



## PRESS RELEASE

### UN Agencies and Projects Commit to Joint Efforts for "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence" Campaign in Armenia

Yerevan, 25.11.2009



Today, at the UN House in Yerevan, an Opening Press Conference devoted to the launching of the "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence" campaign in Armenia was held.

Ms. Maria Dotsenko, the United Nations Department of Public Information Representative (UNDPI) opened the event by presenting the statement of the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki Moon, on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Following her speech, Head of family, women and children issues department, RoA Ministry of Labor and Social Issues, Ms. Lala Ghazaryan, and National coordinator of "Combating Gender Based Violence in the South Caucasus" (CGBV) project and "16 Days" campaign in Armenia, Ms. Jina Sargizova, took the floor. Ms. Lala Ghazaryan presented the current challenges and results achieved by the government in the field of combating GBV, while Ms. Sargizova focused on CGBV project activities and events planned within the framework of the 16 "Days" campaign.

The Campaign is carried out as a joint effort of the UN Resident Coordinator a.i., UNFPA, UNDP, UNDP, UNHCR, 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 2009* in Armenia envisages various activities, such as press conferences, public hearings, PSA airings, film screenings, information meetings and seminars with NGOs and CBOs, refugees, rural women and local government representatives, youth and journalists to be held in Yerevan and throughout Armenia.

The planned activities focus on cultural and national aspects of violence against women, including domestic violence, trafficking and HIV/AIDS twin pandemics, men's participation and role in combating gender-based violence (GBV) and the importance of the youth involvement in anti-GBV movement. 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, December 2, International Day for the Abolition of Slavery and December 6, the anniversary of the 1989 "Montreal Massacre".

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