

OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
Warsaw, 28 September – 9 October 2009

STATEMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Working session 7: Tolerance and non-discrimination II, including:

Equality of opportunity for women and men;

Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality;

Prevention of violence against women

WRITTEN CONTRIBUTION
BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Today main legal acts that contain provisions concerning the violence against women are Criminal, Civil and Family Codes of the Republic of Armenia. In these legal documents acts of violence are not differentiated by the sex of the victim.

In order to elaborate a separate law concerning violence against women and domestic violence an interdepartmental working group was set up in 2007. The group consists of representatives of the Ministries of Justice, Health, Labour and Social Affairs, Police, judges and lawyers. The law is being drafted in the scope of a program “Legal initiatives against domestic violence” which is being implemented by the Centre for Women’s Rights NGO.

The issues of the violence against women and elimination of trafficking in women and girls are addressed in the National Plan on “Improvement of Women’s condition and Enhancement of Their Role in the Society, 2004-2010”. It is supposed to carry out a comprehensive research at a national scale and to develop mechanisms for the purpose of protection of women against all forms of violence.

According to the agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the UNDP Office in Yerevan, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs will carry out the project on Gender Policy in the South Caucasus, part of which refers to the issue of domestic violence. The project is mainly aimed at raising public awareness.

In 2008, amendments were made to the statute of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs that expand its functions in the area of combating domestic violence, in particular in relation to formulating measures to prevent domestic violence and provide social protection for victims.

All cases of domestic violence and violence against women are registered by the Police and statistics are compiled on that basis.

Services for victims of violence, including a hot lines, shelter and social support are provided by NGOs specializing in this area both in Yerevan and in the regions.

The 2009-2011 medium-term budget includes appropriations for the establishment of a crisis centre for domestic violence victims in 2010 to provide a range of services to ensure protection of victims’ social and legal rights.