

PRESS RELEASE

The UNFPA Armenia officially launched the Report on the Legal Assessment of the RA Legislation from Gender-Based Violence perspective



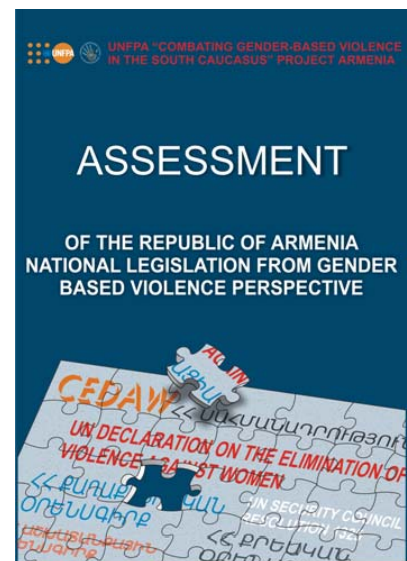
Yerevan 18, 2010 - Today, the official launching of the Report on the Legal Assessment of the RoA Legislation from Gender-Based Violence (GBV) perspective, conducted within the framework of UNFPA “Combating Gender-Based Violence in the South Caucasus” project, took place at the UN Armenia Country Office. The event was organized to present the outcomes of the assessment carried out by the group of national and international experts.

The purpose of the legal assessment was to review whether, how and to what extent the national laws of Armenia comply with international law, legal norms and standards

pertaining to GBV prevention, and to produce a package of recommendations regarding necessary amendments and changes in the RoA legislation, which will be presented to the RoA Government for further consideration.

The Report provides a detailed overview of the analysis of the major legal documents of the Republic of Armenia from gender-based violence perspective, including: the RoA Constitution, the Criminal Code, the Family Code, the Labor Code, the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, the Legal Acts on Social Security and Healthcare.

At the opening of the event, Ms. Dafina Gercheva, the UN Resident Coordinator/UNFPA Resident Representative welcomed the audience and stated, “The issue of the importance of combating gender-based violence and eliminating gender inequalities on a global scale has been reflected in a number of international documents, including the UN CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, the European Convention on Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Although at the national level an increasing number of countries are meeting their obligations to protect women through comprehensive legislation, but still more efforts are needed to enforce laws, to increase the number of services for victims and survivors, and to combat attitudes and behaviors that tolerate, excuse or ignore gender-based violence. International experiences demonstrate that unless a proper legal framework is in place, little can be done in taking actual steps towards elimination of violence against women.” Following Ms. Gercheva’s speech, the major findings and recommendations regarding the necessary improvements in the national legislation from GBV perspective, were presented by the group of the national legal experts. The presentation of the assessment report wrapped up with the Q&A session.



The event was attended by the representatives of the government authorities working in the field of women’s rights and gender issues, international community, foreign and local NGOs, and mass media.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

For more information, please contact Ms. Aida Ghazaryan at ghazaryan@unfpa.org , tel: 54 34 17, or Ms. Jina Sargizova at: sargizova@unfpa.org , tel: 54 17 92.