**PRESS RELEASE**

On September 10 of this year, the Representative of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Children's Rights (Ombudsman of Children) and in cooperation with relevant ministries and agencies organized a roundtable discussion on the elimination of early marriage problems.

The reasons and consequences of early marriage, problems in eliminating early marriage and the measures being implemented in this regard

the content of the measures, the issues of improving the legislation on the prevention of early marriage were discussed.

Representatives of the Family and Women's Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republican Center for Specialized Maternal and Child Health, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Committee on Religious Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the National Guard of the Republic of Uzbekistan took part in the roundtable discussion. they talked about the negative consequences of life.

"The main goal of today's roundtable discussion is to develop consistent and effective measures to eliminate cases of early marriages, which are still observed among the population, although it is small, and the most important thing is to discuss with the authorities the issues of forming a strict attitude of intolerance towards this negative social reality in our society," - said Children's Ombudsman Surayyo Rakhmonova.

According to UNICEF, early marriage is a formal marriage or informal union with a person under the age of 18. According to the latest data of the organization, about 650 million women living on earth were married early before the age of 18.

In this regard, starting from 2019, the single marriage age for men and women has been set at 18 in Uzbekistan. Such a strict limit paid off and put a legal end to many cases of early marriage.

In order to compare the general situation, it should be noted that in 2018, 5,123 cases of early marriage were recorded across the Republic, and by 2023, the number of early marriages was only 42.

In the first half of this year, 4 of the appeals received by the Children's Ombudsman were related to the violation of the law on the age of marriage.

At the same time, in connection with the improvement of the legislation in the field of family and women, it is prohibited to hold engagement ceremonies for young men and women under the age of 18 with the draft Law on amendments and additions to some legal documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is forbidden to marry relatives of the second, third and fourth degree.

During the roundtable discussion, issues such as the negative consequences of early marriage and early childbirth, specific aspects of divorce proceedings in court, the role of parents in preventing early marriages were discussed, and solutions and proposals were given by the officials to solve the problems.

The meeting, which took place in a lively atmosphere, ended with new proposals and interesting discussions.

**Representative of the Oliy Majlis on Children's Rights**

**(Children's Ombudsman) information service**