



WOMEN IN POLITICS

ԿԱՆԱՅՔԻ ՔԱՂԱՔԱԿԱՆՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄԵԳ

Communique on Domestic Violence Issues in Armenia



National Assembly-CSO Cooperation Platform Meeting

On August 22 the regular meeting of National Assembly-CSO Cooperation Platform (hereinafter, the Platform) took place in Yerevan aimed at presenting recommendations on the improvement of the situation regarding domestic violence.

The initiative is implemented within the framework of “Women in Politics” project. The project is implemented by UNDP in Armenia in partnership with the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures and OxYGen Foundation, with support from the UK Good Governance Fund

The meeting was attended by representatives of civil society organisations, area experts, partners from state and international institutions, as well as MPs, including Naira Zohrabyan, the head of the Standing Committee on Protection of Human Rights and Public Affairs, member of

“Prosperous Armenia” party, Gayane Abrahamyan and Luisne Badalyan, members of “My step” party. The latter collected the recommendations on the improvement of the state policy on domestic violence.

Summary of main recommendations

- A unified data-collection system on domestic violence statistics is needed

11 femicide cases were registered in the period of January-July 2019: the perpetrators in those cases were the husband, the partner or the brother.

The lack of comprehensive statistics on domestic violence is needed. Normally the cases reported to the Police and/or court cases become publicly known, whereas research shows that the real picture is bigger.

- **The need for amendments** in the RA Law on the Prevention of Violence in the Family, Protection of Persons subjected to Violence in the Family and Restoration of Peace in the Family.

Specifically, it was recommended

- to identify controlling behavior as a type of domestic violence, and the need to criminalize it;
 - to criminalize psychological violence;
 - to acknowledge the problem with the effectiveness of the implementation of “Warning”, which in no way guarantees the safety of the survivors;
 - to review the procedure of reconciliation in the Law, including the definition of the term;
 - to acknowledge the need to identify the violence between partners as domestic violence.
- **The Law doesn’t identify the child as a domestic violence survivor** when the latter witnesses the use of violence and/or bears negative effect of the violence (indirect victims). The child doesn’t get legal support as a domestic violence survivor, and in practice, often remains under the influence of the perpetrator.
 - The need for a child ombudsperson.

Lack of specialized units, including in the Police system, in the Courts, among social workers, with **skills to work with domestic violence survivors**, children among them.

- The need to **review the procedures for court appeal**
 - To provide opportunities for CSOs to appeal to the Court on behalf of their beneficiary for the protection of his/her rights
 - The need to start investigation without formal complain of the survivor.

- **The need to review the referral mechanism**

There is a need to create an intermediate specialize unit comprising of representatives of social workers, psychologist, medical institutions. This unit should serve as an intermediate chain between the persons subjected to violence and the Police.

Suggestions were voiced on the need to work with perpetrator and investigation of the forced marriage cases.

The detailed recommendations are available via [the link](#).

The next meeting of the Platform is due in September. The information on the date and time will be circulated in due course. Besides the new topic for the discussion, the meeting will aim to reflect on the previous two discussion on women's reproductive health rights and domestic violence.