



**Open Society Institute - Assistance Foundation (Azerbaijan)  
Progress - Social Development NGO (Azerbaijan)**

**MEMORANDUM**

**FROM:** Participants of the International Workshop organized from 19 to 21 October 2005 by Progress - Social Development NGO (Azerbaijan), within the frames of East East Program: Partnership Beyond Borders and Women's Program of the Open Society Institute – Assistance Foundation (Azerbaijan)

**SUBJECT:** Reinforcement of Women's Influence on Public and Political Life during Parliamentary Elections: Eastern European Countries' Experience

Nowadays we live in an extremely difficult time when the world suffers from wars, terrors and violence. The progressive people in our planet keep in fighting for preserving the moral values and peace.

The participants in the international workshop organized from 19 to 21 October 2005 by Progress-Social Development NGO within the frames of East East Program: Partnership Beyond Borders and Women's Program of the Open Society Institute–Assistance Foundation (Azerbaijan), exchanged experience with representatives from Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Lithuania and Turkey.

Taking into account the importance of gender equality issues in the EU process of integration, we would like to attract the attention of the society on the importance of equal participation of women and men in politics and all levels of decision-making, including elections.

We consider that women must fully use their potential, knowledge and skills for the benefit and development of the whole society.

We appeal to women and men to participate actively in the election process by proposing, supporting and voting for women candidates.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 4<sup>th</sup> UN World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, 1995, we would like to call forth for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by our governments.

We, hereby signed, participants in the international workshop established a partnership network to promote women's participation and enhance their impact in politics, power and decision-making and appeal to NGOs and all progressive people to support their initiative.

Baku, Azerbaijan

October 21, 2005

*Undersigned by the participants in the seminar.*