



Press Release

UN Agencies and Projects are Joining Efforts for *16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence* Campaign in Armenia

Yerevan 25.11.2008



Today, at the UN House in Yerevan, a press conference devoted to the launching of the *16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence* campaign in Armenia was held.

Ms. Lala Ghazaryan, Head of family, women and children issues department, RoA Ministry of Labor and Social Issues, Mr. Artsvik Minasyan, MP, Ms. Jina Sargizova National coordinator of “Combating Gender Based Violence in the South Caucasus” project and “16 days” campaign in Armenia took floor during the press conference.

The Campaign is carried out as a joint effort of the UN Resident Coordinator, UNFPA, UNDP, UNDPI, IOM, UNAIDS, Mass Media, as well as a number of foreign and local NGOs working in the field of human rights and women issues.

The *16 Days Campaign* in Armenia envisages various activities, such as press conferences, public hearings, PSA airings, award ceremonies, film screenings, meetings and seminars with NGOs, CBOs, students and local government representatives, to be conducted in Yerevan and marzes.

The planned activities focus on cultural and national aspects of violence against women, including domestic violence, trafficking and HIV/AIDS twin pandemics. The calendar of events to take place within the framework of the 16-day campaign was distributed at the press conference.

The *16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence* is an international campaign that runs from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10, International Human Rights Day and symbolically links gender violence and human rights issues.

The brutal murder of 14 Canadian female students in 1989 triggered creation of two global campaigns: 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence and the White Ribbon Campaign. Since 1991, more than 2,000 organizations in 156 countries have participated in the 16 Days Campaign.

This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 2, International Day for the Abolition of Slavery and December 6 the anniversary of the 1991 “Montreal Massacre”.

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