

OSCE HUMAN DIMENTION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING  
Warsaw, 29 September – 10 October 2008

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**Working Session 7: Tolerance and non-discrimination II**  
**Equality of opportunity for women and men;**  
**Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality;**  
**Prevention of violence against women.**

**STATEMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

Mme. Moderator,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Since the very first days of its independence, Armenia has been highly committed to the protection and promotion of women's human rights and has begun process of signature and ratification of international instruments in this field.

Armenia was engaged into the new phase of social and political reforms, when radical changes in the social sphere and searches for new attitudes between the person and a society were not determined. It was also the time for reassessing of gender relations in the Armenian society. The Beijing World conference became turning point for women's movement in Armenia. After Beijing many women organizations have changed area of their activities from charity to social public work and transformed into NGOs mostly involved in development issues. At present, women's organizations are more skilled and mostly focused on women's rights protection.

The first policy paper developed after independence and established main directions of state policy regarding women was the "National Plan of Action on the Improvement of Women's Situation and the Enhancement of their Role in the Society" adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and followed by the 2004-2010 National Plan of Action. These documents are devoted to the promotion of women's rights and freedoms, involvement of women in state

institutions, as well as protection of maternity and child healthcare. They also aim to eliminate violence against women through the legislative reforms, provision of adequate assistance to victims and creation of preventive national mechanisms.

Mme. Moderator,

The national legislation on violence is comprised of number of legal instruments, such as the Criminal Code, Civil Code and Family Code. According to these laws violence is a criminal action irrespective of sex.

In 2005, the Law on Social Assistance was adopted. It defined mechanisms and the framework for the government assistance to victims of violence.

It is important to mention the role of statistics about persons exposed to violence. During 2006-2007, the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia jointly with several NGO's conducted a research on the facts of violence against women at working place and domestic violence. The outcome of the research became a base for new legislative initiatives in this field.

Mme Moderator,

Public awareness plays a significant role in violence prevention.

Every year a campaign entitled: "16 days of action against gender violence" is organized jointly by state agencies and NGOs, during which information booklets on gender violence are being distributed. Number of NGOs currently implement an expanded programme on the prevention of domestic violence through the established hotlines. In addition, the national programme on the "Creation of emergency centres for persons exposed to violence" is planned to implement within the framework of 2009-2011 Government programmes. The programme is intended to protect women exposed to violence through comprehensive assistance. More over, upon the decision of the Government, services provided to victims of violence will be financed through the 2009 state budget of Armenia (around 16 million AMD).

Mme Moderator,

The rights of millions of women continue to be denied, thus, serious steps are needed to protect women against violence. Only strong commitments of governments and political willingness to implement and support international norms in gender equality can guarantee full enjoyment of women's human rights.

Thank you.