## Women's Issue in Turkestan (1917-1924): the Role of Tatar and Bashkir Representatives

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**Abstract:** the article provides information about the so-called "emancipation of women of the East", directly related to the establishment of Soviet power in Turkestan in 1917-1924. Information is given on the participation of women activists of the Tatar and Bashkir peoples in the involvement of Turkestan women in the social and cultural life of the region and the development of education.

**Key words:** Turkestan, the Soviet government, the indigenous population, the Tatar, the Bashkir, education, school, engagement, zhenotdel (women's departments).

As it known, in the scientific literature of the Soviet period, the greatest event in history was the revolution of 1917, which equalized the rights of all segments of the population and was the result of common activities. But it is clear that in Central Asia women did not participate in any way, nor did the indigenous population take part in it at all.

With the coming to power, the Bolsheviks, unlike the former tsarist, began to attach special importance to the so-called

"emancipation" of Muslim women and to attract them to various positions, which was one of the main aspects of their domestic and foreign policy. Since the female part of the population was considered as labor resources and one of the elements of the management mechanism, so necessary for the development of the national economy, and that is very important - as a cheap labor force, "the Soviet government sought to form its "supporters" of the female environment» (Nasriddinova D., 2010, p. 109).

The October events led not only to a change in the political system, but also in the social order. The Soviet period was marked by a" radical " rethinking of the role of women, which was largely associated with the project of liberation (emancipation) of women. The "women's liberation" project included a rethinking of their role in society not only as mothers but also as workers, which became the basis of their civil status. All this was supported by the ideology of equality, which would show the world the" uniqueness " of the Communist experience in achieving gender equality. Soviet power succeeded, building your integration design Oriental women in society, securing this extensive legal framework. Here, first of all, it was about the equation of legal rights of women and men, the main purpose of which was to prove the ability of women to be on an equal footing with men in all spheres of political and economic life of the state, that is, to work on the involvement of women in all spheres of socialist construction. And did not take into account the bio-functional capabilities of the female sex (Alimova D.A., 2011, p.216).

"Women of the East" was defined as the most oppressed category in comparison with the European part of the Soviet state. The basis of this oppression was determined by the specifics of the local context: "in this respect, the women of Central Asia were oppressed to a greater extent than the women of Central Russia, because the class and family oppression here was added to the national oppression... the

Woman was in the position of household, things, private property of men. As a thing, bought and sold for dowry (ransom)» (Tatybekova ZH.S., 1975, p.12-130).

Since the solution to the problems of the national economy and culture in the region largely depended on the degree of emancipation of women, practitioners and the first Soviet researchers were searching for the most rational methods of involving women in the economy, sociopolitical and cultural processes. During this period, positive trends prevailed in the women's issue. It reflected different positions and opinions in the development of forms and methods of emancipation of women and was characterized by criticism and alternative opinions (Alimova D.A., 2011, p.217).

But we must admit the fact that such negative trends as polygamy, sale of girls from an early age for kalym, beating, murder, etc., noted in many works of the Soviet period, which studied the situation of women in pre-Soviet Turkestan, did take place in our history. All property and inheritance rights in the family were in the hands of the husband. The property of the deceased head of the family, who had no male heirs, came in favor of the next of kin (Tatybekova ZH.S., 1975, p.12-13).

The first step of the new government regarding the women's issue was the adoption of the decree of the SNK and the CEC of December 16, 1917 "on divorce", which declared the freedom of divorce at the request of both or one of the spouses without any conditions. As a result, the privileged position of men at divorce was eliminated (Rasulov A.N., 1990, p.123).

The next step was the decree Of June 14, 1921 Of the Central Executive Committee of the Turkish SSR on the abolition of the dowry and raising the age of marriage (for women 16 years, for men 18 years). Along with the abolition of kalym, polygamy and forced marriage of girls were prohibited.

Subsequently, in party documents since 1919 there is even a special designation for the campaign for the liberation of women of the East." This campaign included, first of all, the introduction of women into the public space, involvement in social and political work and production work, exemption from part of the duties of care and care of the home, family and children.

For the first time in various cities of Turkestan were created independent women's organizations, such as, "a group of Communists", "Union of workers", "women's Union", etc. In June 1919, the Central Committee of the CPC unit was established, later renamed the division of men and women dekkanar, which actually began work in September 1919 [AAP RUz. f.60. op.1. d.61. l.12]. But by November 1919 from the Turkestan regional RCP(b) were sent circular letters which indicated the prohibition of the existence of special "Unions of women" and their mandatory and immediate dissolution and the creation of " Department of workers» [AAP RUz. f.60. op.1. d.864, 1.21]. On November 12, 1919, the women's Department was established under the Turkestan regional Committee of the Communist party. In the regions, the departments were created during 1919 and 1920.the functions of women's departments included raising the level of so-called "political consciousness", General literacy of workers, peasants, Housewives, their preparation for activities in state and public institutions. The first head of this Department was I. I. Finkelstein 1. He worked with (the first worker women's departments of the Turkestan regional Committee of the RCP(b)) B. E. Bendecka<sup>2</sup>, L.Dvorkina<sup>3</sup>, Z.Burnasheva, L.Shumilova<sup>4</sup>, Zelkina, Krol, Uspenskaya, Obraztsova, Marchenko, etc.

For the first time the Department of workers conducted work, mainly, in the city of Tashkent: organized interviews of workers, concerts, meetings, lectures, performances. In the regional newspaper "Izvestia" was introduced a special " Page of female workers» (AAP RUz. f.60. op.1. d.855. l.11], where materials about work among women,

about their needs, about protection of motherhood and infancy were published.

Taking into account the specifics of work in the region, as well as in some bodies and institutions, the Department of workers and dehkanok in Turkestan was divided into two sections: Muslim and Russian. The Muslim section, in turn, had two subsections – economic, political and educational, and the Russian section – propaganda and cultural and educational.

It is interesting that due to the lack of organizers in the period of formation of women's departments in Turkestan, regional committees, city committees of the party were recommended, "Where there are no women's forces, the work should allocate male workers." For example, the appointment in 1920 as head of the women's Department of Samarkand region Grigory Morgan is a vivid proof of the exceptional acuteness of personnel problems in the region (Nurieva V., 1927, p.540).

The need to involve women in economic, political, cultural life according to the Bolshevik authorities is ripe so that from the local party committees in the regional Committee, the Central Committee, the Central Committee of the RCP (b), often from the most remote corners received telegrams with a request to send instructors for the organization of women's departments. In November 1920, Namangan uyezd party Committee appealed to the Ferghana regional party Committee with a request "to send one to the spin instructor-organizatorshu to work among Muslim women and one women to work among European women» [Rasulov A.N., 1990, p.125]. n March 1921, the women's Department of the Ferghana region appealed to the women's Department at the Central Committee of the CPT: "the women's Department of the city party asks to send an experienced worker to the post of head of the women's Department, because there are no workers here, and the soil for work is very favorable»[AAP RUz. f.60. op.1. d.1812.].

It should be noted that at that time this work was carried out mainly in the cities among European women and representatives of national minorities - Azerbaijanis, Tatars, Persians, etc.the Issue mainly rested on the lack of personnel - women who knew the languages of local indigenous nationalities, as well as on the strengthened religious and domestic prejudices that confined women to the home. Given the peculiar specificity of work among women in Turkestan, the women's Department was divided into two sections: Muslim and Russian. The fact is that among Muslim and Russian women it was impossible to work the same way. Muslim women, for obvious reasons, demanded a specific attitude. To work among the Muslim women involved mainly representatives of the Tatar and Bashkir peoples, who compared with the rest of the population was closer to the local population in both spiritual and linguistic terms and who acted not only as translators, but also as active members of the promotion of the new government among the indigenous people. Tatar women knew the language, everyday life and customs of the indigenous population quite well. Plus, they belonged to the same religion - Islam, which in those years was essential. Tatar women compared with the rest of the female mass of the Turkicspeaking peoples in the early years of Soviet power were more advanced in socio-cultural terms. The advantage of women-Tatars was that they as Muslim could freely enter the house - " ichkari»<sup>5</sup>, knowing the language, talking to women. In short, Tatar women were able to campaign more freely among local women, and they were relatively easy to find a common language with them. Naturally, in the first years of Soviet power in Central Asia in the Muslim sections of women's departments mainly worked Tatar and Bashkir.

According to information submitted to the Commissariat of education in 1919, the first Tatar and Bashkir operating in the field of enlightenment was O. U. Kuchkarov in New Bukhara, Subhankulov, M. Turaev, D. Abdullayev in Samarkand, F. Badriddinova, M. Kasimova, K.

Mirzaev, M. Holhodjaev – Karmakchinskiy County, Sayfullin M., H. Khusnitdinova, R. Sambasiva, F. Urmanov in Kattakurgan, Akhmedjanova, A. Baubekova, M. kasheva, D. Rezvanova, M. Burnasheva, S. Vakhitov, M. Rudakova, M. Kapkaeva, Raspberry, A. Kholikov – in Kokand uyezd, H. Lapin – in the Tashkent district, Z. Egorova, H. Kaipova, A. mazitova, R. Aksenova – Chernyavski, F. Becasina, F. Bakhtizin, A. Bekmuhamedova, A. Burnasheva, Z. Safarov, M. Yunusova in Andijan (Nasriddinova D., 2010, p.226-227).

Among them Maryam Sharafutdinova – worked with Othmar Stein (murdered near Bukhara); Prazdnikova (Tatar - 1899 R.) led the women's departments Margelanica outcome KPT Fergana region; Rabiga atabaeva (Tatar - 1885 R.) – the instructor of the Semirechensk regional women's departments; Gafarova (Bashkir – 1889 R.) led the women's departments of the Syrdarya Old town district Committee of the CPC, initiated the involvement of Turaeva (Uzbek) [AAP RUz. f.60. op.1. d.3711. l.2].

In the women's departments Katta-Kurgan outcome worked Tatar, H. Z. Burnasheva <sup>6</sup>, one of the organizers of women's education. In the autumn of 1918, on behalf of the County-city Committee, she organized a school for girls.

In November-December 1919, L. I. Shumilova was sent to a number of cities of the region for assistance<sup>7</sup>.

Another representative was Hanifa Pantcheva. She lived in the Tatar village of the Volga region until she was 14 and then came to Bukhara with her parents. Her father Hassan Antushev he worked as a laborer at Andrew's factory in Kagan. H. Pantcheva became a teacher. Here the received two-year education in the Volga region was useful, it in the conditions of continuous illiteracy gave it the right to teach. She taught Uzbek girls for two years in Kagan. Then she was sent to Chardjou for special courses for teachers. She became one of the first certified teachers in the BNSR in 1922. H. Pantcheva, while working in

the school, active work was carried out in Bukhara and the women's departments (Strel'cova A., 1960, p.16-24).

One of the most active women workers in Central Asia was Otmar Stein. In her memoirs about the organization of the women's Department in Bukhara, she writes: "to provide the city Committee of the party, we decided to start working among the women of Old Bukhara, where the women's Department was not yet. To help us in convening the first women's meeting, Tatar women who knew the Uzbek language volunteered. They went to Old Bukhara, and soon from there came to the meeting in Kagan twenty Uzbek wives of Communists. After the meeting, we held Uzbeks to the station, and our activists took them to Old Bukhara and brought them home» (Otmar-SHtejn L.A., 1961, p.96).

The same activist women's departments in Bukhara was the M. Sharafutdinova Tatar and Bashkir, who worked as an instructor of women's departments in Tashkent, M. Gafarova, who possessed the languages of the peoples of Turkestan [AAP RUz. f.60. op.2. d.96. l.12].

In the organization and establishment of education in Central Asia, Great help was provided by D. S. Berdnikova. She studied at the University of Samara in 1921 and was sent to Turkestan in the same year. In 1921-1923 D. S. Berdnikova worked in Samarkand first as a teacher and since 1922 as a head of the Department of public education of the region. In 1923, she was transferred to the BNSR to work in the Department of public education. Working in Samarkand, Bukhara, she made a significant contribution to the development of public education [AAP RUz. f.14. op.1. d.603. l.62].

The organization of public education in Turkestan actively worked in schools, boarding schools, M. V., Kuznetsova, E., M., Konkina, M., and many other envoys of the Center.

A significant role in the emancipation of women in BNCR played K. L. Tuhvatova. It was sent from Kazan to Bukhara in late 1920.

With her at the disposal of the political BNSR came three more, including her husband S. Tukhvetov.

Tukhvetov S. and K. L. Tuhvatovov was given the task to open a club for film screenings, concerts, readings, lectures and reports. They renovated an abandoned house, and S. Tukhvetov became a Director of the club, and she was appointed head of the library at the club. The library has become a major element in the work of the club and K. L. Tuhvatova began to actively involve the literacy of local women. But attempts to attract women to the club did not give the expected result. It was necessary to use other methods to attract women to the club. At the suggestion of the head of the political division of BNSR N. Enikeeva, the messenger of Tatarstan, she began to study the Tajik language. Knowing the Uzbek language, and then studying the Tajik language, wearing the burga, K. L. Tuhvatova would often visit the homes of local women... She is considerate, relaxed, had a conversation with them and told the Uzbek, Tajik describing change, about revolution, about the position of women in society. At the same time there were very interesting cases.

One day she met a woman Saltanat. She was only 19 years old and her husband 68 years old. Thanks to the help of K. L. tuhvatovoy, she began to teach the diploma, to visit the club. K. Tuhvatova drove Saltanat meetings, lectures and introduced her to many women. This was of great importance for campaigning and propaganda among women in Bukhara. However, her husband, learning about the activities of Saltanat, called elders and mull. Saltanat was beaten, locked in her room. With the aim of rescuing women K. L. Tuhvatova addressed to the Chairman of the Council Nazirov F. BSR hojaeva and the latter helped her release. In the future, until the end of 1923 K. Tuhvatova led the agitation and propaganda work among women BNSR [AAP RUz. f.14. op.1. d.603. 1.1-8].

At the end of 1919, the Chairman of the Turk-Commission S. Z. Eliava appealed to the Central Committee of the RCP (b) and the Samara provincial Committee of the party with a request to send in Tashkent, E. S., Kogan, Kruglov, Lyubetskaya, B. Wasilewska, P. Stikine. Arriving in Tashkent, the workers were actively involved in the organization of women's departments. For example, E. S. Kogan, who worked before leaving for Turkestan as the Secretary of the Samara gubkom of the party, began to work in Tashkent as the Secretary of the city Committee of the party, where she was responsible for personnel issues, including the distribution of party workers. She subsequently worked in the BNSR and at the end of 1921 was recalled to Moscow [AAP RUz. f.60. op.1. d.907. l.1].

Among those mobilized to work in Turkestan were O. Kuzmina and A. N. Lukins. They were mobilized from the Kazan gubkom and worked in the field of propaganda in the city Committee of the party of Tashkent [AAP RUz. f.60. op.1. d.1687. l.67].

In the early years of Soviet power, due to the lack of instructors, organizers of the women's Department in the region, the Central Committee of the Communist party and party organizations in the field appealed to the command of the Turkfront and individual military units of the red Army to assist personnel. Given the urgent need for women to organize women's departments in the field of the Republic, the command of the Turkfront sent several women at the disposal of the Central Committee of the CPT. Among the targeted were A. Axenovich, L. A. Othmar Stein, E. A. Ross, Y. M. Kislov, S. I. Khairova, and many others. They subsequently led genocidally in Fergana, Samarkand, Poltoratski, BNCR.

In General, the number of mobilized women in the Red Army by 1924 reached 66 thousand people and amounted to 2% of all servicemen of the country (ZHenshchiny Strany Sovetov. 1977, p.86).

Among those sent to work in the women's Department of the red army, the special forces was E. Tyukova (born in 1902). Since 1919, when the women's departments began to be created, she began working as an instructor, and then as head of the women's Department of the Samarkand district Committee of the Communist party. On her initiative Akhmetshieva took charge of the women's club, and Salamatov, lead Old women's departments of the Communist party

The shortage of personnel was especially felt in the Fergana valley, which was a hotbed of resistance against the Soviet regime and where the women's movement was particularly tight, which gave rise to uncertainty and fear. Despite all this, the new government had to organize women's departments and attract female staff. With great difficulty, the Soviet authorities of the Fergana region in early 1920 managed to create a women's Department at the regional party Committee. But the workers of the women's Department was clearly not enough, and so in March 1920, the regional women's Department is forced to apply to the Central Committee of the CPT to help. "A month ago, - it is told in circulation, - was formed in the Fergana branch of the work among the women, but he can't expand their activities because the lack of workers... Department Members overwhelmed... Work among women is random... Therefore Fergana the women's departments asks for the area of several of the organizers» (FA APRUz. f.111. op.1. d.283. 12].

The first heads of zhenotdel was: in Fergana, A. A. Axentowicz <sup>8</sup>, in Bukhara – L. A. Othmar Stein <sup>9</sup>, in Poltoratsk (Ashgabat) – E. A. ROS <sup>10</sup> (former political workers of the red army), in Pishpek – V. A. Sokolova, in Verny (Alma – ATA) - D. p. Dorofeeva, in Osh - E. I. Vasilyeva (Pal'vanova B., 1982, p.50].

In reports received by the Central Committee of the CPT at the end of 1919, it was said that in Namangan there are women's unions in Samarkand in the old Muslim Union, there were 179 women in Skobelev

22 women were members of the Department in Samarkand-16 in new Bukhara-6 in Khodzhent-3 (AAP RUz. f.60. op.1. d.305. l.8].

According to the decision of the propaganda and organizational Department of the Regional Muslim Bureau on December 19, 1919, I. I. Finkelstein was instructed to develop a draft regulation on work among women in accordance with local conditions (AAP RUz. f.60. op.1. d.304. 1.2].

In 1920, for the first time in the Turkestan ASSR celebrated international women's day-March 8 (AAP RUz. f.60. op.1. d.894. l.54].

In may 1920, the 1st Congress of women workers of Turkestan was convened in Tashkent. Delegates of the Congress were, in particular, Berta emmanuilovna Bendetskaya, Zagida husainovna Burnasheva, Pavel Aleksandrovna Volkova, Vera Vladimirovna Dolgikh, Evdokia Antonovna Tyukova, etc. in their social of 120 delegates 69-were employees, 21-workers, 30-Housewives and the national composition of 88-Russian, 1-Turkmen, 7-Uzbek, 15-Tatars, 3-Kyrgyz, 5-other nationalities. Of Uzbek women's Tohfaoy Dzhurabayeva, Kabylbaeva Maryam, Fatima Kabulova, Hanrahan Erbaeva, Saliha Khalikova, etc (SHukurova H.S., 1970, p.84].

In January 1921 there took place the first Regional meeting of heads of genocidally, Muslim sections and reorganization convened by the division of men and women dekkanar of the Central Committee of CPC. The meeting was attended by 89 people, including 53 European and 36 Muslim women. Among the Muslim women were: Uzbek-16, Tatar-5, Kyrgyz-4, Persians-5, Ossetian-1, Bukhara Jews-5. social situation: 56 – workers, 25 Housewives, 8 – representatives of the intelligentsia [AAP RUz. f.60. op.1. d.1759. l.10].

Head of Ferghana regional Finance Department M. Kapsalamova wrote: "If they transferred experienced employees in Fergana region, it is possible to work» [AAP RUz. f.60. op.1. d.1792. l.11].

Activities of zhenotdel eroded and often destroyed families and established foundations. As noted in the report of the Central Committee of the RCP (b) on work among women in March - June 1920 "work among Muslim women has moved from a dead point... in Turkestan, Uzbeks and Kyrgyz women, despite the fierce resistance of their husbands, rush to the light, to meetings, to work». In 1922, a women's section was opened in the regional party school, where ten Turkmen women were admitted. But after a while, one of the first Turkmen women in the middle of a white day in the garden of the hostel was killed by her husband and appeared in the women's Department with a statement about it. According to him, she lost shame, forgot ADAT, for which he killed her.

Interesting fate Mariana and Tufaoy, who were the wives of one husband and with the help of the Department of women were able to get a divorce from her husband (Pal'vanova B., 1982, p.52).

One of the organizers of the women's Department and women's education in Turkestan was Z. H. Burnasheva. In 1918, she first worked in Samarkand as an editor of the newspaper "Mehnatkashlar tovushi" ("voice of workers") and then she was sent to Kattakurgan County, where she was Deputy head of the Department of public education until 1919. Given her organizational skills, in 1919 the women's Department at the Central Committee transferred Z. H. Burnasheva to work in Tashkent (Nasretdinova D., 2015, p.114). Here she organized the first women's school in the old city of Tashkent and was in charge of beautiful women's pedagogical courses. Z. H. Burnasheva, I know well, in addition to the native Tatar language and the languages of the peoples of Turkestan, could share the pain of the women of this region and provide all possible assistance in their needs. With her active participation for the development of public education several times were organized "school aid Week» (Gajnullin M., 1966, p.286-289).

Training of the first teachers from indigenous population was carried out by the annual courses organized in April, 1919 in the city of Tashkent (Oliker O., 2008, p.19). In July 1919, the Turkestan Commissariat of education instructed Z. H. Burnasheva and two other Tatar teachers, Akhtyamova Salima and Mukhammedova Gizanur, to establish the work of regional women's pedagogical courses in Tashkent.

In 1920, these courses were reorganized into the Uzbek women's Institute of education, which enrolled 140 girls (Pal'vanova B., 1961, p.63]. Subsequently, it became a beautiful women's educational institution, which played an important role in the training of not only Uzbek teachers, but also major public figures of the Republic. Its first Director was Z. H. Burnasheva. Famous writer Aydin (Manzura Sabirkarayeva), Jahan abidova, and others were pupils of the Women's Institute. Subsequently, she graduated from the first Uzbek women Sajida Rakhimov, Khasiat Terehanova, Wazir street, Manzura Sabirova (later the writer Aydin), Sabir Haldarov, Rabia Nasyrov, Tagihan Rustembekova and others who were the first representatives of the Uzbek intelligentsia of the Soviet period (Probuzhdennye velikim oktyabrem., 1961, p.46-48].

Thus, during the formation of the new government in Turkestan (1917-1924) there were great changes in the involvement of the female population in the socio-political and cultural life of the region, an important role in which was played by representatives of related Tatar and Bashkir peoples.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ida Isaakovna Finkelstein (1880 - 1961) – the wife of the Turkestan Commissioner V. N. Finkelstein, who died as the result of the events of January 1919 (perhaps He rebellion).

- <sup>2</sup> Bendecka emmanuilovna Burt (born in 1898), a member of the RCP(B), After Finkelstein in 1920-1921, he led a division of men and women dehkan Turkestan regional Committee of the RCP(b).
- <sup>3</sup> Dworkin Lydia was in 1920 a member of the Board of the women's departments of the Turkestan regional Committee of the RCP(b).
- <sup>4</sup> Shumilova lukiya Ivanovna (1873-1939) instructor of the women's Department of Turkestan regional Committee of RCP (b) from the first days of her work. Executive Secretary of Syrdarya regional control Commission..
- <sup>5</sup> Ichkari-usually female part, half of the house in Central Asia
- <sup>6</sup> Burnasheva zagida khusainovna (born in 1895) in 1919 transferred to Tashkent through the women's Department of the Turkestan regional Committee of the RCP(b). Organized the first women's school in the Old town, led the regional women's courses, then reorganized into the regional Women's Institute of education (Women's inquiry), which she led, making a great contribution to the training of indigenous personnel. Directly attracted to the study in Female INPROC, training courses for workers zhenotdel, Sasikumar Gabranova, Jahan Abidova, Tagihan Sadievo and many others, who later served certain positions.
- <sup>7</sup> Lukiya Ivanovna Shumilova one of the first activists of the women's movement.
- <sup>8</sup> Aksenovich Anna Alekseevna (1885-1937) a native of Fergana. Organizer and first head of the Department of Fergana regional Committee of KPT. "Central Asian Clara Zetkin."
- <sup>9</sup> Otmar-Stein Lidia Augustovna (born in 1899), polka, the decision of the revvoensovet of the Turkestan front was sent to the location of the regional Committee of the RCP (b). in 1920-1924 she headed the women's Department of the new Bukhara city Committee, the women's Department of the Central Committee of the Bukhara Communist party and the Syrdarya regional Committee.
- <sup>10</sup> Ross Eustolia A. (1896 p.), as Othmar Stein, the decision of the revolutionary military Council of the Turkestan front was directed to the location of the regional Committee of the RCP(b). In 1921-1932 she headed the women's Department of the Syrdarya and Turkmen regional committees, and then the Central Committee of the CP of Turkmenistan.

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