



# **GENDER EQUALITY AND EXTENSION OF WOMEN RIGHTS IN RUSSIA IN THE CONTEXT OF UN THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**





## DEAR READERS!

As you are well aware, promotion of equality of men and women and extension of women's rights and opportunities is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals, proclaimed by the United Nations. The report entitled «Gender equality and extension of women rights in Russia in the context of the UN Millennium Development Goals» was prepared by experts — members of the UN Gender Theme Group in the Russian Federation. It contains analysis of the current situation with regard to various manifestations of gender inequality on the national level, and identifies key guidelines for solution of this problem with regard to the Russian context. For Russia, latent discrimination is more acute than direct discrimination. The report addresses these issues not only in terms of ensuring women's rights, but also in terms of overcoming gender disparities, which aggravate the status of men (e.g. health status).

We assume that Russian and foreign readers will take an interest in gender problems from the regional angle. Are two types of inequality — regional and gender related, do they overlap and multiply the accumulative effect of disparities in social development of various regions?

One of most interesting chapters is «Gender problems of indigenous people of the North». During the last 10–15 years problems of indigenous people of the North have receded into the background due to other national problems of the transition period. One should note that the government's weaker influence on regional development manifested itself not only in the North, it was common for the whole country. Still, it affected the North much stronger due to high concentration of negative factors of spatial development, which aggravate transition to market economy and demand significant government support. The report provides a clear idea of the scope of social and economic disparities in Northern regions, development trends on the territories populated by small indigenous people and gender dimensions of their problems.

I hope that report contents and conclusions will generate animated debates not only among gender experts, but in the society in general, both in this country and abroad, and will thus contribute to the search of ways and methods of overcoming gender inequality and implementing the provisions of the Millennium Declaration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Vasilev', written in a cursive style.

**Stephan Vasilev**  
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# **GENDER EQUALITY AND EXTENSION OF WOMEN RIGHTS IN RUSSIA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**Millennium Development Goals** is an ambitious program of overcoming poverty and improving the quality of life. It was adopted by 147 heads of states and representatives of 191 countries, among them the Russian Federation, during the Millennium Summit in September 2000. The UN Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved by 2015; they include: eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and development of a global partnership for development.

The report «GENDER EQUALITY AND EXTENSION OF WOMEN RIGHTS IN RUSSIA IN THE CONTEXT OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS» was prepared by independent experts, members of the UN Gender Theme Group.

The authors' opinion does not necessarily represent the views of UN agencies, which are members of the UN Gender Theme Group, or institutions at which the authors work.

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