

Azerbaijan  
New center to fight corruption  
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The first anti-corruption center has opened in Azerbaijan with US assistance. Its goal is to provide citizens with the means to be actively involved in fighting corruption.

The Anti-Corruption Legal Advocacy Center (ALAC) was established by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), through its implementing partner, the American Bar Association Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI), in partnership with Transparency Azerbaijan.

US ambassador in Baku Reno Harnish told the opening ceremony last Wednesday that his country is interested in assisting Azerbaijan in combating corruption, one of the main factors impeding economic development. Harnish pointed out that the ALAC will give impetus to democratic development in Azerbaijan and USAID will implement a series of relevant projects.

The ambassador cited international experience, saying that the anti-corruption centers in Bosnia and Romania have facilitated progress in this area.

Parliament Vice-Speaker and representative of the Government Service Management Council anti-corruption commission Ziyafat Asgarov said events should be organized to raise public awareness on fighting corruption.

Asgarov said that anti-corruption combat should be addressed not only by the government agencies but also citizens.

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