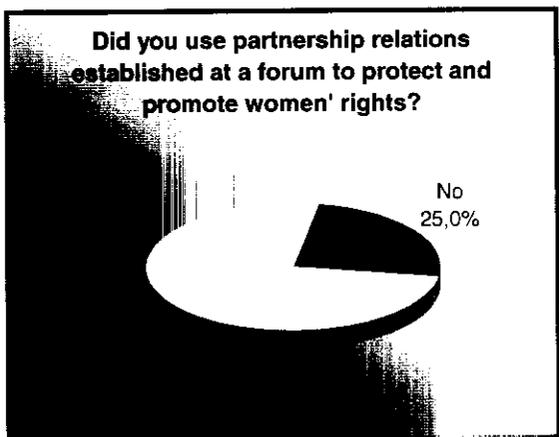
57.1% of NGO members surveyed stated that they have used new partnerships established at a forum to assist other NGOs and initiative groups to solve problems hindering their activities (see chart). Specific cases of such assistance included:

- Arranged a seminar for NGO workers and prosecutor staff devoted to fulfilment of CEDAW convention.*
- Establishment and registration of a NGO.*
- Development of a project.*
- Assisted in establishment of social partnership with executive authorities.*



53.3% of the NGO members surveyed declared that they have used partnerships established at the fora to protect and promote women's rights. In this context specific examples of such assistance were cited:

- We arranged trainings for law enforcement officers and makhalla activists.*
- Together with other NGO as well as in collaboration with a governmental organization we developed a project for protection and promotion of reproductive health*



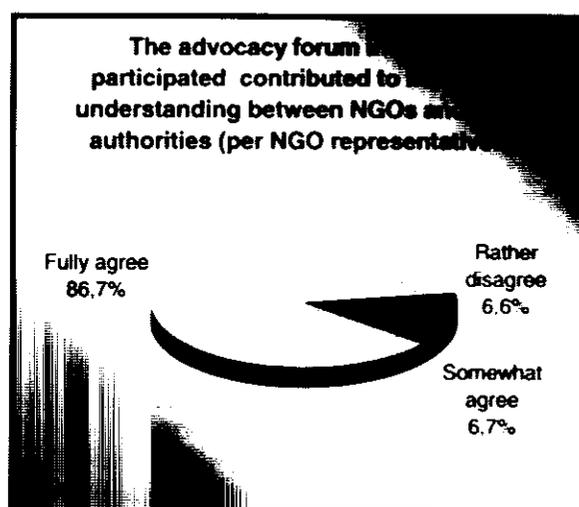
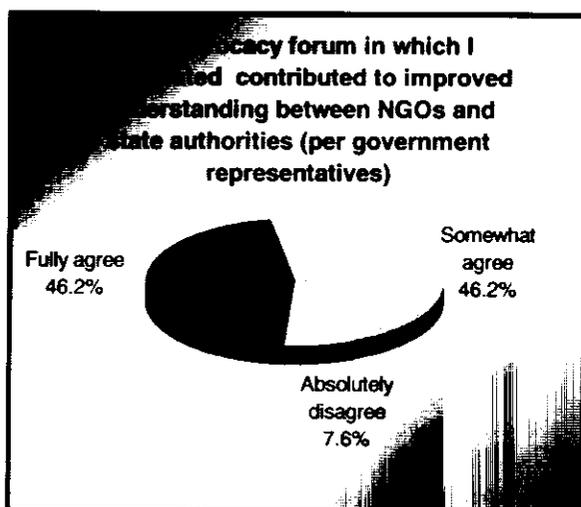
Nearly half – 61.5% of the **government representatives** surveyed claimed that they used new partnerships established at the fora to help NGOs and initiative groups solve problems hindering their activities. The respondents cited specific examples of such assistance:

3/4 of the **government representatives** surveyed stated that they have used partnerships established at WILL fora to protect and promote women's rights (see chart 12). Specific cases of such assistance include:

92.3% of the **government representatives** surveyed affirmed that they can contribute to the development of equal rights for men and women. In answer to the question "How, exactly, can you do so?" 91.7% (of the respondents who reported their ability to contribute to the development of equal rights for men and women) chose the option "At my working place", 75.0% - "As an individual, within my family", 58.3% - "As a member of a joint forum of NGO and government representatives" and 50.0% - "As a member of my makhalla."

### Participants' evaluation of the fora

In general, participants highly appraised the advocacy fora as a form of interaction between NGOs and government authorities (see charts)



In the opinion of those participants surveyed, the forum during which government and NGO representatives elaborate a joint action plan is one of the most effective forms of interaction and partnership, second only to joint projects. The potential of advocacy fora to affect legislation was appraised very highly as well.

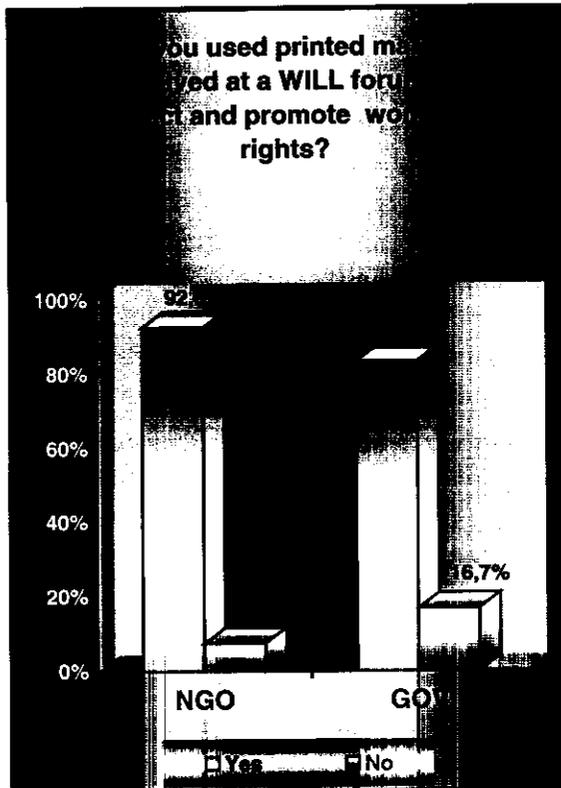
**In your opinion, what are the most productive forms of cooperation between NGOs and government?**

Forms of Cooperation	Advocacy forum participants -NGO representatives	Advocacy forum participants -government representatives
Round tables and conferences	66.7	66.7
Forums to elaborate joint action plan of state authorities and NGOs	73.3	50.0
Forums to elaborate joint proposals to change laws and improve their execution	73.3	58.3
Joint projects	60.0	83.3
Government contracts to NGOs	33.3	50.0
Government grants to NGOs	66.7	41.7
Citizen assemblies	26.7	16.7

## EVALUATION OF IMPACT OF THE INFORMATION PROGRAM

The WILL News bulletin is a core resource of the Information Program of the WILL Project. The bulletin is published in three languages once every two months. All respondent categories surveyed during the project evaluation were asked "Do you have access to materials and documents on women's rights and gender matters? If yes, what are the sources?" and many respondents named the WILL News bulletin. Frequency of choosing such option for all respondent categories is given in the table.

Training participants	44.7
WILL trainers	100.0
Advocacy forum participants, representatives of NGO-s	100.0
Advocacy forum participants, representatives of governmental structures	27.3



In addition, the Information Program supported translation and publishing of different training manuals and reference books on women's legal issues. Copies of these materials as well as the WILL News bulletin are distributed among participants at all advocacy fora for use in their activities to protect and promote women's rights.

80.0% of the advocacy forum participants surveyed who represent NGOs declared that they used the printed materials obtained at the fora to solve problems confronting their organizations.

93.3% of the same category of respondents noted that they utilized printed materials obtained at the fora to help other NGOs and initiative groups solve problems hindering their activities. While 86.7% stated that they used printed materials to protect and promote women's rights (see chart).

84.6% of the advocacy forum participants surveyed who represent government claimed that they used the printed materials received at a WILL forum to help NGOs and initiative groups to solve problems hindering their activities. 84.6% of respondents in this category reported that they used printed materials obtained at a forum to protect and promote women's rights (see chart).

## IMPACT OF THE GRANT PROGRAM

For the period from January 2002 to September 2003 the WILL program supported a total of 13 NGO projects dealing with women problems from 8 regions of the Republic.

The main goal of majority of the projects was holding of seminars aimed to increase of legal literacy of rural women and development of their leadership skills. A part of the projects provided for training of trainers out of school, college and lyceum teachers as well as representatives of women committees in makhallas. Bulletins, booklets or informational leaflets were issued under 8 projects, which contained information about women's rights and methods of their protection. Within the framework of a half of 13 projects, round tables and fora have been arranged, devoted to the same topics. One of the projects has arranged a summary camp for legal education of rural girls from Karakalpakstan.

One of the most significant successes of the program is the high degree of attainability of target group impact in many regions of the Republic. Resulting from activities of the WILL Grant Program, several hundreds of women from remote areas of Uzbekistan have obtained new knowledge of their rights and of how can they improve and ease their life through skillful utilization of this knowledge. Some short stories from the life of women contacted with the program are given below:

*"Mamonova Sarvar – inhabitant of the Korasuv cooperative farm. She is mother of 6 children, female leader of the district; she manages the Ali Bobo private farm. The private farm under her management cultivates grain and cotton. There are 250 heads of cattle in the private farm. Before attending our seminars she had no idea about international funds rendering financial support. As recommended by us, she participated in seminars, and obtained information about possibility of receiving loans from the TACIS foundation. Now she operates a min-plant for processing of dairy foods".*

*"Rakhima Kuchkinova is 28 years old. She lives in the Angor makhalla of the Mustakillik cooperative farm. Having visited training seminars in makhalla and gained knowledge of family law and succession, she turned to our center. Rakhima had married in the Termez district without state registration of the marriage, and after child birth she returned to parents' home. By that time her parents were dead. Her brother, I. Kuchkinov lived in the parents' home. The house was big: two homesteads and 1,5 hectare of land. However, her brother kicked Rakhima out together with her child, having said: "You are woman, you are married and you have no rights for any homestead". Following her turning to the center, she received legal consultation by the lawyer of the center, that a part of house and homestead belongs to her by succession, according to the law, and this problem can be solved judicially"*

*One of facilitators had held a working meetings on women's rights with girls who recently graduated from school. A marriage problems were discussed at the meeting. After the meeting one of girls addressed to her and said that she was forced to marry an unloved man from remote village, where living standards were much worse, and customs and traditions predominated (a living place of ethnic Arabs). The facilitator – Oltin opa – did not know how to help her. She tried to talk to mother, but the latter flatly refused to listen to her, alluding to her words to matchmakers. Oltin opa did not give up and turned to brother of that girl; as she was her teacher, he had to listen to her. Oltin opa explained to him, that his sister is a human being having the same rights as he does. She also has feelings and marrying her off by force means violence of a person. Some time later that girl married a guy she loved."*

## IMPACT OF THE CULTURE PROGRAM

Within the framework of the Culture Program, for the period from June 2002 to August 2003 5 grants for the total of US\$5,597 were implemented. All the 5 projects were aimed to creation of performances (one of the projects included 5 mini-performances) covering the topics of gender disparity of men and women, family violence and vulnerability of women' rights. The performances were intended to be shown to general public and to use their video records as a demonstration material at trainings for gender problems.

Three of five grants were received by Karakalpak NGOs. The main plot of two performances produced in the region was the tradition of bride abduction prevailing in Karakalpakstan. The survey of Karakalpakstan residents shows that mostly bride abductions happen with mutual consent of two young people in order to avoid excessive bride-money payment. However quite often a bride is abducted by force, without her consent. In such cases a girls gets to fiancé's family without any rights. The performances "Let threads of hope not tear" and "Divorce a la Karakalpak" were devoted to the violent abduction of brides.

According to the authors, the purpose of the performances was to change views of youth to the problem of violent abduction of girls as well as change of stereotype men' understandings of women' role in a family and society. The survey of target group representatives conducted within the framework of project output evaluation has shown that to achieve the target it is desirable not to demonstrate the problem only through a performance. Many spectators even did not recognize bride abduction as a problem, but called it a tradition of their people. Probably, reasons of the problem have to be shown and audience should be offered effective ways of its solution. Thus, for example, demonstrating of video records of the performance at trainings as well as discussion of the problem and its solutions among an audience with participation of a consultant lawyer may lead to the best results.

The performances staged by NGOs from the Fergana and Navoi provinces raise the problem occurring in traditional Uzbek families (especially, rural ones), when a girl getting to husband's family, is deprived of all her rights and falls into dependence on the husband and mother-in-law. Even if she is subjected to violence in this family, she has no opportunity to divorce or appeal for help, because that is condemned by customs.

A vivid discussion, which took place among the audience after the performance, witnesses the urgency of this problem for many women in traditional families. Stereotypes and traditions are so strong in consciousness of people, and, most important, of women themselves that they hardly can fight against established principles without appropriate knowledge of their rights and methods of their protection.

These performances as well as those created by the Karakalpak NGOs are just a reflection of the well-known problems. In order to turn them into instrument of changing people's consciousness and their attitude to women rights in family and society, it is necessary that performances would show the ways of changing the existing situation of women. Use of video records of the performances as demonstration materials at the trainings dedicated to women' legal literacy can provide good results as well.

## FUTURE PROSPECTS

### Prospects for cooperation among institutions for the protection and promotion of women's rights.

The overwhelming majority of all categories of respondents recognize that the protection and promotion of women's rights are important and pressing issues (see the table)

	Yes, certainly	Yes, somewhat	Not really	Definitely, no	No answer
Training participants	81.5%	17.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Trainers	90.5%	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Participants of advocacy fora (NGO representatives)	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Participants of advocacy fora (government representatives)	84.6%	7.7%	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%

Here, different structures and organizations and individuals are specified, which, in respondents' opinion, at present may effectively promote protection and promotion of women rights.

	Participants of advocacy fora – government representatives
NGOs	83.3
Self-government boards (makhallas)	83.3
Law enforcement organs (militia, prosecutor's office, courts)	83.3
Executive bodies (hokimiyats)	75.0
Legislative representatives (deputies)	16.7
Educational institutions (schools, colleges, lyceums, higher education institutes)	50.0
Religious organizations and institutions	25.0
Mass media	58.3

	Training participants	Trainers
NGO	79.9	96.8
Prosecutor office	39.8	33.3
Militia	27.0	17.5
Self-government boards (makhallas)	57.1	47.6
Independent lawyers, attorneys	24.7	41.3
Executive bodies (hokimiyats)	29.3	39.7
Courts	47.9	25.4
Legislative representatives (deputies)	11.2	12.7
Educational institutions (schools, colleges, lyceums, higher education institutes)	22.0	33.3
Religious organizations and institutions	14.3	9.5
Mass media	47.1	66.7

Forum participants, NGO representatives, provided data on the scope of their organizations' current cooperation with other organizations and structures. The respondents of these categories also named the organizations and institutions, with which they (as NGO representatives) would like to establish closer relations that could be helpful in the protection and promotion of women's rights. Data obtained for the mentioned category of respondents are presented in the table below.

**With which organizations and institutions does your organization cooperate most closely on the protection and promotion of women's rights? With which organizations and institutions would you like to establish a closer partnership to contribute to the protection and promotion of women's rights?**

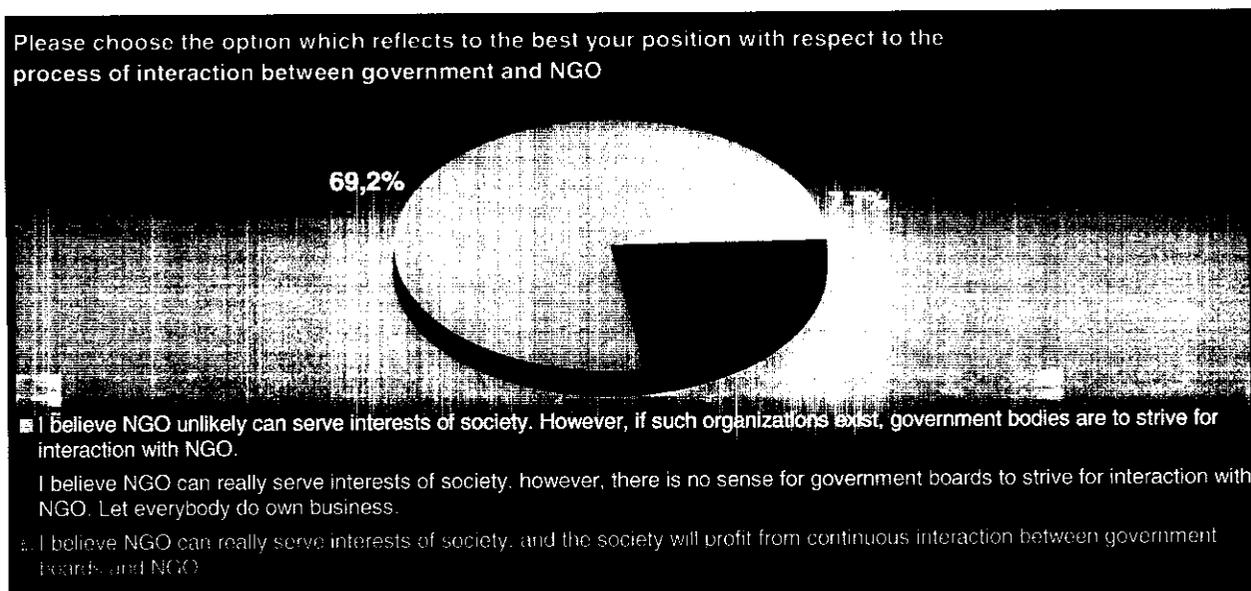
	Cooperate at present	Would like to establish closer relations
NGOs	91.7	46.7
Self-government boards (makhallas)	75.0	26.7
Law enforcement organs (militia, prosecutor's office, courts)	50.0	73.3
Executive bodies (hokimiyats)	58.3	66.7
Legislative representatives (deputies)	16.7	33.3
Educational institutions (schools, colleges, lyceums, higher education institutes)	58.3	20.0
Religious organizations and institutions	41.7	13.3
Mass media	83.3	60.0

As the survey showed, Government representatives who participated in the advocacy fora rather highly evaluate the contribution of NGOs to social development in Uzbekistan today. Of those surveyed, 7.7% believe that the *contribution of NGOs to social development is essential in many spheres of public life*, while another 15.4% are of the opinion that the *contribution of NGOs to social development is essential, and particularly in some spheres of public life*, and 69.2% reckon that the *contribution of NGOs to social development is insignificant, however, in some spheres NGO activity is considerably useful*, and only 7.4% felt that the *contribution of NGOs to social development is negligible in all spheres of public life*.

Forum participants, government representatives opined that NGOs are actually helpful in the following spheres of Uzbek public life:

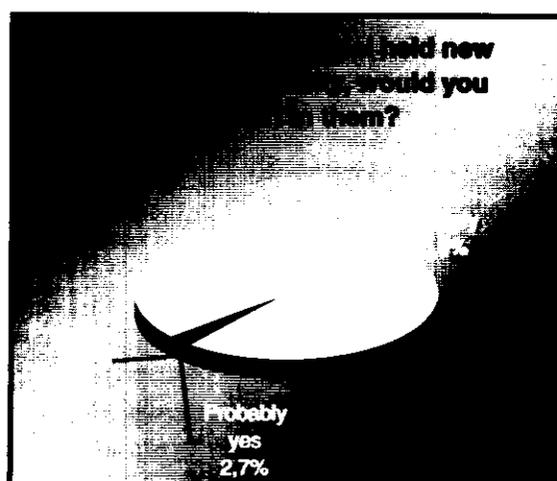
- Protection of human and civil rights – 75.0% (of all the respondents of this category);
- Ensuring women's equality – 75.0%;
- Prevention and resolving of social conflicts – 41.7%;
- Social development – 33.3%;
- Humanitarian aid – 33.3%;
- Education, enlightenment, science – 25.0%;
- Ecology – 16.7%;
- Health care – 16.7%.

Based on the results obtained in evaluating the project, one can conclude that government representatives rather highly evaluate the prospects of collaboration between state authorities and NGOs. The chart below provides data from surveying government representatives who participated in advocacy fora.



The advocacy fora participants surveyed (both NGO and government representatives) often indicated *joint projects* as an effective form of cooperation between state authorities and NGOs. *Advocacy fora, round tables and conferences* were also highly evaluated in this relation. Among fruitful forms of interaction and partnership, *provision of state grants to NGOs* was specified as well. (The complete distribution of answers is presented in the table on page 21.)

## Training Program



Of the training participants surveyed, 96.9% affirmed that if Winrock International held new trainings in their city, they would certainly participate in them, and 2.7% said *Yes, probably*, and only 0.3% selected the option *Probably not*. None of 289 respondents in this category selected the option *Certainly not* (see chart 24). When presented with a list of different training topics and asked on which of them they would like to gain (additional) knowledge and skills, respondents most often noted the following:

*Women rights, national and international documents and agreements protecting women rights – 58.5% (of this category of respondents)*

*Mechanisms of preventing domestic violence– 56.6%;*

*Mechanisms of right protection, probable aid at right violation – 44.6%;*

Full distribution of respondents' answers is given in the table below.

Women's rights, national and international documents and treaties protecting women's rights	58.5
Gender stereotypes and gender discrimination	33.7
Mechanisms to prevent domestic violence	56.6
Rights protection mechanisms, ways and means to redress rights violations	44.6
Conflict resolution	44.2
Development of leadership skills	39.9
Successful communication skills	43.8
Possibility of NGO membership	25.6
Gender equality for men	27.1
Gender equality for women	28.7
Socioeconomic gender analysis	20.9
Reproductive law	26.4
NGO as an agent of social change: management and stability	24.4
No reply	0.4

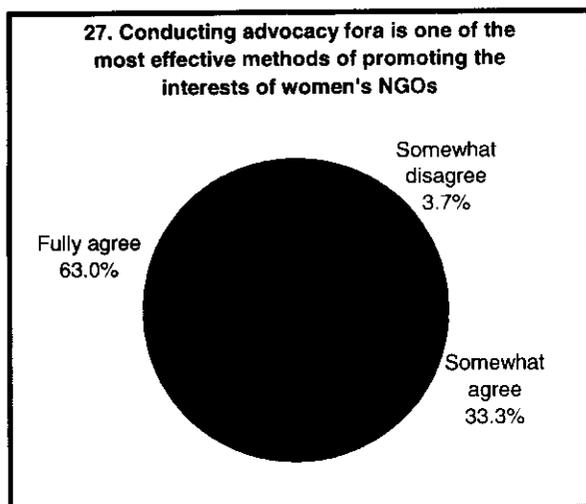
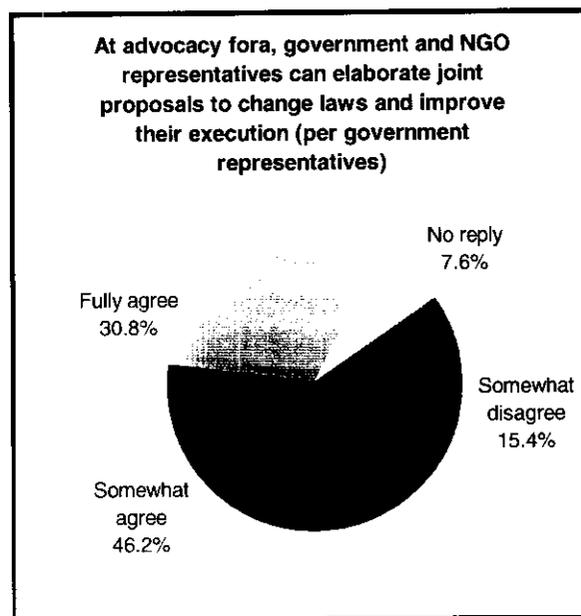
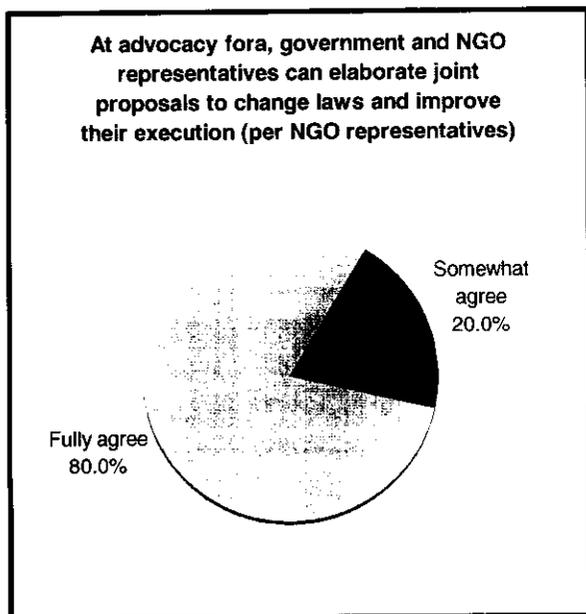
The data presented demonstrate that training participants are most interested in additional training on subjects in this or other way related to rights protection as well as with development of personal skills promoting sustainable personal position in active social environment.

WILL trainers were also asked which training topics, in their opinion, are the most important to further develop the knowledge and skills of different categories of participants. Distribution of answers is given in the table below.

**In your opinion, which of the listed topics are the most important to further develop knowledge and skills at trainings with women, men and youth?**

	Women	Men	Youth
Women's rights, national and international documents and treaties protecting women's rights	52,4	44,4	50,8
Gender stereotypes and gender discrimination	46,0	71,4	55,6
Mechanisms to prevent domestic violence	66,7	60,3	47,6
Rights protection mechanisms, ways and means to redress rights violations	54,0	30,2	44,4
Conflict resolution methods	44,4	42,9	23,8
Development of leadership skills	65,1	14,3	63,5
Successful communication skills	20,6	44,4	55,6
Possibility of NGO membership	20,6	11,1	17,5
Gender equality for men	6,3	52,4	19,0
Gender equality for women	27,0	19,0	17,5
Reproductive law	39,7	22,2	25,4
Conflict resolution	11,1	27,0	11,1
Socioeconomic gender analysis	11,1	17,5	12,7
NGO as an agent of social change: management and stability	15,9	12,7	28,6
No reply	1,6	1,6	1,6

## Advocacy Program



During the evaluation, advocacy forum participants (both NGO and government representatives) were asked to agree or disagree with a number of statements designed to evaluate the prospects of advocacy fora. As the diagrams (25, 26) show, forum participants rather highly evaluated the potential of advocacy fora to have an impact on the development of new legislation and improved enforcement of existing legislation.

However, how real are the prospects of implementing the recommendations made at fora? In order to evaluate participants' perceptions, they were asked to what degree they agreed with the statement: "The decisions made at an advocacy forum are quite enforceable, if NGOs and the government collaborate." 86.7% of the NGO respondents fully agreed, and 6.7% somewhat agreed. Government representatives surveyed were

nearly as optimistic – 53.8% fully agreed, while 38.5% somewhat agreed and 7.7% – somewhat disagreed.

80% of the fora participants, NGO members fully agreed that advocacy fora are an effective means to promote the interests of women NGO. 20.0% of this category of respondents just somewhat agreed with the statement.

Opinion of government representatives surveyed distributed in the following way:

Fully agree – 61.5%;  
 Somewhat agree – 23.1%;  
 Somewhat disagree – 7.7%;  
 Absolutely disagree – 7.7%.

Full 100% of the NGO participants surveyed fully or somewhat agreed that advocacy fora are an effective means to communicate the interests of the population to those in authority (fully agree – 73.3%, somewhat agree – 26.7%). The government representatives surveyed were less sure. While 46.2% of respondents of this category fully agreed and another 46.2% somewhat agreed with the statement, 7.7% somewhat disagreed.