

# 2013 Civil Society Monitoring Country Report on Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 “Women, peace and security”.

**Country:** Republic of Armenia

**Author(s):** Goris Women's Development "Resource Center" Foundation, Society Without Violence, Democracy Today, Women's Resource Center, Peace Dialogue, Women's Rights Center, Armenian Young Women's Association

**Researchers:** Ruzanna Torozyan (Goris Women's Development Resource Center Foundation), Knarik Mkrтчyаn and Lara Aharonian (Women's Resource Center), Anna Nikoghosyan, Lida Minasyan, Anush Khachatryan and Nazik Yerososyan-Mkrтчyаn (Society Without Violence), Lusine Torosian and Syuzanna Siradeghyan (Democracy Today), Artashes Sergoyan (Peace and Dialogue), Anush Shirajyan (Young Women's Association), Susanna Vardanyan and Satik Gevorgyan (Women's Rights Center)

## **Acknowledgements:**

Kvinna till kvinna, Operation 1325, Tsovinar Harutyunyan (OSCE, Senior Democratization Assistant and Gender Focal Point, Armenia), Helsinki Association (Vanadzor), Achakits NGO (Gyumri), Public Information and Need of Knowledge (Pink Armenia NGO), Women's Support Center.

## **List of acronyms**

ARM AF	General Staff of the Armenian Armed Forces
ASSR	Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic
DIY	Do It Yourself
DV	Domestic Violence
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
COE	Council of Europe
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EPNK	European Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
MP	Member of the Parliament

MoD	Ministry of Defense
NAP	National Action Plan
NK	Nagorno-Karabakh
NKAO	Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region
NKR	Nagorno-Karabakh Republic
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation
RoA	Republic of Armenia
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
SSR	Soviet Socialist Republic
USA	United States of America
UN	United Nations
UNHSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund Armenia
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance

## **Women, peace and security profile**

### **A. Nature of the conflict**

The Republic of Armenia is one of the three post-soviet countries in Southern Caucasus. This is a country with an unstable economy and a high level of emigration. According to the official statistics, a third of armenians lived below the poverty line in 2009.<sup>1</sup> In 2011 34% of the population in the capital city Yerevan were living in poverty<sup>2</sup> The ethnic composition of Armenia's population is 93.3 percent Armenian; 1.5 percent Russian; 1.7 percent Kurdish; and 3.5 percent Assyrian, Greek, and other.<sup>3</sup>

Since 1988, there has been an on-going conflict between Armenians and Azerbaijanis over the enclave Nagorno Karabagh (NK) which is also known to Armenians as Artsakh. But the conflict itself began in 1917 after the collapse of the Russian Empire and the independence

<sup>1</sup> <http://iwpr.net/report-news/armenia-sinking-poverty>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.armstat.am/file/article/poverty\\_2012a\\_7.pdf](http://www.armstat.am/file/article/poverty_2012a_7.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.everyculture.com/A-Bo/Armenia.html#b>

of three south Caucasus states. After the Bolsheviks expansion into South Caucasus in 1920 and the formulation of three regional republics, the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan and the Caucasian Bureau of the Russian Communist Party recognized 95 % of the Armenian populated NK as a part of Armenia (June –July 1921). Despite the decisions made on July 4<sup>th</sup>, one part of Nagorno Karabakh was established as an autonomous region within the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic under the command of Joseph Stalin in Moscow on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1923<sup>4</sup>. During Soviet governance, discrimination from Azerbaijan towards Nagorno-Karabakh had its impact on the population of and became the main reason for the latter's migration. As a result, the composition of the Karabakh population changed and in 1923 Armenians amounted to 94.4% of the population of Nagorno Karabakh, according to 1989 statistics, while the number of Armenians had reduced to 76.9%.<sup>5</sup>

The people of NKAO ([Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast](#)) and authorities of Armenian SSR sent multiple applications to the Soviet central authorities asking for reconsideration of the decision on incorporating Nagorno-Karabakh to Azerbaijan, all of which were ignored or rejected, causing persecutions against the initiators. “What followed those peaceful demonstrations in Yerevan were a series pogroms against Armenians in the Azerbaijani cities of Sumgait and Kirovabad-Ganja in 1988. Joint Soviet and Azerbaijani forces deported Armenians living in towns and villages of Azerbaijan bordering Nagorno-Karabakh, and in January of 1990, massacred ethnic Armenians living in the Azerbaijani capital, Baku. Tens of thousands are ethnic Armenians were either massacred or displaced.”<sup>6</sup>

The current phase of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict began in 1988, when in response to the self-determination claims of the NK population, the Azeri authorities organized massacres and ethnic cleansings of the Armenian population on the entire territory of Azerbaijan, particularly in Sumgait, Baku and Kirovabad.<sup>7</sup> In 1988, the Armenian deputies in the local soviet assembly of Nagorno Karabakh voted to unite the region with Soviet Armenia. Tensions grew between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, and inter-ethnic violence took place between these two nations. In 1991, Azerbaijan and Armenia declared independence from the Soviet Union. Later that same year, Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh held a referendum on independence on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1991 and as a result, declared independence as a new state separate from Azerbaijan. An overwhelming majority of the voters casted their ballots in favor of an independent Republic of Nagorno Karabakh. The referendum was boycotted by local Azerbaijanis.<sup>8</sup> Shortly after that, an armed conflict over Nagorno Karabakh broke out between Azerbaijan and NK together with Armenia. Thousands of people were killed and hundreds of thousands were displaced due to the conflict. Many bordering settlements of Armenia were damaged from gunfire.

In May 1994, a ceasefire came into effect through Russian mediation, but there was no peace. Armenians were in control of both Nagorno Karabakh, a former autonomous region,

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.mfa.am/hy/artsakh/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.un.mfa.am/en/karabagh/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.anccanada.org/en/home/page/139>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.un.mfa.am/en/karabagh/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.equalpowerlastingpeace.org/five-conflicts/nagorno-karabakh/>

and bordering Azerbaijani territories as a security guarantee for Armenian populated NK. NK, Armenia and Azerbaijan have held negotiations since then, under mediation of the [Minsk group](#) (chaired by USA, the Russian Federation and France) from the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe \(OSCE\)](#). Sporadic outbursts of gunfire are still taking place along the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and along the line of contact to Nagorno Karabakh, and there have also been reports of accidents with mines; most of this vulnerable areas are near the vorder villages where mainly women, children live and we often hear of causalities of these residents being targeted while doing their daily chores in these villages . Nagorno Karabakh has not been recognized as an independent state by any UN member country, including Armenia.<sup>9</sup>

NKR is a de facto independent state and as its constitution declares: «The Nagorno Karabagh republic is a sovereign, democratic, secular, legal and social state, where power belongs to the people. The state power system in the Republic is based on the principles of separation and balance of legislative, executive and judicial powers, as well as on the distribution of the powers between republican and local authorities».<sup>10</sup> NK is a presidential republic, with 33 member parliaments and three parliamentarian fractions. The population of NK is estimated to be 141 400: <sup>11</sup>

The Conflict over NK between Azerbaijan and Armenia is now frozen, but casualties on the borders are very common. Sniper attacks in bordering villages affect the rural communities, mainly children and women who are the most vulnerable in this situation. Following the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, the bordering country Turkey has also closed its borders with Armenia in support of their allies in Azerbaijan. Armenia has found itself in a critical situation with most of its borders closed and always under threats of the restart of the war.

## **B. Impact of conflict on women**

Not many organizations have researched the direct and indirect effects of the conflict on women in the region. Kvinna till Kvinna in Sweden is one of the few organizations working for the empowerment of women in conflict areas, and has done important research to raise awareness on this issue. According to their report, Women from conflict affected groups (all people affected by the conflicts in the region) are in a particularly vulnerable situation. This includes internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, women raped during conflict and persons that are invalids as a result of the conflict. Women belonging to conflict affected groups often lack access to education, employment, health and housing and have no awareness of their rights. Due to the conflict, the breakaway region of Nagorno Karabakh is isolated from much development work, including work to strengthen women's rights.<sup>12</sup>

The report emphasis on the following aspects as well:

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.equalpowerlastingpeace.org/five-conflicts/nagorno-karabakh/>

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.president.nkr.am/en/nkr/statePower/ Chapter 3 of the NKR constitution](http://www.president.nkr.am/en/nkr/statePower/Chapter%203%20of%20the%20NKR%20constitution)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/nkr/statePower/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.equalpowerlastingpeace.org/five-conflicts/nagorno-karabakh/>

The economic situation of women:

The conflict's effect on the economic situation has been devastating, even if it has recovered to a certain degree during the last years. The Armenian economy is strained due to the closed borders with Turkey and Azerbaijan. The situation is particularly harsh in rural areas and many, predominately men, work abroad. Because of this, many women in the region have several jobs in order to be able to support their families and their work is mainly concentrated in the non-formal-sector, with low pay and limited benefits (house cleaning, babysitting, farming, service industry, etc). Often these types of works are not-stable, don't include a work contract and women employed under these conditions are not officially registered and not eligible to maternal or sick leaves and later on pension benefits.

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Women in political life:

Women's participation in political and public life, especially with respect to their representation in decision-making bodies like national assemblies, governments, diplomatic services, regional and local municipalities and the high level of judiciary is very low in the South Caucasus region. The political sphere is dominated by small power elites. Instead many women try to find their base in the non-governmental sphere, working for organizations, rather than going into politics and run for election. According to a Gender Assessment made by USAID in 2010, Armenian women have a more significant role as leaders of non-governmental organizations. While there is a common perception that women dominate the third sector, in fact, of the thousands of NGOs officially registered in Armenia, experts estimate that there are about 700 active organizations, 60 of which could be considered "women's NGOs."<sup>63</sup> However, women's contribution to civil society in Armenia is one of their most publicly visible roles, and this may explain the overestimation of their numbers and influence. NGOs led by women are those that provide social support and services, those that address issues of specific concern for women, such as domestic violence, and others that work towards gender mainstreaming and gender equality. A survey of civil society in Armenia shows that women's NGOs work in four main areas: "socio-political issues and protection of women's rights and interests; promotion of women's business and professional activities; provision of social services and charity and elimination of violence against women."<sup>13</sup>

Gender-based Violence

The occurrence of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls is not a fully acknowledged problem in South Caucasus, but progress has been made within the legislative area and in police work. According to women's and human rights organizations, there is an increase in gender-based violence being scrutinized by society and in the media. There is also a greater awareness among women that violence in different forms is not something they have to accept. Increasingly more women and women's organizations work to counteract violence against women and girls, in particular domestic violence, bride abduction and early marriages.

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<sup>13</sup> Gender Assessment, USAID/Armenia, 2010

A common view of women in conflict regions is that they should stay at home and there is little or no tolerance for women's activity. The work to improve women's rights is mainly focused on provision of safe places for women and to increase women's awareness of their rights.

The conflict has also brought about problems such as trafficking of women for sexual exploitation. Both Armenia and Azerbaijan are target countries for the recruitment of girls, or are used as areas for transit.

A clear evidence of women's low status in the region is the increasing numbers of sex selective abortions of female foetuses. This escalated to such a degree that it in 2011, a resolution was adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, that condemned selective abortions and called on Armenia and Azerbaijan (and Albania) to investigate and monitor the situation, and provide support to awareness-raising initiatives.<sup>14</sup>

One of the major consequences of the conflict over Nagorno Karabakh is that hundreds of thousands of people are displaced and living as IDPs (internally displaced persons) and refugees.

Before the conflict, Armenians and Azerbaijanis lived intermingled and both republics housed a large minority of the other ethnic group. Due to rising tensions between the groups in the late 1980s, an exchange of populations began, sanctioned by the Soviet authorities. When the war erupted and violence flared, refugees moved back and forth. Many IDPs and refugees still live in temporary housing and in harsh conditions.

Women's organizations strive to integrate IDP and refugee women in the local community, provide training to give them a better footing on the job market and monitor and represent their rights. For example, in the border villages, opportunities are created for women to develop their skills on handicrafts and small business initiatives to give them the opportunity to be economically independent and able to take care of their families and become decision-makers in the community. They also work to counteract bitterness and vindictiveness, and post-traumatic stress. In this area, many cross-border dialogue meetings are organized where women from both sides meet regularly in a neutral space to develop relationships among them and a safe space to counter their stereotypes of enemy images and intolerance. Most recently, the EPNK<sup>15</sup> project (European Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh), through the Kvinna till Kvinna foundation, has been supporting 4 organizations from Armenian and Azerbaijan to develop a platform for young women directly affected by the conflict to meet and jointly conduct peace initiatives in the region.

### **C. Relevant legal and policy framework**

Armenia has ratified various international treaties on women's rights protection including Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination (CEDAW), Optional Protocol to

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<sup>14</sup> <http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta11/ERES1829.htm>

<sup>15</sup> [http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/documents/projects/epnk\\_phase\\_1\\_-\\_project\\_summary.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/documents/projects/epnk_phase_1_-_project_summary.pdf)

CEDAW, Convention on the Political Rights of Women, United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, Equal Remuneration Convention, Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, Convention against Discrimination in Education, etc). Additionally, the Armenian constitution is gender sensitive and women's rights in Armenia are protected by the national legislation, but de facto those rights are not protected. Recently, the RA government adopted a law ensuring gender equality. The bill is entitled, "Ensuring Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men," and underscores, among other issues, the need for protection under the law against gender-based discrimination. The Gender Equality Bill is the beginning of a formal gender policy in Armenia, which aims to support civil society development, increase gender awareness and ensure the fundamental rights of men and women.<sup>16</sup>

Furthermore, the Women's Council was established by the order of the Prime Minister in 2000. The Council coordinates the implementation of the national gender policy at all levels of political and public life. The main purpose of the council is to enhance women's status and to insure gender equality in our society<sup>17</sup>.

The National Plan for the Improvement of the Situation of Women and Enhancement of their Role in the Society has been enacted since 2004. The National Plan defines the principles, priorities and main directions of the state policy towards the solution of women's problems, and aims to ensure equal rights and opportunities for men and women. Armenia also chaired the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 2010 and 2011.

## **II. Data presentation and analysis**

### **A. Participation**

#### **Indicator 1 – Index of women's participation in governance**

At present, significant obstacles prevent Armenia's transition to a fully functional and representational democracy, and there are important differences in the abilities of women and men to engage in democratic processes, to raise issues of their concern and to access justice to redress violations of their rights. Women have very little influence over policy decisions due to their lack of representation in decision-making positions. While a quota system ensures women are represented in political parties, they face distinct barriers to entering office at the local and national level. Gender equality has not been a priority for the country and most women-oriented policies have focused on reproductive and maternal health and not civil and political rights. Women are better represented in civil society, but women's NGOs lack the capacity to advocate for their inclusion in government policy decisions.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> <http://eeca.unfpa.org/public/lang/en/pid/9891>

<sup>17</sup> <http://gov.am/en/councils/>

<sup>18</sup> Gender Assessment USAID/Armenia, 2010

Table 1: Index of Women's Participation in Governance

Index of women's participation in governance in 2012			
	Number of women	Number of men	Percentage of women
<b>National government (total)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>9.9%</b>
<b>Executive</b>			
<b>Ministers</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	
<b>Deputy Ministers</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>66</b>	
<b>Legislative – Parliament – National Assembly</b>			
<b>Deputies</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>10.1%</b>
<b>Local government (total)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0 %</b>
<b>Executive branch</b>			
<b>Governors – Marzes/provincial</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0 %</b>
<b>Legislative branch</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>Not available</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>9.5%</b>

Percentage of women's participation in governance from				
	1999	2003	2007	2012
<b>National government</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>
<b>Local government</b>				<b>0%</b>
<b>Total</b>				

Although women are more than 52% of the population in Armenia, the number of women occupying seats in the parliament, in senior level positions in the government and in decision-making levels is relatively low. Conditions are not in place to afford gender-balanced participation in society - women remain disadvantaged in comparison to their male counterparts in most areas of society. Some progress has been made, however it is still clear that gender equality requires attention and support.

The 2012 parliamentary elections of the Republic of Armenia took place after amendments in the Electoral Code increased the gender quota from 15% to 20% and women were required to be included in each group of 5 candidates of party lists starting from the 6th place, with the proportion of each gender not to exceed the 80% of each integer group of 5. Women's representation in the 5<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the Parliament comprises 10.67% as

compared to 9.2% in the 2007 elections, so the quota increase ensured just a slight progress.

On average, political parties included women at 22.8% of their proportional electoral lists, so as a result of the elections, the representation percentage was cut in half. Since only 2 out of 14 women were elected under the majoritarian electoral system, the parliamentary parties did not have any progress in ensuring gender quota stipulated by law.

Moreover, the 20% quota, which was stipulated in the Electoral Code to ensure women's appropriate representation, was devalued. The mechanism for promoting the increase of the number of female representatives did not work due to inter-party reshuffling and self-withdrawals.

The research on the changing numbers of women elected as MPs under the majoritarian electoral system revealed a decreasing tendency starting from 1995. This is explained by severe fighting and commercialization of the elections under the majoritarian electoral system, by using negative campaigning, and partially by a decreasing number of single-mandate constituencies. As a result of the amendments of the Electoral Code, the number of single-mandate constituencies decreased twice from the 2nd Convocation of the Parliament (1999) to the 4th Convocation (2007), and the number of women nominated under the majoritarian electoral system decreased 10 times.

However, it's worth comparing the encouragement of women's participation under the majoritarian electoral system to the 2007 elections. While in 2007, 6 out of 11 women announced self-withdrawals without participating later in election competition, in the 2012 elections there was only one self-withdrawal as opposed to 40 male candidates under the majoritarian electoral system. The number of votes for women under the majoritarian system running by self-nomination principle increased. In 2007, all 5 women were nominated by their party's initiative, and in the 2012 elections, 6 out of 11 women were non-partisan, and only 2 were nominated by parties.

Some positive changes took place in leadership and in Standing Committees of the Republic of Armenia Parliament. The following three women held decision-making positions: Hermine Naghdalyan was elected as vice-speaker of the Parliament, Naira Zohrabyan was elected as chair of the Standing Committee on European Integration, and Elinar Vardanyan was elected as chair of the Standing Committee on Protection of Human Rights and Public Affairs.

Thus, during the past 20 years, the number of women in Armenian parliament increased by only 7%. Moreover there was a slight increase through the use of the gender quota in the proportional system. Taking into account such dynamics of women's representation, it can be predicted that at least 25 years will be necessary for achieving the 20% quota at this same pace. The representation of women in politics in Armenia still remains one of the important challenges faced by women today and has a direct effect on the lack of gender sensitive legislation and the absence of women's needs and concerns in official, national decision-making processes and public policies of the country.

When we come to the Executive branch, the Republic of Armenia (RoA) Government, out of 18 Ministers only 2 are women and out of 66 deputy ministers only 6 are women.

The situation is even more challenging in provincial government bodies:

- Out of 10 provincial governors, none are female and only one is a woman among deputy governors.
- There are no women among the 21 city mayors and there is only 1 woman deputy mayor out of the 51 deputy mayors;
- 43 candidates were women among 1237 candidates running for community leader posts (city/town and village councilors), among them, 10 women have been elected;
- 580 candidates running for local government councilors (city/town or village council) were women out of the 6698 candidates (505 women in village communities and 75 women in town communities), 396 women have been elected, which comprises 8.3% of all elected local government councilors;
- 68.3% of all women candidates running for local government councilors have been elected;
- Women compose 51.1% among civil servants as of 2013 - in junior posts women make 56.1%, in senior posts 48.6% and in leading posts 37.1%.

At first, Regional Focal Points of Children's Rights Protection at governors' offices were responsible for the implementation of the Gender Policy in the regions, later they were renamed Gender Focal Points, and started to work under the guidance of the Division of Women Issues of the Family, Women and Children Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues. Afterwards, Regional Committees on Promoting Gender Equality have been established in all the regions of Armenia, which are composed of also civil society representatives and are mainly chaired by deputy governors. Some capacity development has been undertaken for the Committees, but it is still remains an issue and more needs to be done.

Based on the adoption of RoA Gender Policy Concept Paper in February 2010, several new documents have been approved by the Government, i.e. 2011-2015 Gender Policy Strategic Program and 2011, 2012, 2013 Action Plans, 2011-2015 Strategic Action Plan to Combat Gender-Based Violence and corresponding Action Plans. Two draft laws have also been developed on Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities of Men and Women in Armenia which has already passed the 3<sup>rd</sup> hearing at the Parliament and is currently pending for the President's approval and on Domestic Violence which was rejected by the Government recently.

RATING: We see some progress in certain field like the parliament where there is a quota system implemented but overall no major change.

## **Indicator 2 – Percentage of women in peace negotiating teams and detailed breakdown of gender issues addressed in peace agreements**

Even though negotiations over Nagorno Kharabakh conflict are held between the presidents of the Republic of Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of both countries in participation with Co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, there is still no peace agreement for the conflict. On official level the peace negotiators are mostly men. The representation of women in peace processes in general was at the level of technical expert, and observer.

According to our interviewees<sup>19</sup>, when women were included, they were listened and respected.

Official peace negotiations on the Kharabakh conflict in 2012 have been held between Edward Nalbandyan and Elmar Mammadyarov the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Azerbaijan in participation with Co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group.

Negotiation process itself includes a limited number of people. Nevertheless in the framework of international institutions, women have been involved in meetings and discussions on fostering conflict regulation but more on a non-formal level.

Women, particularly, have participated in the framework of parliamentary assemblies organized by OSCE and COE. Among them, Larisa Alaverdyan, Naira Zohrabyan<sup>20</sup>, Lilit Galstyan<sup>21</sup>, Hermine Naghdalyan<sup>22</sup>, Zaruhi Postanjyan<sup>23</sup>.

There is also attempts in providing equal conditions for women's professional growth in Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia. Women working in Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces of RA participate in both bilateral and multilateral initiatives of peacekeeping and territorial security provision in the framework of Ministry of Defense jurisdiction including CSTO<sup>24</sup>, NATO, ICRC, OSCE and under the aegis of other structures' activities.

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<sup>19</sup> The methodology of our monitoring team for the study on women involvement in peace negotiation have been expert interviews with people from civil society who, in the framework of their activities, somehow were correlated to peace processes, and official letters had been sent to official institutions who could have been correlated to this issue. This methodology has been selected because of lack of information - as there aren't studies, statistics on informal peace processes.

Our expert interviewees have been Aghavni Karakhanyan (Founding Director), Shushan Khatlamajyan (Programme Coordinator), "Institute for Civil Society and Regional Development" NGO, Yerevan, Armenia; Irina Grigoryan, Chair of "Artsakh Institute of Popular Diplomacy. Peace-building Resource Center", Stepanakert, NK; Avetik Ishkhanyan, Chairman of Helsinki Committee of Armenia, Yerevan, Armenia; Larisa Alaverdyan, director of Institute of Politics and Law at Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University, Yerevan, Armenia, Edgar Khachatryan, chairman of "Peace Dialogue" NGO, Vanadzor, Armenia

<sup>20</sup> Mrs. Zohrabyan is a Chairperson of the NA Standing Committee on European Integrations since 2009, she worked as a reporter and political analyst as well.

<sup>21</sup> Ms. Galstyan since 1999 up to present is the chair of All-National Armenian Educational and Cultural Union and the head of the 'Humazgayin' Fund. Since 1986 up to present in periodicals has published numerous articles and scientific publications. Since 1990 is a member of Armenian Revolutionary Federation, in 2007 was selected as a deputy of the National Assembly of RA.

<sup>22</sup> Mrs. Postanjyan is an Armenian Member of Parliament since 2007, a public activist and a member of Heritage party board. She worked as a lawyer of Helsinki Association NGO, in Women's Rights Center NGO. She was awarded a diploma, an order and a memorial medal by the Armenian All-National Union Zoravar Andranik.

<sup>23</sup> Besides in 2009 – 2011 Karine Ghazinyan (died 2012) as a deputy minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia had indirectly correlated to negotiation process. Human Rights And Humanitarian Issues Division, International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of RA

<sup>24</sup> The Collective Security Treaty (Treaty) was signed on May 15, 1992 in Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Armenia being among the signatories.

At present, the CSTO members are the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In this context it is important to mention that Larisa Alaverdyan<sup>25</sup> has a notable role in respect to Nagorno-Karabakh issues. She has participated in numerous international and regional conferences and has prepared a number of expert assessments on conflict resolution issues. Accordingly Mrs. Alaverdyan participated indirectly in peace building processes at formal and informal level from 1988 up to date.

Unlike the official level, women's representation in civil society level and local NGOs is higher. According to our expert interviewees nowadays there are about 60 NGOs that are working on women's issues and among them are those involved in peace building processes. Here it is worth to mention that "Democracy Today" NGO in partnership with Association for the Protection of Women's Rights named after D. Aliyeva (Azerbaijan) and Women's Information Center (WIC) (Georgia) - the founding members of the initiative "Women of South Caucasus for Peace. Peace starts from your home" - has been established "Young Women's Peace Award in the Caucasus". The Award ceremony first time was held in 2012 and is decided to be organized annually<sup>26</sup>. The award has been established to acknowledge the exceptional role and leadership potential of young women in building peace, empowering their communities and working to prevent conflicts and restore and protect human rights. It is aimed at advancing and supporting the emergence of a new generation of peace builders.

There are also different initiatives and projects on increasing youth's role and effective participation in peaceful conflict resolution processes. In these projects, equal participation<sup>27</sup>

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According to the Treaty, the Participating States, collectively confront and eliminate a military threat against their sovereignty and territorial integrity. This fundamental provision of the Treaty is defined by the Article 4, according to which in case of an act of aggression against a Member State, all other Participating States would provide all necessary assistance, including that of military.

In 1999, Armenia also signed the Protocol on Prolongation of the Treaty.

In 2002, The Treaty was transformed into the Collective Security Treaty Organization (the Organization, CSTO) whose basic functional elements include close military and military-technical cooperation among the Member States, foreign policy coordination on issues of mutual interest and, more recently, countering new threats and challenges, such as international terrorism and organized crime.

Armenia's membership to CSTO is a major component of the country's security architecture.

<sup>25</sup> Mrs. Alaverdyan participated indirectly in peacebuilding processes at both formal and non-formal level being founder member and responsible secretary of Artsakh compatriot union (1988-1991), chief expert of the Special Committee of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Armenia on Artsakh (1991-1995), a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and Human Rights adjunct to RA President (2000-2003), continuing cooperation as a deputy in the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia (2007-2012), being as executive director of the NGO Against Illegal Arbitrariness (1995-2004). At present, during a year, Larisa Alaverdyan fosters contacts among Armenian and Azerbaijani youth as a director of Institute of Politics and Law at Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University.

<sup>26</sup> To be considered for the award, participants should be women aged between 25-45 or alternatively organizations that invest in peace building in their community. The person or organization has to be known in the community for her/their peacebuilding activities and protection of human rights. This can be through civic activism, academic research, journalism, writing, using social media as a tool, etc. This work should have lasting impact on the processes of peace and confidence building in Caucasus notwithstanding the present residence of the person or organization.

<sup>27</sup>Expert interviewees Edgar Khachatryan, chairman of "Peace Dialogue" NGO, Vanadzor, Armenia; and VardanKhatchmanyanyan, board member, "Democracy Today" NGO (Yerevan, Armenia), "Durable and Sustainable Peace should be Inclusive" project.

or only women's involvement<sup>28</sup> is taken into consideration. NGOs are organizing dialogue meetings with youth from refugee communities and border villages from Armenia and Azerbaijan. In the framework of these projects, several Internet blogs were created in order to be more accessible for the members and their society on their activities, analysis and discussions. Youths' meetings have given way to discussions about the South Caucasus conflicts and their consequences, and have created awareness on peace building. As a result of these meetings, dialogues and co-operations have been created among a group of young people from Armenia, Artsakh (NK) and Azerbaijan who are interested in social and political processes of their country. Confidence was built between the members of both societies, which made them more tolerant and more empathetic towards each other. The aim of these projects is to empower youth especially young women and girls, affected by the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh:

- to encourage peace building initiatives among them, and strengthen their potential for dialogue, breaking enemy images,
- to raise their role in political and civic processes on country and regional platform,
- to protect their interests, and demand from their governments the protection of their rights and interests according to their demands and role specifics,
- to make the peace negotiation process open and to address the concerns of all those for whom this peace is negotiated.

According to two of the expert interviewee<sup>29</sup> assessments on bilateral civil society activism between the countries of Armenia and Azerbaijan, after the year 2002 civil society peace processes have decreased from the Azerbaijani side.

As a conclusion its worth to mention that percentage of women in peace negotiation processes has moderate progress and the topic itself always has been in the center of attention but more intense was during the Karabakh or Artsakh popular movement period in from 1988 to 1994 till the armistice.

### **Indicator 3 – Index of women participation in the justice, security sector, and peacekeeping missions**

#### **THE SECURITY SECTOR**

- **National Security Service**

The National Security Service is one of the seven adjunct bodies of the government that exist in addition to the eighteen ministries of the RoA. The National Security Service is “a republican body of executive authority, which elaborates and implements the policies of the

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<sup>8</sup>Expert interviewee Anna Ishkhanyan, project manager “Democracy Today” NGO (Yerevan, Armenia), “Armenian and Azerbaijani young women activism for peace and security” project.

<sup>29</sup> Larisa Alaverdyan and Avetik Ishkhanyan

Armenian Government in the national security sector and manages national security bodies”<sup>30</sup>.

The table below indicates the female-male ratio of the six most senior-level functions of this service. As it can be seen from the table, all positions are occupied by men.

Table 2: Sex-Disaggregated Data, Top Six Senior-Level Functions, Armenian National Security Service

Function	Male	Female
Director of National Security Service	1	0
First Deputy Minister	1	0
Deputy	1	0

### **The Ministry of Defense**

The Republic of Armenia Ministry of Defense (MoD) is a “republican body of executive authority, which elaborates and implements the policies of the Republic of Armenia Government in the defense sector”.<sup>31</sup>

The MoD and the Armenian Armed Forces have begun reforms in order to ensure civic control and create a better defense system corresponding to the basic principles of democratic governance and present military demands<sup>32</sup>.

The group member Society Without Violence NGO tried to monitor the mainstreaming of gender in MoD personnel and operational policies and practices. The organization requested official data on women’s involvement level in MoD departments. However, in his 538/GH/20.05.2013 letter following the organization’s official request, the chief of general headquarter of the RA Armed Forces responded that such information is secret and cannot be publicized. Thus, the secrecy of the MoD blocks the access to any kind of information and data about women’s participation. The only reliable source of information remains the official website of the MoD where gender sensitive information is scarce. Thus, the information presented below is retrieved from this source. It is also important to notice that the MoD does not take part in the Inter-Agency Working Group on Gender.

Table 3: Sex-Disaggregated Information of Defense Minister, MoD staff, Chief of the ARM AF GS, Deputy Ministers and Chief of Departments<sup>33</sup>

<sup>30</sup><http://www.gov.am/en/adjunct-bodies/18/>, accessed on July 16, 2013

<sup>31</sup><http://www.gov.am/en/structure/17/>, accessed on July 16, 2013

<sup>32</sup><http://www.mil.am/1298096650>, accessed on July 16, 2013

<sup>33</sup><http://www.mil.am/1298531724>, accessed on July 16, 2013

<b>Function</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
ARM Defence Minister	1	0
ARM MoD Staff	1	0
Chief of the ARM AF GS	1	0
ARM First Deputy Minister, MoD	1	0
ARM Deputy Minister, MoD	--	0
ARM Deputy Minister, MoD	1	0
ARM Deputy Minister, MoD	1	0
Chief of Department of Defense Policy	1	0
Head of Secretariat	1	0
Chief of Department of Financial Budgeting and Planning	1	0
Chief of Supervisory Department	1	0
Chief of Military police	1	0
Chief of Investigation services	1	0
Chief of Department of Capital Construction and Housing	1	0
Chief of Department of Financial Inspection	1	0
Chief of Administrative Support Department	1	0
Chief of Central Military-medical Committee	1	0
Head of Branch of Information Analysing	1	0
Chief of Department of Information and Public Affairs	1	0
Head of Collegiums' work organization branch	1	0
Chief of Personnel and Military Education Department	1	0
Chief of Department of Law	1	0
Head of Heraldry Branch	1	0
Chief of Department of Social Protection of Servicemen	1	0
Chief of Defense-Industry department	1	0
Chief of Economic analysis and procurement documentation department	--	0

As it can be inferred from the table, the top 26 positions in the MoD are all occupied by men except for 2 functions, which were vacant at the time of the assessment.

## **The Police Service**

“The Republic of Armenia Police has the right to use compulsion within the boundaries prescribed by law. The police organize the operational-intelligence and forensic-criminological activities of internal affairs bodies in the Republic, and directly supervises the investigative units of internal affairs bodies in accordance with the RoA legislation”<sup>34</sup>.

As indicated in the table presented below, men occupy the 7 most senior-level functions of the Armenian Police.

Table 4: Sex-Disaggregated Data, Top Seven Senior-Level Functions, Armenian Police<sup>35</sup>

Function	Male	Female
Chief of Republic of Armenia police	1	0
First Deputies	1	0
Deputy	1	0
Deputy	1	0
Deputy	1	0
Deputy – Head of General Investigation Department	1	0
Commander of RA Police Troops – Deputy Head of RA Police	1	0

The findings revealed that decision-making processes involve only men. The vast majority of the Police employees are also men, while in the upper positions there are no women involved<sup>36</sup>.

The researchers tried to get information on the level of women involvement in the police system from the RA Police, but the organization’s request was denied based on the regulation No: 626 of the RA Government on 30.12.1997 and on the order of RA Police Chief of 18.02.2005 “on the formation of the extended departmental list of secret information”. As a result, no other official sex-disaggregated data are available on the police force in Armenia, including with respect to the different departments, functions and distribution across the marzes.

### **The Armed Forces**

“Armenia has compulsory military service for men who are 18 years of age lasting for a period of two years. The Law on Alternative Military Service derived from Armenian commitments to the Council of Europe and it has been in effect since 1 July 2004. This law emerged after several discussions concerning the readiness and efficiency of the Armed Forces. However, no more than 20 recruits have participated in alternative military service. The law defines two types of alternative service: non-armed service in the military system for a duration of three years and service in social institutions for a duration of 48 months”<sup>37</sup>.

<sup>34</sup><http://www.gov.am/en/adjunct-bodies/11/>, accessed on July 16, 2013

<sup>35</sup><http://www.gov.am/en/adjunct-bodies/11/>, accessed on July 16, 2013

<sup>36</sup><http://www.police.am/structure/leadership.html>

<sup>37</sup> Defence Institution Building: Country Profiles and Needs Assessments for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova Background Materials, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces

The Armed Forces of RoA has four training institutes, namely the military institute, the military aviation institute, the military medicine faculty, and the military training school. In principle and practice only men can apply to these training institutes. However, based on Paragraph 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 1 of the RoA law on “Passing to military service”, in June 2013 Armenia’s Defense Ministry has announced the start of admission of women in military educational establishments in the republic for the academic year of 2013/2014. As Defense Ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovhannisyann announced, “The Defense Ministry continues to carry out its consistent reforms and innovative policy that will contribute to the raising of the combat efficiency of the armed forces and public confidence.<sup>38</sup>”

Now, “women having attained the age of 18, who are citizens of Armenia, are physically strong and with health assessed as satisfactory for training and service in military education establishments, with certificates of the passage of single mathematics and physics exams will be considered for enrolment<sup>39</sup>”.

As seen from the table below, all senior staff members in the armed forces are men, including the 26 departments’ chiefs and branches heads.

Table 5: Sex-Disaggregated Data of the Functions of the Defence Minister, (Deputy) Chiefs of the ARM AF GS, Chiefs of Departments, Heads of Branches of the Armed Forces of RoA<sup>40</sup>

Function	Male	Female
ARM Minister of Defence	1	0
Chief of the ARM AF GS	1	0
First Deputy Chief of the ARM AF GS	1	0
Deputy Chief of the ARM AF GS	1	0
Deputy Chief of the ARM AF GS	1	0
Deputy Chief of the ARM AF GS	--	0
Deputy Chief of the ARM AF GS	1	0
Administrative Apparatus	1	0
Head of the Department of Intelligence	1	0
Chief of Department of Rocket Forces and Artillery	1	0
Chief of Administrative Apparatus	1	0
Chief of Department of Aviation	1	0
Chief of Department of Ensuring Service for the Troops and Military Service Security	1	0
Chief of Department of Air Defence Forces	1	0
Chief of Department of Strategic Planning	1	0
Chief of Department of Military preparedness	1	0

<sup>38</sup>[http://www.armenianow.com/news/46674/armenia\\_defense\\_ministry\\_educational\\_establishments\\_women](http://www.armenianow.com/news/46674/armenia_defense_ministry_educational_establishments_women), accessed on July 16, 2013

<sup>39</sup>[http://www.armenianow.com/news/46674/armenia\\_defense\\_ministry\\_educational\\_establishments\\_women](http://www.armenianow.com/news/46674/armenia_defense_ministry_educational_establishments_women), accessed on July 16, 2013

<sup>40</sup><http://www.mil.am/1296904283>, accessed on July 16, 2013

General Commissar of ARM Military Commissariat	1	0
Chief of Department of the Rear	1	0
Chief of Department of Communications and ACS	1	0
Chief of Department of Engineering Forces	1	0
Chief of Department of Armament	1	0
Chief of Department of Radiation, Chemical and Biological Defence	1	0
Chief of Organization and Mobilization Department	1	0
Chief of Military Medical Department	1	0
Chief of Operative Department	1	0
Chief of Moral and Welfare Department	1	0
Chief of Financial Department	1	0
Head of Radio-electronics Struggle Section	1	0
Head of Military Communication Branch	1	0
Chief of Department of Personnel	1	0
Head of Military Topography Branch	1	0
Head of Eighth Branch	1	0
Head of Standardization and Metrology Branch	1	0
Head of Military Orchestra Branch	1	0

## Justice Sector

In RoA judiciary system, the Minister of Justice, its deputies, RoA Chief Prosecutor, the heads of Supreme Court, Appellate Court, Administrative Court, First Instance Court of General Jurisdiction, Chief of the Staff of the Council of Justice, the Head of Department are all responsible for decision-making. For the most part, only men are involved in decision-making processes, except for the Chief of the Staff of the Council of Justice, who is the only woman. Overall, women involvement makes 21% of the total.

The women who are involved in the Judiciary Sector are mostly judges. One can see a hierarchic system, where women are involved only in the lower layers and are only part of the system that is run exclusively by men<sup>41</sup>. One of the reasons for this problem is the fact that getting to a high post in the judiciary system requires years of experience, hard work and is time-consuming. Women are mainly busy at home and they often come across to the stereotypical thinking that the judiciary system is more fitted for men. Society itself makes pressure on women limiting their possibilities and stereotyping their thinking<sup>42</sup>.

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<sup>41</sup><http://www.court.am>

<sup>42</sup><http://www.court.am/>

Table 6: Percentage of women in the judiciary sector of RoA

<b>Court</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Supremecourt</b>	Chief Judge	1	1	0	
	Chief Justice	2	2	0	
	Judge	14	11	3	Around 21.4% participation of women
<b>AppellateCourt</b>	Court Chairman	1	1	0	
	Judge	14	8	6	75% participation of women
<b>Administrative Court</b>	Court Chairman	1	1	0	
	Judge	18	13	5	Around 27.78% participation of women
<b>First Instance Court of General Jurisdiction</b>	Court Chairman	16	16	0	
	Judge	129	99	30	Around 23.26% participation of women
<b>Council of Court Chairmen</b>	Court Chairman	16	16	0	
<b>The Judicial Council</b>	Chairman of the Council of Administration of Justice	1	0	1	100% participation of women
	Council members(judges)	11	9	2	Around 18.18% participation of women
<b>Judicial Department</b>	The chairman of the judicial Department	1	1	0	
	The first deputy of the chairman of the judicial Department	1	1	0	
	The deputy of the chairman of the judicial Department, The chief finansist	1	1	0	
	The deputy of the chairman of the judicial Department, Head of	1	1	0	

	Service of Judicial Bailiffs				
	Head of the department	10	7	3	30% participation of women

### Board of the Prosecutor's Office

According to the article 22 of the Law of RA “On Prosecutor's Office”, under the chairmanship of the Prosecutor General, in the prosecutor's office functions a Board for the discussion of fundamental issues related to the arrangement of activities of the prosecutor's office<sup>43</sup>. The Board consists of the Prosecutor General and 12 members. The members of the Board are the deputies of the Prosecutor General, the Heads of the General Prosecutor's Office Departments and other Prosecutors appointed according to the order of the Prosecutor General<sup>44</sup>.

Table 7: Board of the Prosecutor's Office<sup>45</sup>

Function	Male	Female
RA Prosecutor General, Chairman of the Board	1	0
Deputy Prosecutor General of RA	1	0
Deputy Prosecutor General of RA	1	0
Deputy Prosecutor General of RA	1	0
Deputy Prosecutor General of RA	1	0
Head of RA Prosecutor General Office's State Interests Protection Department	1	0
Head of the RA Prosecutor General Office's Corruption and Organized Crime Department	1	0
Head of RA Prosecutor General Office's Department for Logistical Supervision	1	0
Head of Property and Economic Crimes Department of RA Prosecutor General's Office	1	0
Head of General Crime Department of RA Prosecutor General's Office	1	0
Head of the Prosecutor General	1	0

<sup>43</sup><http://www.genproc.am/en/29/>, accessed on July 16, 2013

<sup>44</sup><http://www.genproc.am/en/29/>, accessed on July 16, 2013

<sup>45</sup><http://www.genproc.am/en/29/>, accessed on July 16, 2013

Office's Department for Investigation by National Security Agencies and on Cyber Crimes		
Yerevan City Prosecutor	1	0
The Prosecutor of Shirak region	1	0

**Table 9: The Ministry of Justice of RA**

	<i>Position</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	<i>Minister</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	
	<i>The first deputy</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	
	<i>Deputy</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	

### **The Constitutional Court of RoA**

The Constitutional Court is the highest body of the constitutional justice, which assures the priority, and the direct implementation of the Constitution in the Republic of Armenia. There is only one woman out of the 15 employees of the RA Constitutional Court. Here, also men are dominant due to their involvement level. The only woman member of the RA Constitutional Court out of the 8 is involved in relatively lower layer<sup>46</sup>.

**Table 3.9: Percentage of women in the constitutional court of RoA**

	<b>Position</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Femal e</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	<i>The chief of The Constitutional Court</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	
	<i>The Constitutional Court members</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12.5% participation of women</b>
	<i>Chief of the staff</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	
	<i>The Constitutional Court Adviser</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	

As presented above, women's participation in this sector depends on the occupied position. Women's representation has significantly increased in the lower positions during the recent years while the higher positions are mostly occupied by men. This is a result of inequality and stigma of our society where women encounter much more challenges in order to achieve higher positions.

### **Indicator 4 – Number and percentage of women participating in each type of constitutional legislative review (including security sector review)**

<sup>46</sup><http://www.concourt.am/armenian/structure/index.htm>

The researchers have sent official letters to number of institutions in order to get information on number of women participating in each type of constitutional legislative review. However, no information has been provided by the institutions stating that there is no relevant data in the database.

### **Indicator 5 – CSOs in task force/committees on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 (out of total task force members)**

There are no Task Forces on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 in Armenia at present, since there is no National action plan adopted as well.

## **B. Prevention and protection**

### **Indicator 6 – Number and percentage of SGBV cases reported, investigated, prosecuted and penalized**

SGBV is a widespread phenomenon throughout the world<sup>47</sup>. Armenia is not an exception among the other countries worldwide. Because of the cultural peculiarities this issue still remains a taboo in Armenian environment, which brings about too many obstacles and extra problems while researching on this issue. In the post-conflict period no attempt has been made to find out the relevant number of SGBV cases, which occurred during the war. Due to the very conservative society, this was a taboo issue and women were not encouraged to talk about these issues openly. Until now there is no proper research to understand the scope of the sexual violence during and after the conflict due to the local mentality and lack of professionals in the field. There are no official statistics concerning the timely situation in Armenia as well. Hence, the lack of data quite often creates an illusion as if there is no SGBV.

The level of awareness about SGBV is very low; moreover, people prefer to reject the existence of this issue. There are certain myths about the abuser and the victim, which are deeply rooted in the society. At the same time, those myths mislead the society and justify the abuser. Combatants are considered the most vulnerable during and after the war. Thus there were no initiative to address the protection of women's rights during armed conflicts on the state level.

In spite of the critical situation, which still exists in Armenia, up until 2008 there was no specific organization that dealt with sexual violence. Today, there is only one Sexual Crisis Center, which was founded in October of 2008 by Women's Resource Center. However there are many other organizations, which work with the victims of Domestic Violence (DV) and in the field of women's rights protection. About 60 women's NGOs are

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<sup>47</sup> [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/WW2010%20Report\\_by%20chapter\(pdf\)/violence%20against%20women.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/WW2010%20Report_by%20chapter(pdf)/violence%20against%20women.pdf)

presently registered at the RA Ministry of Justice. Chart 1<sup>48</sup> illustrates the number of SGBV cases, with which many organizations have dealt with in 2012<sup>49</sup>.

Table 6.1: number of SGBV cases reported to NGOs

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Ajakits</b>	<b>Gyumri</b>	60
<b>Bridge of hope</b>	<b>Yerevan</b>	8
<b>Family &amp; community</b>	<b>Medzamor</b>	72
<b>Helsinki Ass.</b>	<b>Spitak</b>	4
<b>Helsinki Ass.</b>	<b>Vanadzor</b>	5
<b>Martuni Women Assembly</b>	<b>Martuni</b>	15
<b>Paros light house</b>	<b>Yerevan</b>	25
<b>Sexual Assault Crisis Center</b>	<b>Yerevan</b>	95
<b>Society without violence</b>	<b>Yerevan</b>	12
<b>Women's resource center</b>	<b>Berd</b>	10
<b>Women's resource center</b>	<b>Goris</b>	3
<b>Women's rights center</b>	<b>Yerevan</b>	2832
<b>Women's Support center</b>	<b>Yerevan</b>	154

The fear of being stigmatized, ignored and neglected by their relatives and neighbours, losing families, especially children, being blamed for their situation, persecuted by the abuser, and the lack of resources pressure women to not talk of the issue publicly.

With the help of the Helsinki Association (Vanadzor) we were able to receive official data of SGBV cases against women, which occurred in Vanadzor in post conflict period from 2009 to 2012 (see Chart 3)<sup>50</sup>.

Table 6.2: Number of SGBV cases reported in Vanadzor from 2009 to 2012.

<sup>48</sup> Note that provided numbers include both calls and individual meetings. The types of the cases are not available.

<sup>49</sup> All the figures presented in Chart 1 refer to the cases of violence against women. But the biggest part of the organizations exists more than one year.

<sup>50</sup> Note that in its official letter Police did not classify DV cases and other types of violence in terms of assassination

<b>Name and Number of the Article<sup>51</sup></b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Assassination (art. 104)</b>	7	9	5	4
<b>Intentional damage (art. 112)</b>	17	13	11	13
<b>Rape (art. 138)</b>	3	0	2	1
<b>Violent sexual acts/sexual abuse (art. 139)</b>	0	0	1	0
<b>Sexual acts with a person under 16 years (art. 141)</b>	3	1	2	0
<b>Immoral actions (art. 142)</b>	1	0	1	0

Even though no research was conducted to find out whether the conflict influenced the growth of DV cases, our practical experience has already proven that the war had negative impact on this issue. After the war combatants left the war in a state of serious physical and psychological problems. Because of the lack of special measures only women had to deal with all these problems. Moreover, in the post conflict period Armenia fell in a harsh socioeconomic situation. In such circumstances women and

their problems were of secondary importance for the government. That is why no official research was conducted to investigate the existing situation. Although, women coming to the Women's Resource Center and participating in its regular discussions often mentioned that there were cases of sexual violence and rape during the war, no serious research was conducted due to the lack of resources and capacities for women's rights defenders to initiate that. Domestic violence is an important issue, specifically in the conflict area where combatant men returned and reintegrated their families without proper rehabilitation process, which made the families and specifically women deal with the psychological consequences of the war on their spouses often involving aggression and violence towards the other members of the family.<sup>52</sup> Till now DV is one of the most urgent issues in Armenia. According to the statistics provided by the Criminal Investigation Department of the Police in 2012 within 6 months 352 cases occurred. In 2013 the number of DV cases within the same period is 339. In 2012 alone, 5 women were killed because of DV, leaving behind 12 children. What is important to mention, there is no specific data for the past years on this issue. On the legal side of the problem, Armenia still does not have a law on DV. The government recently has rejected the draft of the law that organizations were lobbying for it for the past 7 years. During the interview for the website "Human Rights in Armenia", Deputy Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs mentioned that the Government had not rejected the draft law; merely the country was not ready to adopt such a law with the formulation, which it had at the time<sup>53</sup>. While designing a National Action Plan for implementing the terms of the Resolution 1325, this issue should be seriously taken into consideration by the government of RA.

<sup>51</sup>Criminal Code of RA, <http://www.arlis.am/>

<sup>52</sup> Discussions on effect of war with women living in conflict area of NK, WRCA, 2010

<sup>53</sup><http://www.hra.am/hy/interview/2013/04/05/domestic>

In order to illustrate women's low status in the country, the increasing numbers of sex-biased selective abortions can be highlighted. This problem was greatly resulted by the war. People prefer to have male children to have soldiers for the country, on the other hand because of the loss of human resources due to the armed conflict male preference is seen as a normal phenomenon since following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the conflict all social infrastructures crumbled leaving the family and children (male) the only security for the growing parents. In the post-war period the situation was even worse. For a long period of time this issue did not receive proper attention by many stakeholders and the government. In 2012 (from June, 2013) in the frames of the UNFPA, a study was conducted by one of the world's leading experts in this sphere, Mr. Christophe Z. Guilmoto, who does not only illustrate the current situation, but also makes predictions for the future<sup>54</sup> impact of the problem. This study shows that many Armenian families do not let female children be born; instead, they prefer to have male children. As a result, since 1990s the sex-at-birth ratio has deviated and comprised 114 boys to 100 girls in 2012, whereas the biologically accepted normal ratio is 102-106 boys to 100 girls.

The situation in Armenia is quite alarming in terms of LGBT rights. The LGBT people are faced with discriminative attitude in any sphere of their life. Nvard Margaryan, who works at "Public information and Need for Knowledge" NGO (this NGO deals with LGBT rights) as a Project Coordinator, during an interview mentioned that the post conflict situation has a direct influence on LGBT people as well. She said that in Armenia LGBT people are not supposed to serve in the army; hence during the armed conflict they will be 'unusable'. She also emphasized another problem; there is a stereotype that LGBT people do not have children and will never have an 'imput' in armed forces. At the end of the interview N. Margaryan added that no research has been conducted on this issue and all the observations are considered to be the result of her personal experience. It is worth to mention that on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, 2012, DIY pub was exploded by a group of nationalistic youth, since the pub was attended by LGBT people as well.

The Office of Ombudsman has promoted the development of anti-discriminatory legislation. In the preliminary version of the draft law, the discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender was prohibited; however, afterwards this point was brought out of the definition of discrimination. The Office of the Ombudsman refuses to provide any explanation on this issue<sup>55</sup>.

The issues of sexual abuse and sexual assault are introduced in the 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter in the Criminal Code of RA. The terminology used in this chapter has an offensive character in terms of LGBT rights; homosexuality is described as a type of mental illness. Besides, the existing legislation has a very mild system of sanctions and does not have aggravating circumstances. In 2011 Women's Resource Center proposed amendments to the Criminal Code of RA. The reasons for the changes are the following;

1. Protection of child rights
2. Making the punishment realistic and severe

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<sup>54</sup> United Nations Population Fund, Sex imbalances at Birth in Armenia: Demographic Evidence and Analysis, Christophe Z. Guilmoto, Yerevan 2013

<sup>55</sup>PINK Armenia, LGBT Rights in Armenia, Monitoring, 2012.

3. Extending the aggravating circumstances
4. Defining sex with children less than 12 years as a rape.

The predictions about the draft law are positive, since the majority of the National Assembly realizes the necessity of the proposed changes and amendments.

As it was already mentioned there is no research done on SGBV in conflict times, but women often speak up during closed meetings at the women’s center of cases that occurred and women who committed suicide after being raped during the massacres. But all this is not documented because of the local mentality and lack of expert, as well as pressure from the community to silence women in order to preserve the dignity of the families and the nation.

Since the media along with the NGOs started to raise the issue of SGBV along with DV quite often, there is a tendency to consider that the numbers of SGBV and DV cases have increased in Armenia. But in reality people have just started to speak about it. Moreover, the changes, which have occurred during recent years, have positive characteristics. The emergence and further activity of many NGOs, which deal with women’s rights, have had an indispensable role in this respect. Thus, there is a slight progress in terms of SGBV. But the dynamics of the changes are slow. Some accelerating methods should be applied; otherwise there is a risk of loss of new lives.

### Indicator 7 – Number and quality of gender-responsive laws and policies

#### 1. UN Conventions, ratified by Armenian National Assembly

Number and quality of gender-responsive laws and policies			
Law name & year	Purpose	Result of the law	Outcome
UN Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, adopted by the GA of the United Nations on 29 January, 1957, Ratified by the National Assembly of RA on 16 August, 1994	The Convention is to recognize that conflict in law and practice with reference to nationality arises as a result of provisions concerning the loss and acquisition of nationality by women as a result of marriage, of its dissolution, or of the change of nationality of the husband during marriage, and to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to sex.	Each Contracting State agrees that neither the celebration nor the dissolution of a marriage between one of its nationals and an alien, not the change of nationality by the husband during marriage, shall automatically affect the nationality of the wife.	

<p>UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the GA of the United Nations in 1979, Ratified by the National Assembly of RA on 9 June, 1993</p>	<p>The Convention defines discrimination against women as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."</p>	<p>The Convention provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life -- including the right to vote and to stand for election -- as well as education, health and employment. States parties agree to take all appropriate measures, including legislation and temporary special measures, so that women can enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms.</p>	<p>The Convention is the only human rights treaty which affirms the reproductive rights of women and targets culture and tradition as influential forces shaping gender roles and family relations. It affirms women's rights to acquire, change or retain their nationality and the nationality of their children. States parties also agree to take appropriate measures against all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of women.</p>
<p>UN Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the GA of the United Nations</p>	<p>Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is to fulfill an undertaking</p>	<p>The Government implements all the necessary steps to guarantee that no person under his authority is subject to bad treatment or</p>	<p>-</p>

<p>on 6 October, 1999, Ratified by the National Assembly of RA on 14 September, 2006.</p>	<p>given by the Government in 2004 at the conclusion of its Interdepartmental Review of International Human Rights Instruments.</p>	<p>intimidation based on the principles of the current protocol.</p>	
<p>Convention of Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers Pay for work of equal value, adopted on 29 June, 1951 by the General Conference of the International Labor Organization at its thirty- fourth session. Ratified by the National Assembly of RA on 29 July, 1995.</p>	<p>(a)The term "remuneration" includes the ordinary, basic or minimum wage or salary and any additional emoluments whatsoever payable directly or indirectly, whether in cash or in kind, by the employer to the worker and arising out of the worker's employment;</p> <p>(b) The term "equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value" refers to rates of remuneration established without discrimination based on sex.</p>	<p>Equal remuneration for men and women workers refers to pay rates which are defined without discrimination on the basis of sex.</p>	
<p>Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995  Came into force in Armenia in 1995</p>	<p>The equal rights and inherent human dignity of women and men and other purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence</p>	<p>Ensure the full implementation of the human rights of women and of the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Disparities between men and women in all the levels of distribution of power and decision</li> <li>• Inadequacy of mechanisms for the advancement of women</li> </ul>

	against Women and the Declaration on the Right to Development;		
UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, adopted by the GA resolution 55/25 on 15 November, 2000, Ratified by the National Assembly of RA in 2003	<p>The Convention represents a major step forward in the fight against transnational organized crime and signifies the recognition by Member States of the seriousness of the problems posed by it, as well as the need to foster and enhance close international cooperation in order to tackle those problems.</p> <p>The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children is the first global legally binding instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons</p>	<p>The Convention provides for greater law enforcement cooperation and mutual legal assistance across nations where there were no previous agreements for such assistance. With the evolving transnational nature of organized crime, this coordination with international organizations is essential.</p> <p>Although the Convention does not provide a single, agreed definition of organized crime, its provisions do provide elements of a concept of organized crime.</p>	
Convention on Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, Adopted on 4 June, 1958 by the General Conference of the International Labor Organization, Ratified by the National Assembly of RA in 1993	<p>For the purpose of this Convention the term discrimination includes--</p> <p>(a) any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation;</p> <p>(b) such other distinction, exclusion or preference which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or</p>	<p>Each Member for which this Convention is in force undertakes to declare and pursue a national policy designed to promote, by methods appropriate to national conditions and practice, equality of opportunity and treatment in respect of employment and occupation, with a view to eliminating any discrimination in respect thereof.</p>	

	<p>occupation as may be determined by the Member concerned after consultation with representative employers' and workers' organizations, where such exist, and with other appropriate bodies.</p>		
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## 2. Local gender-responsive laws and policies

- RA Constitution, Article 14.1  
Everyone shall be equal before the law.

Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or other personal or social circumstances shall be prohibited<sup>56</sup>.

- RA Government approved the Gender Policy Concept Paper in 2010 and obliged the concerned Ministries to submit Action Plan on Gender Policy for 2010-2015 years to be implemented in appropriate spheres to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. The Gender Policy Concept Paper defines the state policy priority areas and general strategy for men and women with respect to provision the equal rights and equal opportunities for all citizens in all areas of public life regardless of gender. The Concept is based on RA Constitution and legal acts, international conventions ratified by RA, as well as other international legal documents.

- The Draft of the Law "Ensuring equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men" was adopted by the RA National Assembly on May 20, 2013. The Law was signed by the President of RA on 11 June, 2013.

The Law "Ensuring equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men" aims to ensure gender equality in all spheres of public life, legal protection for women and men, gender discrimination, promotion of civil society and democratic society relations.

- According to the Decree N 213-A of RA Prime Minister on March 30, Commission on Combating Gender-based Violence" was established. The aim of the Committee is to increase the efficiency of prevention of gender-based violence, of information, collection and sharing mechanisms, as well as development of the "National Action Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence".

<sup>56</sup> The Constitution of the RA, Human and civil rights and freedoms, Part 2  
<http://parliament.am/parliament.php?id=constitution>

Women's Rights Center NGO in 2007 started to develop the Draft of RA Law on Domestic Violence. Developed Law was reviewed by a large number of international and local experts and in May of 2009 was presented to the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs for further steps. On November 28, 2012 the Law was introduced to the Prime Minister for approval. But on February 11, 2013 the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of RA received the Government conclusion on according to which the adoption of the Draft of the RA Law on Domestic Violence was not found appropriate. The Government gave recommendations to include provisions of Draft Law in other legal acts.

- According to the Action Plan on Gender Policy for 2010-2015 the Standing Commissions were established in Regional Administrations and in Yerevan Municipality in 2012. The aim of the Commissions is to support the implementation of state policy and strategic programs on Gender issues in Armenia. The Commissions are working based on their Charters. The Charters define that Standing Commission on Gender Issues is an advisory body.
- According to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs 93-A/1 instruction<sup>57</sup> the “Gender-sensitive and detached indicators” manual was published on October 19, 2012.

#### **Indicator 8 – Number and nature of provisions/recommendations in the truth and reconciliation commission (TRC) and other transitional justice reports on women’s rights**

Since Armenia does not have a peace agreement yet nor a national action plan on the implementation of the UNSCR 1325, this is still irrelevant. Although women’s groups from across borders between Azerbaijan and Armenia are creating spaces for dialogue and developing a peace process, they are still not recognized and included in the official peace processes and conflict resolutions platforms.

#### **Indicator 9 – Percentage of women (versus men) who receive economic packages in conflict resolution and reconstruction processes**

The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan is still unresolved. There is no conflict resolution or reconstructive process yet.

### **C. Promotion of a gender perspective**

#### **Indicator 10 – Number and percentage of pre-deployment training and post-deployment programs for military and police incorporating UNSCR 1325, UNSCR 1820, international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law**

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<sup>57</sup> October 19, 2012, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs 93-A / 1 command  
<http://www.mss.am/up/93A.pdf>

The education program for the RoA Armed Forces peacekeeping brigade includes a course on international humanitarian law. During this course, the soldiers study the general norms and principles of international law and all the legal documents—including the peculiarities concerning the rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls—necessary for carrying out peacekeeping missions. Besides that, before going on a peacekeeping trip, the command of the RA Armed Forces peacekeeping brigade carries out proper trainings, which again raise the aforementioned topics.

According to the international agreement regulations, before going on a peacekeeping mission the soldiers serving in the peacekeeping brigade go through proper trainings in the Federal Republic of Germany. During the trainings, the soldiers' knowledge is put into practice through so-called “simulated scenarios.” Also, the soldiers share experience with foreign soldiers who also carry out peacekeeping missions.

The Ministry of Defense draws attention to the fact that, through the whole history of the RoA Armed Forces peacekeeping mission, there has never been any violation of the norms of international humanitarian law by any soldier of the RA Armed Forces.

They also mention that in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 there are also women serving in the peacekeeping brigade of the RA Armed Forces.

However, it is still not clear from their response what specific role UN Resolution 1325 has in the activities mentioned by the Ministry of Defense. There is no answer concerning the question whether any activities are being carried out related to the same topic after the soldiers return from a peacekeeping mission trip. We consider it is essential to carry out further actions to receive answers to the questions mentioned above.

### **Indicator 11 – Allocated and disbursed funding marked for women, peace and security (WPS) programs to CSOs and government**

Armenia does not have a peace agreement yet, and the absence of an action plan on UNSCR 1325 makes it difficult to lobby for any kind of funding and resources for women, peace and security programs.

### **Conclusion**

Armenia is presently in a frozen conflict with Azerbaijan, and the no-war no-peace situation has been present for more than 20 years is particularly affecting the situation of women living both in the conflict area of NK, as well as the bordering regions. Extreme nationalism is on the rise because of the conflict situation and women's rights are directly affected by it; women's roles are restricted specifically in the public sector, they are expected to bring up children, specially sons to become future soldiers and defend the country. Everything related to gender equality, women's increased presence in politics and their discrimination in other fields is classified as a non-urgent matter, since the leaders of the country, mainly

men are concerned first of the territorial gain that they can secure for their side rather than the well-being of its habitants mainly women and children. Armenia has open borders with only two bordering countries, which are Georgia and Islamic Republic of Iran. Closed borders with Turkey and Azerbaijan and ongoing conflict with the latter come out as strong obstacles for Armenia for further economic development and forced the country into poverty. Women were the main affected by the situation. The high level of migration which followed, lack of job-opportunities and the atmosphere of distrust, which exists in the country toward the leading Republican Party and the Government, destabilized the country internally. The negative atmosphere at the elections, lack of the enforcement of the law and the positive tools to empower women during campaigns are the main reasons for the low political participation of women. Such kind of internal and external political situation makes women much more vulnerable and completely excluded.

Low political participation of women has direct influence on their involvement in peace negotiation initiatives. In various negotiation teams women are mostly represented solely as technical experts and observers with no real power to influence the process. Women are underrepresented in negotiation processes and their voices are not heard properly at the international level as well. The best example of aforementioned is the gender distribution within the OSCE Minsk Group. This Group is one of the most important actors in conflict reconciliation processes, but, nevertheless, there is no female. Taking into account the fact that the conflict has not yet reached to its end and continues to have a negative impact on women this report notes that the Government of RA should take positive steps to increase women's involvement in decision-making and peace negotiation initiatives and respect the responsibilities imposed by the UNSCR 1325.

Women's participation within the Justice and Security sectors continues to be at the lowest level. The lack of available information disables us to show gender distribution at the various levels of Security Sector and armed forces, however, it is more than obvious that these two sectors are "male dominated". The recent changes of Armenia's Defense Ministry give women an opportunity of admission in military educational establishments. Still, it is noteworthy that this amendment is essential, but not satisfactory. In the sector of Justice, women are mostly represented as judges and represent lower layers of the sector. This report concludes that in order to promote women's representation and participation in Security and Justice Sectors, there is an urgent need of restructuring the staff in these two sectors.

The relevant policies, which were implemented by the Government and CSOs to reduce SGBV cases, have had a positive impact on the overall situation. A clear proof of it is the increased number of reported SGBV cases. But the lack of resources for further assistance deprives many SGBV survivors from reporting the cases of violent acts. Another negative factor is the large number of males at the personnel of police and health sectors. The stereotypical attitude of the public toward SGBV survivors has an aggravating character on their situation. The lack of data on sexual violence in conflict is very obvious and is an important area to work with both on a national level as well as among civil society and

women's group working with refugees and idps. The monitoring report notes that there is a need of raising gender sensitiveness and increasing the number of female staff members in all institutions, which deal with SGBV survivors. A number of measures should be implemented by the Police and Government to amend the processes of reporting, investigation and prosecution of SGBV cases.

The issues of sexual abuse and sexual assault are introduced in the 18th Chapter of the Criminal Code of RA. Because of the offensive character of the terminology and the lack of aggravating circumstances it should be noted that proposed amendments introduced in the 6th indicator must be applied in order to have much efficient prosecuting system.

The legal mechanisms of RA are in a sufficient condition. But the lack of implementation and enforcement of the laws undermine the significance of the law. Armenia does not have a law on Domestic Violence as well, which deprives from addressing this issue more specifically. The Government of RA should take all necessary steps to promote the acceptance of the law on DV.

After all, the monitoring report concludes that the creation of the National Action Plan to implement the provisions of the UN Resolution 1325 is more than required and essential to start a genuine peace process in the region. All the problems highlighted in the report along with their solutions must be properly presented in the NAP. The Government of RA, CSOs and international organizations should take all necessary steps to increase gender sensitiveness at the legal and social levels to ensure the protection of women and enhance their security in the region.

## **Recommendations**

### **To the Government of the Republic of Armenia:**

- Create a taskforce composed of the representatives from the Government, Civil Society Organizations and International Organizations to implement the resolution UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and draft a NAP for the country
- Create opportunities to increase women's representation in public office, governance and official negotiation teams. Develop strategies to promote and foster women's participation in all aspects of governance – executive, judiciary and legislative bodies.
- Allocate funding for WPS and resources for women directly affected by the conflict
- Make appropriate amendments to the 18th Chapter of the Criminal Code of RA.
- Raise awareness about SGBV together in partnership with civil society representatives and conduct surveys to have official statistics regarding this issue
- Provide women's representation in official negotiation processes.
- Provide an on-going gender-sensitive training on all level of governance and governmental bodies, including the army and police
- Adopt the comprehensive law on domestic violence to ensure the efficient protection of women and prevention of the issue in society

### **To International Organizations:**

- Hold RoA accountable for its responsibilities towards the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and support the taskforce to develop a NAP
- Cooperate and support in the creation of the taskforce to draft a NAP on UNSCR 1325
- Urge official negotiations groups and most specifically the Mink group to respect a gender balance and approach in its own representation
- Create an official platform for women peace builders from the region to provide consultations to official negotiators and mediators in the region.
- Support civil society and women's groups directly in the conflict region of Nagorno-Karabakh and bordering villages to empower women directly affected by the conflict and include them in the peace processes.
- Support women's groups and CSOs monitoring the government on the implementation of UNSCR 1325
- Support Government and CSOs in developing official data on sexual violence during and after conflict as well as results related to the implementation of UNSCR 1325
- Provide capacity building for women's groups to monitor UNSCR 1325 and its components
- Provide capacity building for women's groups to collect data and research on the effects of war on women and the situation of gender-based violence and sexual violence related to the conflict situation.

### **To Civil Society and NGOs:**

- Advocate for creating Task Forces on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 in Armenia consisting of both members from governance and civil society organizations in order to develop the national action plan.
- Develop capacities for women to take on decision-making roles or positions of governance.
- Research among the IDP and refugee population the state of SGBV related to conflict by Women's NGOs
- Focus on qualitative rather than quantitative both male and female politician's involvement in governance.
- Develop coalition among women's groups and other human rights groups to monitor and advocate for the implementation of UNSCR 1325

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