

**Many Tajik women will learn their own stories after reading this success story.**



*On picture: Nazokat Khojimatova, the client of the project. Bokhtar city, 2018.*

This is the story of Nazokat, a young woman who, despite of any difficulties, goes ahead to achieve her dream.

As a child, Nazokat dreamed about happy life, about good husband, about a house filled with children's laughter, about prosperity, about love and understanding. However, the life is unpredictable and sometimes gives its "surprises".

Nazokat is 31 years old now; she lives in her parents' house in Bokhtar city. She was twice married, but she never gained her happiness: neither home, nor husband, nor children.

For the first time Nazokat married when she was 20 years old. However, after three months of constant domestic violence and humiliation in her husband's family, she was forced to divorce. Nine years later Nazokat met her second husband, who

seemed quite a decent person. Her elect one met with her parents and promised to make their daughter happy. Having received parental consent, he took Nazokat to Moscow to live there. In the beginning, everything was good, Nazokat's husband worked, took care of the family. She thought she was the happiest woman in the world. However, Nazokat's happiness did not last long. Once a woman came to her home, introducing herself as the wife of her husband. It turned out that her husband had a wife and five children. Nazokat decided to find out everything from her husband and speak to him, but instead of explanation, her husband beat her. Her husband seemed to be replaced; he became completely a different person.

After a while, Nazokat became pregnant. Nazokat was full of the joys of spring, because she wanted to have children so much. Deciding that this news will please her husband, and they again will live well, Nazokat told her husband about her pregnancy, but instead of joy her husband again began beating and bullying at her. *"He beat me so hard that I lost consciousness, my body became like a sack of blue color because of bruises. I was very afraid of him ... Every evening I was preparing for new beatings. I did not know whom to tell about my grief, because I did not have a phone to call my relatives, or friends with whom I could share my troubles. I could not run away from home, where I could go without money in a strange city"*, says Nazokat.

The first wife of Nazokat's husband periodically began to come to her house and told her that their husband was a "drug addict." He also beat the first wife, his younger brother and daughter-in-law.

Nazokat wanted to go to Tajikistan and deliver her child there and bring up him independently, but her husband insisted on an abortion, he did not want to hear about the child. Despite the beating, Nazokat in every possible ways prolonged her visit to the doctor. *"When life became unbearable, and I thought that the child still would not survive due to regular beatings, I decided to go to the doctor. Doctors said that there was large gestation period, and abortion on such period is unsafe. They explained to my husband that I had not given birth yet, and I can be childless in future. Nevertheless, he did not care, he insisted on abortion, and the doctors did it"* - Nazokat continues to tell her story with tears in her eyes.

*"Some time later my brother came to Moscow to work. Seeing me and hearing my story, he immediately took me and sent me home to my parents"*, says Nazokat

Being at home in Tajikistan, Nazokat decided not to return to her husband, who constantly called, threatened her and demanded her to return to Moscow.

*"When I returned home, I was very gaunt, my whole body, especially the lower back, where my husband often punched and kicked me, were very sick. He beat me in a brutal way. I lost my health, lost a child. I did not know what to do and where to go..."* says Nazokat.



On picture: The process of training in a beauty salon «Yasmina».

*"One day my sister told me about the organization AFEW-Tajikistan, which helps women who have fallen into a difficult life situation. This organization also helped my sister, who often goes there. Therefore, I decided also to ask assistance from this organization,"* says Nazokat.

*"Here I was warmly met and listened to, the staff assured me that I was not alone, and they were ready to help me,"* continues Nazokat.

With the assistance of social workers of AFEW-Tajikistan, Nazokat completed a full medical examination, received medical advices and consultations and

assisted in receiving necessary treatment.

After completion of treatment, social workers of AFEW-Tajikistan, by agreement with the adult education center, sent Nazokat to free courses in the specialty of "Hairdressing".

*"I am pleased to make women beautiful. I always wanted to learn this art and do different hairstyles. Employees of AFEW-Tajikistan helped me to learn hairdressing and arranged me as an intern in the "Yasmina" beauty salon. My master, Malika, is very pleased with me. Having received the certificate of the master, I can get a permanent job and will be able to bring joy to myself and my clients"*- concludes her story Nazokat.

The story of Nazokat is one of the many stories of vulnerable women who receive the support of the project "Bridging the gaps: Health and rights of key populations -2.0", implemented by AFEW-Tajikistan with the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.