

**Abstract****VICTIMOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: FOREIGN EXPERIENCE****Mamadazizov Mukhriddin Ramazon ugli**

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This article analyzes the victimological characteristics of domestic violence based on foreign experience, particularly that of Kazakhstan. The article examines the theoretical foundations of domestic violence, the demographic, social, and psychological characteristics of victims, as well as institutional mechanisms for combating domestic violence in Kazakhstan. The case of Kuandik Bishimbayev's murder of his wife, Saltanat Nukenova, is analyzed as an example, highlighting the severe consequences of domestic violence and the hidden nature of victim suffering. Drawing on victimology, the article explores the causes of violence, victim behavior, and their relationships with the social environment. Evidence-based recommendations are presented for developing effective measures to combat domestic violence.

**Keywords:** Domestic violence, victimology, victims, foreign experience, Kazakhstan, gender inequality, social factors, psychological pressure, legislation, rehabilitation, prevention, Bishimbayev case.

Domestic violence is a significant social problem on a global scale, with its impact on victims negatively affecting not only individuals but also the overall social and cultural fabric of society. The science of victimology provides an important theoretical foundation for identifying the causes of this problem and developing preventive measures by studying the social, psychological, and demographic characteristics of violence victims. As Professor A.K. Smith emphasizes, "victimology uncovers the root causes of the problem by analyzing the behavior of violence victims and their interactions with the social environment"[1]. Foreign experiences, particularly high-profile incidents related to domestic violence in Kazakhstan, such as the case of former minister Kuandik Bishimbayev murdering his wife Saltanat Nukenova, serve as crucial examples in examining the multifaceted nature of this issue and the victimological characteristics of the affected individuals. This article focuses on analyzing the victimological aspects of domestic violence through foreign experiences, especially using Kazakhstan as an example, examining victim characteristics, causes of violence, and mechanisms to combat it.

Domestic violence refers to harmful actions manifested as physical, psychological, economic, or sexual pressure in relationships between family members. These actions undermine the core functions of family relations - ensuring social stability and the safety of family members. In foreign contexts, domestic violence takes various forms: physical violence (beating, bodily harm), psychological pressure (humiliation, threats), economic control (restricting financial independence), and sexual violence (non-consensual sexual acts). According to Professor M.Kh. Jurayev, "the hidden nature of domestic violence is often linked to cultural norms and the social isolation of victims, which hinders their ability to speak

out"[2]. In Kazakhstan, manifestations of domestic violence are frequently reinforced by patriarchal values and socio-economic factors, which increases the level of hidden victimization among those affected.

The case of Kuandik Bishimbayev, which took place in Kazakhstan in 2023, became a well-known example of the severe consequences of domestic violence. Former Minister of Economy Bishimbayev was accused of the premeditated murder of his wife, Saltanat Nukenova, which was widely discussed not only in Kazakhstan, but throughout the entire Central Asian region. This case has shown that it can lead to the most severe form of domestic violence - murder. The long-term psychological and physical abuse of Nukenova, her social isolation, and the pressure on her family relationships were considered the main factors of this tragedy. This work serves as an important example of analyzing the characteristics of victims from a victimological point of view, showing that victims of domestic violence can often be at risk even in relationships with individuals of high social status.

Demographic, social, and psychological factors are important in the analysis of the characteristics of victims of domestic violence from the point of view of victimology. In foreign experience, in particular in Kazakhstan, the demographic characteristics of victims often include women and children, but men are also rarely encountered as victims. Women have a high level of victimization, which is associated with their social status, economic dependence, and gender stereotypes. As Professor N.V. Ivanova notes, "women's experience of domestic violence is often reinforced by their lack of economic independence and gender stereotypes"[3]. The age of victims is usually between 18-45 years, during which periods conflicts in family relationships may increase. In Bishimbayev's case, Saltanat Nukenova is 31 years old, she was described as a highly educated and socially active woman, but she was not free from domestic violence. This showed that women with a high social status can also be subjected to violence.

Socially, victims of domestic violence can come from different social strata, but economic dependence and a low level of education often prevail as risk factors. In Kazakhstan, for example, women living in rural areas become latent victims due to their limited ability to report violence. According to Professor Sh.K. Rakhimov, "social isolation and lack of education in rural areas make it difficult for victims to access legal assistance"[4]. In the case of Bishimbayev, although the victim lived in a city environment, his exposure to violence and inability to make a sound were associated with social pressure and psychological pressure. Psychologically, victims of domestic violence exhibit symptoms of low self-esteem, fear, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. They often perceive violence as "normal" and do not try to escape it in order to preserve the family. In the case of Bishimbayev, Nukenova faced prolonged psychological pressure and social isolation, which limited her ability to seek help.

There are institutional measures to combat domestic violence in Kazakhstan, but their effectiveness is a subject of discussion. In 2023, after the Bishimbayev case drew public attention, steps were taken in Kazakhstan to strengthen legislation against domestic violence. For example, in 2024, a law called "Saltanat Law" was adopted, aimed at strengthening penalties for domestic violence and improving victim protection mechanisms. This law provides for the provision of legal and psychological assistance to victims, as well as the application of preventive measures against violators. However, the insufficient number of rehabilitation centers in rural areas and the low legal awareness of victims hinder the

complete elimination of the problem. The Bishimbayev case served to raise public awareness against domestic violence due to its widespread public discussion, but the case showed that women could also be at risk in families with high social status.

Analysis of the victimological characteristics of domestic violence based on foreign experience, in particular, on the example of Kazakhstan, reveals the multifaceted nature of the problem. The demographic, social, and psychological characteristics of victims are important for understanding the causes and consequences of violence. The Bishimbayev case showed that it could lead to the most severe form of domestic violence - murder - and revealed the deep roots of this problem in society. The following scientifically based proposals are presented for the development of effective measures to combat domestic violence: firstly, strengthening awareness campaigns through the media in order to raise the legal awareness of victims; secondly, increasing the number of rehabilitation centers in rural areas and improving their quality; thirdly, expanding research based on victimology and introducing their results into legislation and practice; fourthly, establishing active cooperation with local communities to prevent domestic violence. These proposals contribute to the formation of effective institutional and scientific approaches to combating domestic violence.

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