

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ARMENIA**

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## **Abstract**

Domestic violence against women is a serious issue, as it violates the fundamental human rights of women. Scientific investigation of this problem is a recent endeavor and it is only within the last few decades that domestic violence against women has been acknowledged internationally as a threat to the health and rights of women. The most common form of violence experienced by women is inflicted by their intimate partners.

The purpose of this study is to observe the situation related to domestic violence against women in Armenia, identify the major forms, causes and consequences of violence. Also, the paper will try to find out what actions women take as they are exposed to violence and what is the response of the police to the reported cases of domestic violence against women. This study will also try to find whether the British Embassy in Yerevan is aiming to have an impact on the reduction of cases of domestic violence by supporting respective projects. Finally, the paper will analyze the major findings and at the end give recommendations.

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

CEDAW- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

IWRAW- International Women's Rights Action Watch

NCADV- National Coalition against Domestic Violence

NGO- Non-Governmental Organization

NSS- National Statistical Service

OHCHR- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

OSCE- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

RA- Republic of Armenia

UN- United Nations

UNFPA- United Nations Population Fund

UNHCHR- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

UNICEF- United Nations Children's Fund

WHO- World Health Organization

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## **Introduction**

*Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him.*

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Domestic violence against women is a serious problem around the world. It is a challenging issue as it violates the fundamental human rights of women. The most common form of violence experienced by women is inflicted by an intimate partner, with women beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused. Throughout this paper violence will be used in the context of the willful intimidation, physical assault and other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another, which results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death.

Violence against women is widely spread in the Armenian society and the studies show that violent acts against women by their partners are committed on a regular basis. The purpose of this study is to observe the situation related to domestic violence against women in Armenia, identify the major forms, causes and consequences of violence as well as to find out what actions women take as they are exposed to violence. To give a more detailed picture of the issue the case of Armavir project implemented by the support of the British Embassy in Yerevan will be discussed in the last chapter of this paper.

The paper will answer the following research questions.

1. RQ1: Does violence against women exist in Armenia?
2. RQ2: What type of violence is prevailing in Armenia?
3. RQ3: Do women that suffer from violence report to the police?
4. RQ4: Do the police react to the reports?
5. RQ5: How does the place of residence affect the family life of women?

The hypotheses developed in this study are three. It will be stated in the conclusion whether the hypotheses have been accepted, rejected or partially accepted. So the hypotheses are as follows:

1. H<sub>1</sub>: Violent acts against women are committed in Armenia.
2. H<sub>2</sub>: Violent acts against women are more frequent in the districts than in Yerevan.
3. H<sub>3</sub>: The project implemented in Armavir contributes to the reduction of cases of violence against women.



## **Literature Review**

*“Violence against women and girls continues unabated in every continent, country and culture. It takes a devastating toll on women’s lives, on their families, and on society as a whole. Most societies prohibit such violence — yet the reality is that too often, it is covered up or tacitly condoned.”*

*Ban Ki-moon*

### **General overview: Problem statement, key concepts and definitions**

The place where every woman should feel herself the safest is very often the most dangerous one. It is a place where she faces a regime of terror and her human rights are denied. And this place is within her family. Domestic violence refers to violence by an intimate partner and by other family members, wherever this violence takes place and in whatever form (UNICEF, 2000). It must be stated that there exists no one single definition to the phenomenon of domestic violence and scholars are persistently in struggle with its definitional issues. In this regard two divergent schools of thought have been generated. One school of thought advocates that a clear definition of violence can advance the assessment of the prevalence of violence, measurement of its impact, evaluation of the effectiveness of policies and its negative consequences across settings and population. Another school of thought posits that such a broad and universal definition is not possible and useful and that no single factor can adequately define violence since it is a multidimensional and global reality (Herrenkohl et. al, 2011). However in this paper violence will be used in the context of the willful intimidation, physical assault and other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another, which results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death (NCADV, 2007).

Nowadays domestic violence against women is a crucial issue that is common worldwide. Scientific investigation of this problem is a recent endeavor. It is only within the

last 30 years that domestic violence against women has been acknowledged internationally as a threat to the health and rights of women (Kishor and Johnson, 2004). One of every four women experience domestic violence and most of the cases are never reported to the police (NCADV, 2007). As Amnesty International states there are various factors which prevent women from reporting incidents of violence, such as fear of retribution, lack of economic means, emotional dependence, concern for children and no access to redress (Amnesty International, 2004). But still it has been estimated that up to 70 percent of women experience violence in their lifetime and that those aged 15-44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, car accidents, war and malaria (UNiTE, 2009). In 1999 United Nations General Assembly designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. In order to raise public awareness on the problem governments, international organizations and NGOs organize activities on that day (UN, 2013).

According to United Nations Secretary-General's Campaign report (2009) domestic violence is not confined to a specific culture, region, country or particular groups of women within a society, but the root of violence lies in persistent discrimination against women. The same argument is claimed by Rajani et.al (2011), who believe that several complex and interconnected institutionalized social and cultural factors specifically have kept women vulnerable to violence. All those factors are manifestations of historically unequal power relations between men and women, for example, belief in the inherent superiority of males and legislation and cultural sanctions that have traditionally denied women and children an independent and legal status. Cultural definitions of appropriate sex roles, expectations of roles within relationships, limited organization of women as a political force, limited participation of women in political system, limited access to employment and many other such factors are all rooted in the continuous discrimination against women.

For further examination of the risk factors of experiencing spousal violence, it is worth considering the study conducted by Kishor and Johnson (2004). They have analyzed nationally representative data from 9 countries (Cambodia, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Haiti, India, Nicaragua, Peru and Zambia) within a comparative framework to provide a multifaceted analysis of the phenomenon of domestic violence. In their study they have used household data to examine the prevalence and correlates of domestic violence and its health consequences for women. As a result of the study the authors have identified the risk factors for experiencing spousal violence. Thus it is the youngest women who are more at risk than the older women, risk of violence declines with increased age at marriage, risk of violence is higher for women in a marriage of second or higher order than for women in their first marriage, women whose husbands come home drunk have much higher odds of experiencing violence than women whose husbands do not drink or come home drunk. The authors also emphasize the linkages between the experience of domestic violence and both fatal and nonfatal outcomes for women. The fatal outcomes relate to homicide, suicide and AIDS-related mortality. The nonfatal outcomes include manifestations of adverse mental, physical, and reproductive health outcomes and negative health behaviors.

### **International response to the problem**

In order to combat domestic violence against women the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979, which entered into force as an international treaty in 1981. The core of the treaty is to bring the female half of the humanity into the focus of human rights concerns, since it distinctly acknowledges that extensive discrimination against women continues to exist which violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity. To be more specific the third thrust of the Convention gives formal recognition to the influence of culture and tradition on restricting women's enjoyment of their

fundamental rights. Traditionally shaped stereotypes, customs and norms give rise to the multitude of legal, political, social and economic constraints on the advancement of women. In this regard, the Convention stresses “that the change in the traditional role of men as well as the role of women in society and in the family is needed to achieve full equality of men and women.” (OHCHR, 2007) The realization of the Convention is monitored by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The latter is composed of 23 experts nominated by their Governments and elected by the States parties. Every four years the States parties are to submit a national report to the Committee, indicating all the measures that they adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention (OHCHR, 2007). Affiliated with the University’s Human Rights Center, the International Women’s Rights Action Watch (IWRAW) was organized in 1985 to promote recognition of women’s human rights under the CEDAW by publicizing and monitoring the implementation of the CEDAW Convention (IWRAW, 2013).

Several other international treaties have also defined violence against women as a human rights violation. The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action aimed at accelerating women’s empowerment. It urged the governments to take action to investigate and punish those who perpetrate acts of violence against women and to allocate appropriate funds for social and economic development, in particular for the advancement of women (Human Rights Library, 1995). The 1993 Vienna Declaration and Program of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed the commitment of all States to fulfill their obligations to promote universal respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments pertaining to human rights, and international law (UNHCHR, 2000). The 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women stresses that states have obligation to “exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence

against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State or by private persons.”  
(Human Rights Library, 1993, Article 4-c)

Another leading global grant-making mechanism for addressing violence against women is the UN Trust Fund. To date the Fund has allocated USD 86 million to 351 initiatives in 128 countries which demonstrate that violence against women can be systematically confronted by working with NGOs, governments and UN country teams to prevent violence against women, expand the access of women survivors of violence to services and to strengthen the implementation of laws, policies, action plans on violence against women (UNWomen, 2011).

In collaboration with a number of partners, World Health Organization also takes actions to end domestic violence against women. Specifically it builds the evidence base on the scope and types of intimate partner and violence in different settings, supports other countries to document and measure violence and its consequences, strengthens research capacity to assess interventions and develops technical guidance for evidence-based intimate partner and violence prevention (WHO, 2012).

Amnesty International is another international institution that combats violence against women. According to Amnesty International all governments have the responsibility to:

- Take all the necessary measures for empowering women, including educational, social, legislative and other measures.
- ‘Prevent, investigate and punish acts of all forms of violence against women whether in the home, workplace, the community or society, in custody or in situations of armed conflict.’ (Amnesty International, 2013)

Despite of all the efforts of the above mentioned international organizations to address violence against women, the latter still remains a critical issue worldwide. Most of the cases

of violence against women still remain under reported. And in case they are reported, the police remain impartial. This is a problem that the Republic of Armenia does faces as a phenomenon. Violence against women is widely spread in the Armenian society and violent acts are committed on a regular basis (Adibekyan and Davtyan, 2001). Next chapter will discuss domestic violence in Armenia more in detail by exploring the situation in the last decade and identifying the actions taken to combat ill-treatment against women.

## **Methodology**

The methodology of the study has been chosen in a way to ensure reliability of data and plurality of opinions. The current study employed qualitative research approach and the data were collected in two ways.

First method is through secondary data analysis, specifically meta-analysis and document analysis, has been conducted. For this purpose books, reports, journals and various studies have been reviewed in order to provide general understanding of domestic violence, its forms, consequences, causes and risks of experiencing spousal violence. Also declarations, conventions, RA Constitution and Family Code have been reviewed to find out the measures taken to combat domestic violence against women.

Second method is through conducting in-depth interviews in order to have a clear picture about the project pertaining to domestic violence in Armavir, which was implemented by “Sustain Development Initiative” NGO and supported by the British Embassy in Yerevan. In order to get a better understanding of the activities of the project interviews have been conducted with the heads of the NGO. For assessing the impact of the project interviews with victim women have also been considered. Finally the Projects Officer of the British Embassy and the Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Armenia kindly agreed to give interviews, which was helpful for knowing their opinions as well as future plans regarding the project.

Each interview lasted from 15 to 30 minutes. The interviews were recorded in order not to omit any comment or opinion. The instrument of the interviews was semi-structured, i.e. during the interview some of the questions were pre-planned, open-ended questions. However additional questions were also asked to probe the necessary information and to direct the conversation in the right way. The interviews were conducted either in English or Armenian, depending on the preference of the interviewee. Later the responses were transcribed and analyzed.

## **Chapter 1: Evidence of domestic violence in Armenia**

*"If the numbers we see in domestic violence were applied to terrorism or gang violence, the entire country would be up in arms, and it would be the lead story on the news every night."*

*-- Mark Green*

Domestic violence is one of the challenging problems throughout the world and Armenia is not an exception, where domestic violence exists in all its types. Undoubtedly the issue has always existed in the society but during the Soviet Union times there were effective leverages that deterred the majority of the society from committing violent acts (OSCE, 2011). Besides the Soviet regime sought to replace traditional family ties with individual loyalty to the state through programs designed to emancipate Armenian women, such as education, work outside the home and increased participation in public life. The Soviet approach to equality involved a shift of functions from the private domain to the public rather than a redefinition of male and female roles (Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 2000). Thus collapse of the system brought about sharp increase in the dynamics of violent crimes (OSCE, 2011) and many of the political, economic and social advances women made were lost (Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 2000).

Unfortunately no consolidated statistics on domestic violence is held in Armenia to enable an analysis of the situation with domestic violence across decades, its tendencies, causes, etc. Therefore for the present analysis, surveys held among women, data supplied by NGOs will be used as a source of information for reviewing the situation of domestic violence in Armenia starting from 2000.

In recent years many women's NGOs have emerged that started to document systematically the problem of domestic violence. In 1998, the Women's Rights Center in Yerevan surveyed 100 women and found that 46 women had experienced spousal violence but only 6 had complained to legal authorities. In Gyumri, Armenia's second largest city,



another NGO also surveyed 100 married women, 80 of which admitted that they had experienced violence in their families. However, not only NGOs but also Armenian scholars, especially sociologists, have begun to research domestic violence issues. For instance, a sociologist who interviewed 400 women for a survey found that 63% was in violent relationships (Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 2000).

In 2001 a sociological survey on domestic violence against women in Armenia was carried out by A. Adibekyan, a candidate of philosophical science, and A. Davtyan. The survey was conducted both in Yerevan and 8 regions with overall 1200 women questioned. The data obtained clearly show that violence against women is widely spread in Armenia as 70 % of women admitted that they experienced violence within their families. The study found that the following types of violence against women are common in Armenia:

- Psychological abuse and treatment of women as inferior creatures;
- Employment of force as a method of proof;
- Physical assault as a method of proof and punishment, etc.

According to the study findings the most prevailing type of violence against women by the spouse is psychological abuse (45.7 %), then physical abuse (28.0 %). In the course of the survey it was also established that the environment as a factor affects the inter-family life. The residents of the capital are in the most vulnerable situation. The women who live in capital are more often subjected to swearing, blows and assault committed by their husbands. In the regions the quarrels are less severe, mostly they are verbal wrangles. In Yerevan, the women who live in private houses more frequently suffer from assault than the women who live in apartment blocks. The findings show that the women living in regions are more inclined towards committing suicide than those living in the capital, they are more prepared to file for a divorce than the women in regions who are more inclined to hush such cases up (Adibekyan and Davtyan, 2001).

Another study on domestic violence and abuse of women in Armenia was conducted by A. Dallakyan and N. Hakobyan, both research associates of Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis of the American University of Armenia, in 2007. The study includes overall 1,006 face-to-face interviews with women from Yerevan and ten marzes. The findings show that about 66 % of the women experienced psychological abuse, with 46 % experiencing it often or sometimes. 27 % of the respondents experienced moderate physical abuse, while 12 % severe physical abuse. Almost all women agreed that drug and alcohol problems are the main causes of domestic violence. Only six percent of abused women called the police because of domestic violence, others considered that the problem can be best solved as a private matter, inside the family, instead of by police, which could not do anything to help. Besides they believe that the court system does very little to protect abused women. However half of the respondents who have asked the police for help indicated that the abuser's violent or threatening behavior toward them decreased after the police were involved (Dallakyan and Hakobyan, 2007).

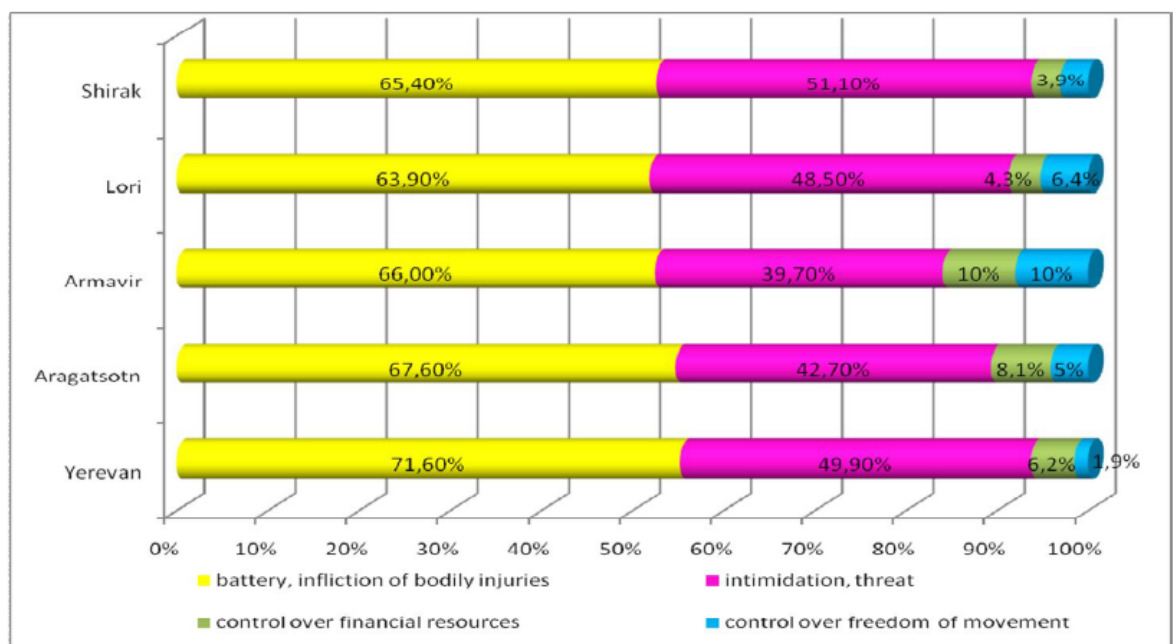
In 2008 another nationwide survey on domestic violence against women in Armenia was conducted within the frames of UNFPA "Combating Gender-Based Violence in the South Caucasus" project in cooperation with National Statistical Service (NSS). The study selected 4,720 households in Yerevan, 10 urban areas and 10 villages. As the findings show 61.0 % of women were exposed to controlling behavior, 25.0 % were subjected to psychological violence, 8.9 % to physical violence. 60.9 % of the respondents were unemployed, which can be viewed as part of the problem since it is known from numerous studies that those women victims of domestic violence who are economically dependent on their partner find it difficult to break away from the abusive relationship (UNFPA, 2010).

As far as the reasons for partner's violent behavior are concerned the study revealed that men's drinking problems stand out as the most significant cause for violent behavior. A

high percentage of the respondents also pointed out the financial problems and jealous partners as other major causes for violence. The study found that the relationship between level of educational attainment and physical violence is inverse, i.e. a higher level of education reduces the risk of intimate partner violence. Most women did not have sufficient economic resources for economic security, self-reliance and employment. Therefore their autonomy and capacity to make independent decisions are extremely limited. In other words, because the abused women are dependent on their partners for support and livelihood, they prefer to hush such cases up (UNFPA, 2010).

In 2011 a public opinion poll was conducted by the Proactive Society NGO for the OSCE office in Yerevan. 2695 residents of Armenia were involved in the opinion poll, specifically women from Yerevan and 4 provinces (Aragatsotn, Armavir, Lori, Shirak). The responses obtained proved that domestic violence against women is a widespread phenomenon in Armenia. Both in Yerevan and in 4 provinces violence has the form of physical assault (See Chart 1) (OSCE, 2011).

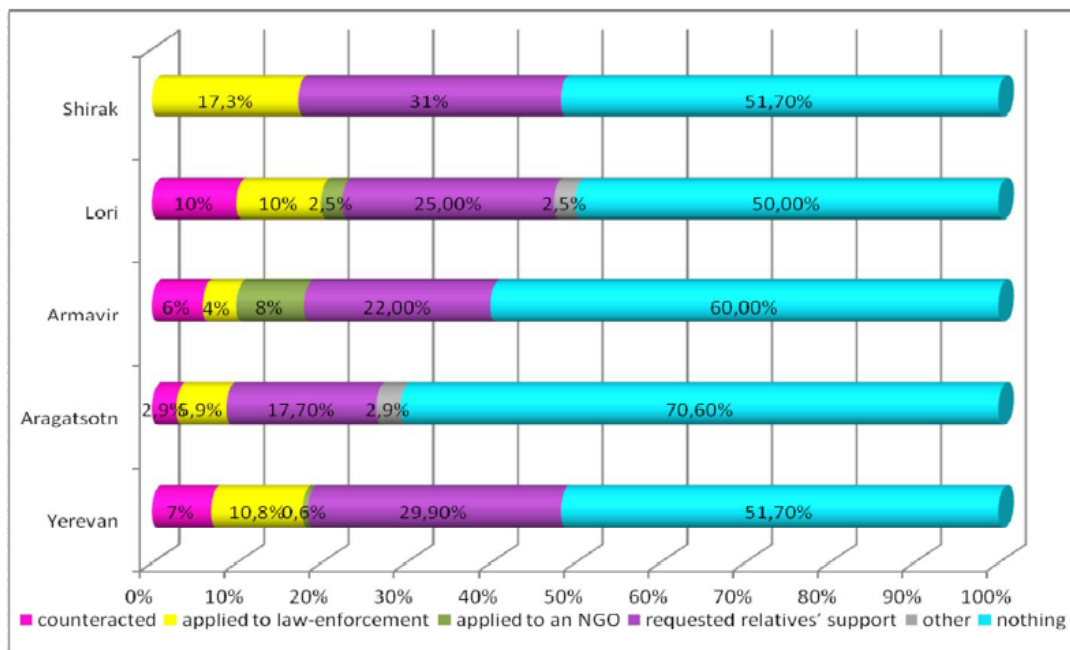
Chart 1. What form of domestic violence have you witnessed?



Source: OSCE. 2011. Domestic Violence Survey in the Republic of Armenia.

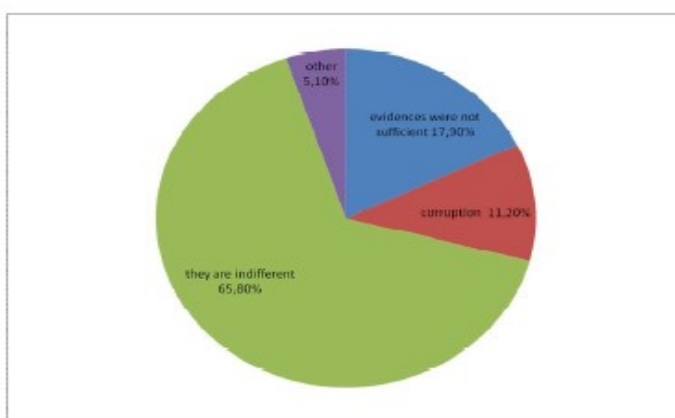
According to the study results when witnessing violence most of the victims remain inactive (See Chart 2). The major reason for not applying to law-enforcement bodies, particularly the police, is that the victim wanted to spare the violator of the risk of criminal liability. The data also show that one of the major reasons to avoid law-enforcement bodies, the police, is the officers' indifference to support the victims (See Chart 3) (OSCE, 2011).

Chart 2. What did you do during the witnessed case of violence?



Source: OSCE. 2011. Domestic Violence Survey in the Republic of Armenia.

Chart 3. Reasons for dissatisfaction of the women who applied to the police.



Source: OSCE. 2011. Domestic Violence Survey in the Republic of Armenia.

## **Legal System: Laws and Their Implementation**

Women who attempt to access the legal system in Armenia often encounter significant obstacles. In general, the legal system focuses on reconciling spouses in situations of domestic violence, rather than in penalizing the acts of the abuser. The majority of such cases are thus charged under criminal and administrative provisions that carry the lightest sentences that minimize the significance of domestic assaults (Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 2000).

### *Criminal and Administrative Law*

Armenian law contains no specific provisions on domestic violence. Most instances of domestic violence refer to the articles of the *Criminal Code* dealing with assault and criminal hooliganism. Assault laws are based on the seriousness of the injury, the level of which is established by a forensic expert. Domestic assault cases are usually charged under Article 109 (“causing intentional light injury”) and Article 110 (“deliberate striking or beating as well as other violent acts that result in physical pain, intentionally hitting or beating”) (Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 2000, p. 28).

Armenia’s *Administrative Code* is also applied in cases of domestic violence. Most often Article 172 is applied which is minor hooliganism (that is swearing in public, offensive accosting of other people, as well as other acts in violation of public order). However these administrative infractions are less serious than criminal violations and are not passed on to higher-level investigation. They carry lesser penalty and the original decision to deal with the incident as an administrative offense is made at the police level (Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 2000).

### The Constitution

The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia ensures basic rights to both men and women, protects mothers and families, and incorporates international law and treaties into the domestic legal system. The second section is entirely dedicated to fundamental human rights and freedoms. Article 14.1 sets forth equality as a fundamental principle, providing that “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.” (National Assembly of RA, 1995) Article 35 provides special protection for the family. It states that “the family is the natural and fundamental cell of the society. Men and women of marriageable age have the right to marry and found a family according to their free will. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and divorce.” (National Assembly of RA, 1995)

Article 1 Clause 3 of the *Family Code* of the Republic of Armenia also states that men and women are entitled to equal rights when getting married, as well as during marriage and divorce. However, the Family Code of the Republic of Armenia provides no norm on gender-based violence (Yesayan et. al, 2009).

It must be stated though that there is no legal definition of domestic violence under Armenian law. The injuries sustained by a victim of domestic abuse (cuts, scratches, black eyes, bruises) are almost always classified as light injury by forensic experts, and subsequently by investigators and prosecutors determining how to charge the perpetrator. The majority of such cases are charged under the Administrative Code with the common punishment of an administrative fine or up to 15 days of detention in the police station jail. Whenever the cases are taken to the court, some judges see their main role as “preservation of

the family”, and thus impose lighter sentences on batterers (Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 2000).

### **Armenia’s International Legal Obligations**

Article 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia states that ‘the international treaties shall come into force only after being ratified or approved. The international treaties are a constituent part of the legal system of the Republic of Armenia. If a ratified international treaty stipulates norms other than those stipulated in the laws, the norms of the treaty shall prevail.’ (National Assembly of RA, 1995)

Armenia ratified the *UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* on June 9, 1993. Accession to the Convention means that a State Party not only declares respect for equal rights of men and women but also takes on a responsibility to ensure equal opportunities for their enjoyment. In the period that followed the ratification of the Convention by Armenia the country submitted two reports to the CEDAW Committee, the initial report in 1996 and the second one in 1999. The next report by the Government covers the period from 2002 through 2007. Within that reporting period, on May 23, 2006, the country’s National Assembly ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention that had come into force in December 2000. The ratification affords individual women or groups of women an opportunity to submit claims of violations of rights enshrined in the Convention to the *Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, provided all domestic remedies have been exhausted (Center for Gender Studies, 2007). The Committee’s comments of 2002 expressed concern about:

- underrepresentation of women in decision-making and political bodies;
- prevalence of violence against women and lack of specific provisions on domestic violence in current legislation;
- persistence of gender stereotypes;

- higher level of women's unemployment than men's, etc. (Center for Gender Studies, 2007)

With the intent to eliminate discriminatory practices and secure the fulfillment of the obligations contained in the international legal instruments, including CEDAW, the Government of Armenia adopted the *National Action Plan on Improving the Status of Women and Enhancing Their Role in Society in 2004-2010*. The formulation of the problems and of the strategies for the solution of the problem are in line with the recommendations provided by the international documents. So, “absence of the national machinery as a unified coordinating body, weak organizational measures as well as lack of financial resources and of will on the part of the political elite for the implementation of the National Action Plan have been undermining the effectiveness of its outcomes” (Center for Gender Studies, 2007, p.13).

Thus, the Armenian legal system does not provide an adequate remedy for the denial of women's fundamental rights to be free from violence. Women receive little government support at any stage of the legal process. By inadequately prosecuting domestic violence and failing to provide state support for organizations which offer aid to victims, the Armenian Government has not upheld its obligations as a member of the United Nations and is not in full compliance with international human rights law (Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 2000).



## **Chapter 2: Evidence of domestic violence in Armavir and the implementation of the “Protection of Women Rights in Armavir” Project**

*“As a Goodwill Ambassador for UNIFEM, I’ve learned that violence against women knows no boundaries. One in three women may suffer from abuse and violence in her lifetime. This is an appalling human rights violation, yet it remains one of the invisible and under-recognized pandemics of our time.”*

*Nicole Kidman*

Domestic violence is a more common problem in Armenia than is either reported or officially acknowledged. The Armenian government currently provides no official statistics on domestic violence. Available data and research indicate that domestic violence is a serious problem that affects all levels of society. Since the government is not adequately responding to the problem of domestic violence, NGOs have begun to address the issue. These organizations generally depend on donor funding from foreign aid organizations. “Sustain Development Initiative” NGO is one that has been funded by the British Embassy in Yerevan to implement a project related to the reduction of domestic violence cases in Armavir. According to the head of the NGO Arevik Azizyan several projects have been started in the area of domestic violence in Armenia. In particular monitoring and sociological surveys were conducted to find out the extent of the problem, after which several NGOs have worked in the sphere. These include the “Women Rights Protection Centre” and the “Women Resource Centre”, and both work in Yerevan and give assistance to violated women and girls. However women of Armavir and generally in the regions women cannot apply to these Yerevan projects.

Only “Armavir Development Center” NGO conducted a sociological survey in 2009 in Armavir discovering the perceptions, level of spread, main manifestation types of domestic violence. About 72 % of the respondents agreed that domestic violence is a widespread problem in Armenia. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents know, on average, four women

who have been victims of domestic violence. Also it was found that 68 % of respondents have been a victim of psychological abuse, of whom 42 % report this occurs often or frequently. 38 % of the respondents have been a victim of physical abuse, 21 % of whom have reported it as occurring often or frequently. It was found out also that only two from ten women would apply to the police in case of being violated, as they do not trust the police.

“Sustain Development Initiative” NGO is engaged in fighting against domestic violence in Armenia. In order to find out the situation in the region, the NGO conducted a survey in 2010 in Armavir city and Aygeshat, Arazap, Arevik, Eraskhahun, Cakhkunq, Dzrashen, Tandzut, Pshatavan and Ferik communities. The selection sample was stratified considering women from 18-75 years old, who are married or have a partner. The total number of the respondents is 302. The average age is 36. As far as how domestic violence is perceived, 11 % answered that only physical injury can be considered as domestic violence, 13 % think it is when sexual intercourse is forcefully demanded, 3 % define it as psychological abuse and the majority, 78%, consider all the above mentioned including swearing, shouting, etc.

The study also found that the main cause of the violence is the husband’s use of drugs and alcohol, which was identified by 97 % of the respondents. It is noteworthy that those exposed to psychological abuse were the women from the communities and they did not realize that it is a form of violence.

The British Embassy in Yerevan supported the above mentioned NGO in implementing a project titled as “Protection of Women Rights in Armavir”. The project lasted 8 months from August 2012 till March 2013. The key objective of the project was to fight against domestic violence in Armavir and to improve the activities of the Police and local self-government bodies thus reducing the cases of domestic violence against women. His Excellency Ambassador of the United Kingdom, Mr. Jonathan Aves, stated during the

interview that domestic violence is an issue that affects all societies and Britain has also come a long way within the last 30 years on that issue. “Like in Armenia people in Britain did not talk about this problem and the Police did not get involved because they thought it was not their job, but I think that over time you realize that this is an issue that you cannot leave alone. Fortunately in the process of a few decades Britain made some progress on that issue and we want to share that experience with Armenia... We want to encourage women to be more active in the country’s social, political and economic life and this is all part of that process,” added the Ambassador.

“Sustain Development Initiative” NGO also gets support from Armavir Marzpetaran and Armavir regional Police to implement the project efficiently. During the implementation of the project, 10 community meetings were conducted to which 263 inhabitants participated, and 3 round table discussions were organized in which 67 inhabitants participated. Local inspectors, psychologists, the lawyer and the head of the project spoke about domestic violence, its consequences, protection of women rights, as well as about the functions and activities of local inspectors. This way the project aimed at raising the public awareness on the issue. As stated by the head of the NGO before the implementation of the project the level of public awareness had been very low. As a result of the community meetings, round table discussions, trainings, 25 women from the region applied to lawyers for legal advice, their problem being related to domestic violence.

Trainings have been conducted with local inspectors as well. 15 local inspectors of 10 rural communities attended the trainings. The intent of the trainings was to improve the skills of local inspectors to better respond to cases of domestic violence. The trainer conducted 5 day trainings with them. The themes of the trainings were “Liabilities, rights and responsibilities of Police inspectors”, “Liabilities, rights and responsibilities of Local self-government bodies”, “The mechanisms of cooperative work of local inspectors and local self-

government bodies”, “Fast response mechanisms of domestic violence cases”, “The main activities of domestic violence cases and prevention of them”. During those trainings mechanisms of collaboration were also distributed to them, the purpose of which was reacting appropriately in cases of domestic violence. These trainings served as a guideline on who might be affected and how to behave in order to explore cases and give appropriate legal assistance to violated women. The lawyer also participated during the trainings.

Besides local inspectors and psychologists, local-government bodies and members of Municipality were also willing to attend the trainings. All in all, the total number of participants was 40. These included local inspectors, psychologists, local-government bodies and members of Municipality. It is noteworthy that previously there had never been such trainings conducted with an objective to improve the skills of the local inspectors before the implementation of this project. Due to these trainings local inspectors were again reminded of their liabilities and responsibilities during their official duties as well as of the cooperative work mechanisms with the local self-government bodies.

As part of the project activities 250 examples of A3 size posters were published about the legal advice, the main activities and free services provided by the lawyer, including his contact details. The posters elaborated the services of local inspectors and local self-government bodies and were pasted in villages and towns of the region. This way it was supposed that the violated women can receive necessary information and respective services.

During the trainings, different suggestions and thoughts were expressed by the Police, local self-government bodies, NGO workers, inhabitants, and psychologists, on the base of which a Policy was elaborated by the NGO (See Appendix C). The Policy is about the cooperative work of local inspectors, local self-government bodies, NGOs and population. It defines the issue of domestic violence and provides general knowledge on what has been done internationally to combat domestic violence against women. The policy also elaborates

on the role of the government of the RA and that of the civil society in addressing the issue. The main strategic activities included in it state what steps the stakeholders should take in case of domestic violence, what are the major drawbacks of the legal system, the need to adopt a law on domestic violence, etc. According to the head of the NGO, Arevik Azizyan, several meetings have been organized with the mayors and council members during which the idea of the Policy was presented to them. She further stated that it was expected that the Policy would be involved in strategy papers for 4 year plan of at least 6 villages (a majority of chosen communities). “Since there is no other means to punish or penalize the perpetrator but to take to criminal responsibility according to the Family Code of Armenia, women violated avoid reporting to the police... Another issue women most often face is the fact that during or after the violation they have nowhere to go, so the creation of a center that would serve as a permanent shelter for women is also worth considering,” she added.

The same problem was also raised by one of the women who had applied to the NGO that if it would not be possible to stay in her father’s house, then she together with the child would have been outdoors. Another woman confessed that she also did not know where to apply during 6 years of marriage until she heard of the “Sustain Development Initiative” NGO. As she stated it was due to the free legal assistance provided by the lawyer that she managed to collect all the necessary documents for the divorce and the alimony.

To sum up, within the frames of the project the following indicators of success should be highlighted:

- The local inspectors of 10 rural communities were trained.
- A Policy about the cooperative work between Police-local-self-government bodies-NGOs-population was elaborated.
- The awareness level of population about domestic violence, its consequences, protection of women rights was increased.

- Women's rights in the region were protected as a result of free legal advice.

Regarding the future plans of the NGO in this sphere Arevik Azizyan said: "It is important to work with students at their early age since there exist certain stereotypes in our society which are much harder to break up as they mature. Therefore we will try to reach out to students and work with them. Besides, we plan to continue providing free legal consultancy, further trainings with local inspectors, doing our best to make the law on domestic violence be adopted, etc."

The British Embassy in Yerevan will also continue contributing to the reduction of cases of domestic violence by supporting the implementation of similar projects. What the Ambassador Jonathan Aves says in this regard is that "it is always great to see that the project has an impact on individuals and has improved their lives, because quite often what you are involved with a diplomat is negotiation and texts which is a long way away from reality, peoples' real lives, so this is a very nice project as it is very real."

The next chapter will conclude whether the third hypothesis (H<sub>3</sub>: The project implemented in Armavir contributes to the reduction of cases of violence against women) is accepted or not by providing a relevant explanation. Further, it will also state if the study managed to address the research questions and the other two hypotheses put forward at the beginning of this paper. The limitations and recommendations of the current study will also follow.

## **Conclusion and recommendations**

After a thorough analysis and a close consideration of the subject matter the obvious conclusion drawn is that domestic violence against women is indeed a serious issue in Armenia. All the secondary data, i.e. the studies examined, as well as the project implemented in Armavir prove the above mentioned statement. This means that the first hypothesis (H<sub>1</sub>: Violent acts against women are committed in Armenia) is accepted.

The paper managed to answer all the research questions addressed at the beginning of the paper. According to the examination of the studies conducted the most two prevailing types of violence are firstly physical, then psychological. The women interviewed also stated that the form of violence they experienced was mainly physical. However they did not report to the police because they did not believe that the latter would react in a proper way. This assumption is also supported by the studies that conclude the main reason of not applying to the police to be their indifference.

Having the assumption that people in Yerevan are more educated than people in the districts, which means that respectively those educated would commit less violent acts, the second hypothesis was developed. However, after the research conducted it must be stated that this hypothesis is rejected. The studies showed that in the regions the quarrels are less severe, mostly they are verbal wrangles, while women in Yerevan more suffer from assault.

Finally the third hypothesis (H<sub>3</sub>: The project implemented in Armavir contributes to the reduction of cases of violence against women) is partially accepted. On the one hand the project managed to raise public awareness by pasting posters about the services of local inspectors and those provided by the lawyer of the NGO throughout the villages and towns of the region, on the other hand the project had more post-violence nature than a preventing one. According to the Projects Officer of the British Embassy, Olya Azatyan, it was one of the

major drawbacks of the project, otherwise it was considered to be a success since the rights of violated women were restored and many others already knew where to apply.

It is noteworthy that the main limitation of the study was the inability to interview the local inspectors. It would be very important to interview them before and after the trainings to find out if there occurred certain changes in the perception, attitude and behavior towards the cases of domestic violence.

To conclude for ensuring progress in the combat against domestic violence and reduction of violent acts against women in Armenia, the recommendations of the paper are:

- To the RA Government: Amend the RoA Laws pertaining to the norms establishing a liability for domestic violence, to adopt the Law on Domestic Violence.
- To “Sustain Development Initiative” NGO: To conduct trainings with women who witness violence and are still in marriage, thus shifting from post-violence to preventing tactics.
- To the RA Government: To strengthen the role of nongovernmental organizations to make them more trustworthy for domestic violence victims and assist the endeavours of non-governmental structures in prevention of domestic violence.
- To the RA Government: To increase the number of female officers involved in responding to and preventing domestic violence.
- To non-governmental organizations: To conduct regular campaigns for raising public awareness of the essence and various forms of domestic violence as well as for informing about the organizations.



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## APPENDIX A

### Questionnaire of the Conducted Interviews

Interview Date:

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Please know that the information you provide is only for the purpose of the study and any personal information will be treated confidential. No info will be provided to persons, organizations and business without your permission.

#### **a) With the Ambassador and the Projects Officer**

1. Is domestic violence a challenging issue in Armenia? Why do you think so?

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2. Why did you decide to specifically finance a project related to domestic violence against women?

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3. How would you assess the impact of the project? Do you think the project has been a success?

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4. What are the major drawbacks of the project?

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5. Do you think of financing similar projects in the future?

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**In case of comments**

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**b) With the head of the NGO**

1. Is domestic violence a challenging issue in Armenia? Why do you think so?

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2. Why did you decide to conduct trainings/community meetings pertaining to domestic violence against women? What is the intent of the trainings/community meetings?

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3. How did you select the participants? Were they initially willing to participate?

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4. How would you assess the impact of the trainings? Can you see any improvements?

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5. What has been done to raise the public awareness level on the issue?

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6. Do you think of continuing the project in the future? If yes, in what way?

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**In case of comments**

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**c) With the beneficiaries (women) of the project**

1. What is your age? (18-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, 55 and above)

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2. Are you married? If yes, how long?

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3. Do you have children?

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4. Have you ever been abused? If yes, by whom? Why? In what form?

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5. What was your attitude to the abuse towards yourself? How did you react? What steps were taken by you?

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6. Why did you decide to attend the community meetings?

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7. How useful do you find the community meetings?

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8. What did you basically learn during the meetings?

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9. Are you now better aware of your rights?

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10. Are you satisfied with the meetings?

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11. Is your problem solved now?

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In case of comments

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**Thank you a lot, the information you provided will greatly contribute to my study.**

## **APPENDIX B**

### *List of Interviewees:*

**Arevik Azizyan** – “Sustain Development Initiative” NGO, Head of the NGO

**Jonathan Aves** – British Embassy in Yerevan, UK Ambassador in Armenia

**Naira Hakobyan**- “Sustain Development Initiative” NGO, 2<sup>nd</sup> Head of the NGO

**Olya Azatyan** - British Embassy in Yerevan, Projects Officer

Names of beneficiaries are anonymous

## APPENDIX C

### **Policy about the cooperative work effectiveness between Police-local-self-government bodies-NGOs-population**

#### **ՀԱՅԵՑԱԿԱՐԳ**

**Կանանց նկատմամբ բռնության պայքարի գործընթացում ՏԻՄ-Ոստիկանություն-Քաղաքացիական հասարակություն համագործակցային քաղաքականության**

#### **1. Իրավիճակի նկարագրություն.**

Կանանց նկատմամբ բռնություն է համարվում սեռական հատկանիշներով կատարվող բռնության ամեն մի գործողություն, որը ֆիզիկական կամ հոգեբանական վնաս կամ տառապանք է պատճառում կամ կարող է պատճառել կանանց, ինչպես նաև այդպիսի գործողությունների սպառնալիքներ, հարկադրանք կամ կամայական զրկում ազատությունից, լինի դա հասարակական թե անձնական կյանքում: Այն համարվում է մարդու իրավունքների ամենակոպիտ խախտումներից մեկը, խտրական երևույթ, որը հանգեցնում է սոցիալական օտարման:

Կառավարությունը, ՄԱԿ-ի Կանանց նկատմամբ բռնության վերացման մասին հռչակագրի (1994թ.) հեռանկարային ռազմավարությանն ու սկզբունքներին համապատասխան, իրականացրել է գենդերային հատկանիշով խտրականության բոլոր ձևերի վերացման, մարդկանց շահագործման (թրաֆիքինգի) կանխարգելման, բռնության ենթարկված կանանց և տղամարդկանց պաշտպանությունն ապահովող օրենսդրական դաշտի կատարելագործման, ինչպես նաև նրանց սոցիալ-հոգեբանական վերականգնման և սոցիալական

ծառայությունների կողմից խորհրդատվական աջակցության համակարգի կատարելագործման ծրագրեր:

2005 թվականին ընդունվել է «Սոցիալական աջակցության մասին» ՀՀ օրենքը, որում սահմանված են բռնություն հասկացությունը և պետության կողմից կյանքի դժվարին իրավիճակում հայտնված անձանց տրամադրվող սոցիալական աջակցությունը:

2006-2007թթ. ՀՀ ազգային վիճակագրական ծառայությունը, հասարակական կազմակերպությունների մասնակցությամբ, անցկացրել է ընտանիքում և աշխատավայրում կանանց նկատմամբ բռնության վերաբերյալ տվյալների հավաքման երեք ուսումնասիրություն:

2006 թվականին Հայաստանի կառավարությունը միացել է Եվրոպայի խորհրդի նախարարների կոմիտեի կողմից ընդունված գենդերային բռնության դեմ պայքարի քարոզարշավի անցկացման մասին փաստաթղթին, որի շրջանակներում ՀՀ աշխատանքի և սոցիալական հարցերի նախարարությունը մշակել է մի շարք միջոցառումներ ընդգրկող գործողությունների ծրագիր. կլոր սեղանների անցկացում, հանդիպումներ քաղաքական հասարակության և շահագրգիռ միջազգային կազմակերպությունների հետ, հրատարակությունների և գրքույկների տարածում, տեղեկատվության տեղադրում ինտերնետում:

ՄԱԿ-ի և միջազգային այլ կազմակերպությունների աջակցությամբ հասարակական կազմակերպությունները, պետական կառույցների հետ համատեղ, անցկացրել են «Տասնվեց օր գենդերային բռնության դեմ» տեղեկատվական-լուսաբանական արշավը: Պետական կառույցները և ՀԿ-ները

մասնակցություն են ունեցել Եվրոպայի խորհրդի կողմից կազմակերպված արշավում, ինչպես նաև հայտարարված ընտանեկան բռնության դեմ պայքարի տարվա միջոցառումներում: Բռնության կանխարգելման և գոհերի պաշտպանության որոշակի աշխատանք են իրականացրել հասարակական կազմակերպությունները միջազգային հիմնադրամների աջակցությամբ: Երևանում, Մարտունիում, Գյումրիում, Եղեգնաձորում, Արմավիրում իրականացվել են բռնության գոհերի պաշտպանության ծրագրեր. գործել են թեժ գծեր, վստահության հեռախոսներ, ստեղծվել են ապաստաններ, տրամադրվել են բժշկական, իրավաբանական և սոցիալական խորհրդատվություններ, իրականացվել են տեղեկատվական, վերլուծական և կրթական ծրագրեր:

Սկսած 2008 թվականից՝ ՀՀ աշխատանքի և սոցիալական հարցերի նախարարության գործառույթներից է բռնության ենթարկված անձանց սոցիալական պաշտպանությունը: ՀՀ կառավարության 2008-2012թթ. գործունեության միջոցառումների ծրագրում ընդգրկված են բռնության կանխարգելման և բռնության ենթարկված անձանց ու նրանց ընտանիքների անդամների սոցիալական աջակցության հարցերը:

Չնայած ձեռնարկված միջոցներին՝ սեռի հատկանիշով բռնության և մարդկանց շահագործման (թրաֆիքինգի) հիմնախնդիրները երկրի համար դեռևս մնում են արդիական: Հայաստանի աշխարհաքաղաքական և սոցիալ-տնտեսական իրավիճակը, գործազրկությունը, անօրինական միգրացիան, կանանց սոցիալ-տնտեսական կախվածությունը ընտանիքում, չլուծված կենցաղային հիմնախնդիրները հանգեցնում են սեռի հատկանիշով բռնության աճի: Դեռևս

ընդունված չէ «Ընտանեկան բռնության մասին» ՀՀ օրենքը: Բացակայում են հասարակության կողմից գոհերի նկատմամբ խարանի երևույթի դրսևորումների և դրա դեմ պայքարի անհրաժեշտության գաղափարները:

Կանանց նկատմամբ բռնությունները կանխարգելելու, դրանք նվազեցնելու, այնուհետև՝ վերացնելու և գենդերային հավասարության հասնելու գործում կարևորվում է քաղաքացիական հասարակության դերը, որն այս ոլորտներում նշանակալի ձեռքբերումների հասնելու համար պետք է կապող օղակ հանդիսանա այն բոլոր պատկան մարմիններին հետ, ում անմիջական գործառույթն է համարվում կանանց բռնություններից զերծ պահելն ու պաշտպանելը: Այս դեպքում այն վերաբերում է քաղաքացիական հասարակության, տեղական ինքնակառավարման մարմինների, ոստիկանության, մարզպետարանի աշխատակազմի ընտանիքի, կանանց և երեխաների իրավունքների պաշտպանության բաժնի և գյուղապետարաններին կից Խնամակալության և հոգաբարձության խորհուրդների մասին:

Վերը թվարկված կառույցների արդյունավետ պայքարը կանանց նկատմամբ բռնությունների գործում կդրսևորվի փոխհամագործակցության շնորհիվ, որն այդ կերպ հնարավորություն կտա ավելի արագ, նպատակաուղղված պայքար մղել հասարակությունում առկա այս արատավոր երևույթի դեմ: Համատեղ գործունեությունը կապահովի ժողովրդավարական կայունություն, սոցիալական համերաշխություն և մարդու իրավունքների գերակայություն: Կանանց և տղամարդկանց միջև հավասարությունը կարող է ապահովված լինել միայն սեռերի հավասարության բնագավառում կոնկրետ քաղաքականության զուգահեռ

և փոխլրացնող ռազմավարությունների օգտագործման և նպատակաուղղված գեղերային աշխատանքների շնորհիվ:

## **2. Առաջնահերթ հիմնախնդիրները սեռի հատկանիշով բռնության**

### **կանխարգելման ոլորտում.**

- Բռնության բոլոր ձևերից անձի պաշտպանության իրավական, քաղաքական, վարչական և մշակութային բնույթի նախազգուշական գործողությունների անկատարությունը,
- Տվյալ հիմնախնդիրների, այդ թվում բռնության էության, պատճառների և հետևանքների համապարփակ ուսումնասիրությունների անբավարարությունը հատկապես մարզերում,
- Զոհերի պաշտպանության իրականացման իրավական գործիքների անբավարար կիրառումը,
- Բռնության զոհերի, ինչպես նաև բռնություն կատարած անձանց վերականգնման ծրագրերի բացակայությունը,
- Բնակչության ցածր իրազեկությունը սեռի հատկանիշով բռնության մասին,
- Բռնության փաստերի տվյալների բացակայությունը,
- Գյուղական համայնքներում ֆինանսական միջոցների սղությունը բռնության ենթարկված անձանց աջակցություն ցուցաբերելու և ապաստաններ տրամադրելու հարցում,
- Համայնքներում ՏԻՄ-նուստիկանություն արդյունավետ համագործակցության գործուն մեխանիզմների բացակայությունը:

## **3. Քաղաքականության հիմնական նպատակներն ու խնդիրները.**

## **Նպատակը.**

Հասարակությունում իրավական, սոցիալական և տնտեսական իրավահավասարության հասնելու նպատակով սեռի հատկանիշով բռնության բոլոր դրսևորումների նվազեցման և կանխարգելման հետևողական աշխատանք ՏԻՄ-ն ստիկանություն-քաղաքացիական հասարակության կառույցներ-բնակչություն ակտիվ համագործակցության միջոցով:

## **Խնդիրները.**

- Սեռի հատկանիշով բռնության ենթարկված զոհերից հայտարարությունների ընդունման և քննության ընթացակարգերի պարզեցում,
- Սեռի հատկանիշով բռնության զոհերի և բռնություն գործադրած անձանց համար հատուկ հոգեբանական օգնության և վերականգնման ծառայությունների կազմակերպում,
- Իրավապահ մարմինների, սոցիալական պաշտպանության և առողջապահության ոլորտների աշխատակիցների համար բռնության դեմ պայքարի ժամանակակից տեխնոլոգիաների ուսումնական ծրագրերի կազմակերպում՝ բռնության զոհերին և բռնություն գործադրած անձանց օգնություն ցույց տալու, վերականգնողական և այլ ծառայություններ մատուցելու համար,
- Ուսումնասիրությունների շրջանակներում բռնության տարբեր ձևերի և պատճառների, բնույթի և հետևանքների, ինչպես նաև կանխարգելման և վերացման արդյունավետ միջոցների հետազոտությունների,



տեղեկությունների հավաքման և վիճակագրական տվյալների ընհանրացման աջակցություն,

- Պետական կառույցների, սոցիալական հաստատությունների և հասարակական կազմակերպությունների՝ սեռի հատկանիշով բռնության կանխարգելման գործողությունների համակարգում,
- Հասարակության իրազեկության բարձրացում բռնության հիմնախնդիրների վերաբերյալ, կրթական-խորհրդատվական ծրագրերի իրականացում՝ ուղղված գենդերային բռնության վերաբերյալ կարծրատիպային պատկերացումների փոփոխությանը:

**4. Քաղաքականության առաջնահերթ ուղղությունները սեռի հատկանիշով բռնության կանխարգելման ոլորտում.**

- Իրավակիրառ պրակտիկայի կատարելագործում. իրավապահ մարմինների աշխատակիցների, սոցիալական և բուժաշխատողների պատրաստման և վերապատրաստման համակարգի կատարելագործում՝ սեռի հատկանիշով բռնության զոհերին գործնական օգնություն ցույց տալու համար,
- Բռնության զոհերի հետ աշխատող սոցիալական հաստատությունների և ներգրավված մարմինների գործունեության գիտա-մեթոդական ապահովում՝ ծրագրերի և միջոցառումների մշտադիտարկում և լրամշակում իրականացնելու համար,
- Բռնության դեմ պայքարի ուժեղացում, առանց բռնության մշակույթի ձևավորում՝ քարոզչական հանրամատչելի նյութերի հրատարակման և ԶԼՄ-ներում հիմնախնդիրների իրական լուսաբանման միջոցով,

- Համայնքներում Խնամակալության և հոգաբարձության հանձնաժողովների գործունեության բարելավում, սոցիալական ծառայությունների հասանելիության ապահովում:

**5. Քաղաքականության իրականացման ռազմավարությունը սեռի հատկանիշով բռնության կանխարգելման ոլորտում.**

- Բարելավել բռնության գոհերի պաշտպանության համակարգը գյուղական համայնքներում՝ զարգացնելով բռնության գոհերի աջակցության ոլորտը,
- Կազմակերպել շահագրգիռ մարմինների համապատասխան աշխատակիցների ուսուցում և վերապատրաստում գոհ քաղաքացիների և բռնություն գործադրած անձանց հետ աշխատանքի համար,
- Վերապատրաստել համայնքներում գործող Խնամակալության և հոգաբարձության հանձնաժողովների անդամներին՝ անհրաժեշտության դեպքում համալրելով անհրաժեշտ մասնագետներով,
- Զարգացնել <<համայնքային ոստիկանությունը>> գյուղական տարածքներում՝ բարելավելով թաղային ոստիկանների աշխատանքները,
- Սերտացնել ՏԻՄ-ոստիկանություն կապը՝ տեղամասային տեսուչներից պահանջելով շաբաթական հաշվետվություն համայնքում տիրող իրավիճակի, բռնության դեպքերի մասին,
- Կազմակերպել ամսական աշխատանքային հանդիպումներ ՏԻՄ-երի, թաղամասային տեսուչների, ՀԿ-ների մասնակցությամբ՝ քննարկելու առկա իրավիճակը, դեպքերը, խնդիրների լուծման ուղիները,

- Ստեղծել և տարածել հնարավոր կառույցների կոնտակտային ցուցակ անհրաժեշտության դեպքում բռնության դեպքերը համապատասխան մարմիններին ուղղորդելու համար,
- Կազմակերպել իրազեկման քարտզարշավներ՝ ուղղված բնակչության իրազեկության և իրավագիտակցության բարձրացմանը: