



HUMAN RIGHTS AND WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES OF ARMENIA PHASE II

The Project is implemented by the Council of Europe within the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019-2022. Action Plan level funding is provided by Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Sweden.

The Project is a part of the continuous endeavour by the Council of Europe to support Armenia to fulfil its obligations as a member state of the Organisation. After having successfully assisted Armenia in incorporating important actions related to the protection and promotion of human rights in the armed forces into the 2020-2022 National Strategy for Human Rights Protection and the respective Action Plan through the phase I Project funded by the United Kingdom and considering the political will of Armenia to enhance the protection of human rights in the armed forces and promotion of women servicepersons in the military, the Council of Europe further supports the implementation of the reforms defined by the Strategy in line with the objectives of phase II of the Project “Human Rights and Women in the Armed Forces of Armenia”.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES IN ARMENIA

PHASE II

Under the Action Plan Council of Europe for Armenia 2019-2022 the Council of Europe and Armenia have agreed to co-operate on the reforms aiming to enhance the protection of human rights in the armed forces. To contribute to this aim the Council of Europe is continuing the implementation of the *Phase II of its Project on "Human rights and women in the armed forces in Armenia"*, under the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019-2022 funded by Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein and Norway, Sweden. Phase II of the Project will continue to contribute to a better protection of human rights in the armed forces in Armenia, and in particular with a focus on the rights of female members of the military.

The overall objective of the Project is to enhance the protection and promotion of human rights in the armed forces in Armenia, and the role of women servicepersons in the military. This is planned to be achieved through the provision of legal expertise into policy and legal framework, institutional and professional capacity building, as well as a variety of awareness raising activities. The Project's action is also aligned with and aims at supporting the implementation of the priorities of the 2020-2022 National Strategy for Human Rights Protection.

WHY THE PROJECT IS IMPORTANT

The Project represents a unique dimension of the Council of Europe's technical assistance in the human rights compliance reform of the armed forces of Armenia. The changing nature of the defence environment demands wider range of expertise and experience, in particular new skills, knowledge in the area of protection and promotion of human rights in the armed forces.

Strengthening the protection of human rights and gender mainstreaming forms the integral part of many national strategies and policies of armed forces across the world, including Armenia. The 2020-2022 National Strategy for Human Rights Protection of the Republic of Armenia defines "*Ensuring equal rights and opportunities*" as one of the strategic directions, while "*Promoting the engagement of women in the armed forces*" is a concrete activity defined by the respective Action Plan of the Strategy.

ADDED VALUE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

In its cooperation with the national authorities the Council of Europe relies on its ample body of human rights standards deriving primarily from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), as well as those specifically targeting the human rights in the armed forces, including:

- Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on human rights of members of the armed forces;
- PACE Recommendation 1742 (2006) "Human rights of members of the armed forces" and etc., which Armenia undertook to observe and implement as a Council of Europe member state;
- findings of its human rights protection and monitoring mechanisms (such as the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), and other Convention-based bodies i.e. the CPT, ECRI etc.).

The Organisation's working methods, based on standard setting, monitoring and cooperation

Synergies and coordination with other international partners active in the field of human rights protection in the armed forces (e.g. UN, OSCE, US-AID)

**THE COUNCIL
OF EUROPE
ALSO APPLIES:**

Political leverages and high-level dialogue with the authorities

Best practices of its 47 Member States

PROJECT PARTNERS AND END-BENEFICIARIES

The key partners of the Project are the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice, the Human Rights Defender's Office and the Government Agent before the ECtHR. The Project will also closely work with the Security Council, members of the National Assembly, law enforcement bodies, representatives of the judiciary, Justice Academy and relevant civil society organisations.

The end beneficiaries of the Project are members of the armed forces, particularly women service persons who will enjoy a better protection of their rights.

PROJECT DURATION AND BUDGET

1 June 2020

630,000 EUR

31 May 2022

MAIN EXPECTED RESULTS UNDER THE PROJECT

PHASE II

- Legislative, regulatory framework and procedures are improved for effectively preventing, investigating and eradicating human rights violations in the armed forces, and the commitments of state authorities on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the armed forces are translated into action;
- Relevant institutions have enhanced capacities to prevent, conduct effective investigation of human rights violations in the armed forces, including capacities to ensure full and effective equality of women and men;
- Military officers, including gender advisors, are empowered to deal with human rights issues in the armed forces, including discrimination, and ensure strong and coherent leadership in support of implementation of gender equality and gender mainstreaming policies.

THE PHASE II IS BUILT ON THE RESULTS OF THE PHASE I PROJECT' IMPLEMENTED IN JUNE 2019-MAY 2020

- As a result of provided legal expertise, recommendations and advocacy a **Unit of the Work with Women Servicepersons was established** at the Ministry of Defence. The creation of this Unit is a very good example of the Project's coordination with other international partners.
- The **National Human Rights Protection Strategy and respective ActionPlan2020-2022 incorporated specific activities with respect to human rights and gender promotion in the armed forces** based on the Project expert recommendations.
- **The existing gaps in the national legal frameworks and deviations in practices related to human rights protection in the armed forces and, in particular, promotion of the rights of women servicepersons** were identified in legal analyses conducted by the Project. The results are being considered

by the policy makers for planning further reform activities.

➤ **New methods and tools have been developed by the Project and adopted by the Human Rights Defender's Office** to enhance its capacity in identifying and reporting human rights violations in the armed forces.

➤ **New methods and tools have been developed for identifying systemic patterns of human rights violations *inter alia* in the armed forces** following the ECtHR judgments by the Office of the Governmental Agent of Armenia before the ECtHR.

PROJECT PHASE II METHODOLOGY AND ACTIVITIES

The Project will work with the Project partners by applying different working methods for achieving the change, including but not limited to:

- expert legal support and advice;
- facilitating policy and decision-making processes in line with Council of Europe standards and recommendations;
- professional capacity building, i.e. developing training courses, providing training, seminars, workshops etc;
- institutional and organisational capacity development;
- research activities;
- collecting and disseminating good practices;
- facilitating partnership between relevant stakeholders;
- strengthening the operational mechanisms of the application of relevant internal regulatory instruments;
- awareness raising actions.



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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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