

## IT against violence"

We inform you that the United Nations Development Program in the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter - UNDP), within the framework of the regional program of the Ray of Light Initiative for Central Asia, announces a marathon of ideas "IT against violence" for students of higher educational institutions from the countries of Central Asia.

The online marathon of ideas Spotlight Digital Challenge "IT Against Violence" will offer students from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan a rich program that includes an online educational intensive (March 26-27, 2022) and interaction with experts on the issue of gender discrimination and violence. The culmination of the event will be the online contest of ideas "IT against violence" (April 1-3, 2022).

The event is designed to create favorable conditions for the collective search for solutions, encourage creative thinking and cooperation skills among young people from the five countries of Central Asia. During the Idea Call, participants will come up with and submit concepts for digital solutions or mobile applications to support action to end violence and harmful practices against women and girls in the countries and region of Central Asia.

To date, Spotlight is the largest joint European Union-UN initiative to end all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030, in 25 countries and regions. Each country and regional program of the Ray of Light initiative is designed taking into account the need to fill existing gaps in the legislation on combating gender-based violence and is aimed at promoting the ideas of gender equality, transforming gender stereotypes in society and supporting women's movements.

We invite students of your university to take part in an online marathon of ideas. The educational intensive and the competition of ideas will be held outside of school hours. Applications for participation are accepted until March 29, 2022 on the official portal of the Spotlight Digital Challenge at the link

<https://spotlightdigital.org/>

The United Nations Development Program in the Republic of Kazakhstan expresses hope for further fruitful cooperation in priority areas of development for the Republic of Kazakhstan.