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Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on Armenia*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a summary of 24 stakeholders' submissions[1] to the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

II. Information provided by the national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles

2. The Human Rights Defender of Armenia (HRD) recommended that the State ratify the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.[2]

3. HRD noted that complaints addressed to it related to, inter alia, discrimination based on age, discrimination against women within protection of their labour rights, representation of women in political and public life, and access of persons with disabilities to different services, education and health care.[3]

4. HRD stated that in order to effectively protect victims of discrimination, proper legal mechanisms were needed as the existing framework did not provide clear provisions, including on the concept of discrimination or procedural issues. It stated that mechanisms should be set for the effective investigation of discrimination cases and the provision of remedies. Proper awareness-raising campaigns were needed to break stereotypes.[4]

5. HRD noted the necessity to carry out large-scale public campaigns regarding hate speech and insulting speech, its negative impact, and respect for dissenting opinions.[5]

* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.

6. HRD noted the lack of effective investigation of torture cases. It stated that the State should take precise steps in order to appropriately respond to such cases, prosecute perpetrators as a result of effective investigation, as well as prevent torture in the country.[6]

7. HRD noted systemic problems regarding deprivation of liberty and a lack of understanding regarding the minimum rights while apprehending or arresting a person and the corresponding obligations of law enforcement officials.[7]

8. HRD was concerned about the judicial practice of applying detention as a preventive measure and stated that deprivation of liberty, including detention, must be a measure of last resort. The State had a positive obligation to conduct re-socialization and rehabilitation programs.[8]

9. HRD stated that monitoring visits to penitentiary institutions, as well as individual complaints addressed to it, had revealed issues regarding the right to health of persons deprived of liberty.[9]

10. HRD stated that serious reforms were needed in the judicial system, particularly related to the independence of the courts, a lack of trust in the judiciary, a lack of mechanisms to guarantee a fair trial, and court hearing delays.[10]

11. HRD noted the need for trainings for law enforcement bodies on the freedom of assembly and corresponding obligations.[11]

12. HRD stated that labour rights were not fully protected due to a lack of awareness of protection mechanisms and the absence of an extra-judicial body exercising state control over labour rights and legislation.[12]

13. HRD was concerned that the unemployment rate of persons with disabilities remained high.[13]

14. HRD stated that the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, Protection of Persons Affected by Domestic Violence, and Family Restoration did not qualify all types of domestic violence as being such, including acts of harassment, forced marriage, and forced termination of pregnancy.[14]

15. HRD stated that gender-based violence and domestic violence remained a concern and that significant steps were needed for the training of professionals to change their mind-sets; conducting sensitization campaigns to raise public awareness on domestic violence and gender equality; as well as providing services for victims, especially in rural areas.[15]

16. HRD noted that there was no comprehensive juvenile justice system. It recommended that the Government, inter alia, ensure efficient juvenile justice mechanisms in the Criminal Procedure Code, introduce rehabilitation programs for juvenile offenders in the community, set up responsible agencies and organizations and regulate their powers, and create an institute for mediation in juvenile affairs.[16]

17. HRD was concerned about corporal punishment of children in schools. It recommended that the State establish and improve mechanisms to prevent violence against children and rehabilitation services, and adopt legislation creating enforcement mechanisms, including sanctions for violations.[17]

18. HRD noted that it appeared almost impossible for children with disabilities to return to their biological families, or be transferred to an adoptive or a foster family. It stated that the State should, in parallel with the deinstitutionalization process, carry out social support programs for families of children with disabilities, and implement projects aimed at enhancing and creating community-based multi-sectoral services especially for children with disabilities.[18]

III. Information provided by other stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies[19]

19. Joint Submission 3 (JS3) recommended that the State ratify the remaining optional protocols on individual complaints procedures of the international human rights treaties.[20]

20. Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Joint Submission 9 (JS9) recommended that the State ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.[21]

21. The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) called on Armenia to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at abolishing the death penalty.[22]

22. London Legal Group (LLG) noted that Armenia had yet to complete the process of ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.[23]

23. HRW, Joint Submission 1 (JS1), Joint Submission 2 (JS2), Joint Submission 6 (JS6), Joint Submission 7 (JS7) and JS9 recommended that the State ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).[24]

24. JS3, JS6, JS7 and JS9 recommended that the State ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention).[25]

25. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) recommended that Armenia sign and ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a matter of international urgency.[26]

B. National human rights framework[27]

26. JS1 recommended that the State adopt a comprehensive and effective anti-discrimination legislation, which provides effective mechanisms for protection, access to justice and effective remedies for victims of discrimination, and establishes an independent and effective national equality body empowered with support and litigation competences. It recommended that the State include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected grounds in the anti-discrimination legislation.[28]

27. JS1 recommended that the State ensure that the anti-discrimination legislation provides protection for human rights defenders and their family members, including mechanisms to counter hate speech, harassment and smear campaign against human rights defenders.[29]

28. HRW recommended that the State amend the criminal code to include homophobia and transphobia as an aggravating criminal circumstance.[30]

29. JS7 recommended that the Government criminalise the offence of purchasing sexual services from children, and provide a legal definition for and criminalise the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. It also recommended that the Government define and criminalise the importing, exporting, and simple possession of child sexual abuse materials, as well as grooming, live-streaming of child sexual abuse and online sexual extortion. It furthermore recommended that the Government criminalise the sale of children in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.[31]

C. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Cross-cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination[32]

30. The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers (CoE-CM) recommended that the State further review criminal legislation with the view to making racial hatred and other hate motives an aggravating circumstance for all crimes, adopt legislative provisions to criminalise the distributing, or otherwise making available, of racist and xenophobic materials through a computer system and other cyber-hate acts, and carry out campaigns in society to raise awareness of various forms of hate crimes and set up accessible mechanisms for reporting hate crimes.[33]

31. Joint Submission 8 (JS8) recommended that the State develop and implement a common, unified policy for combating discrimination, which should, inter alia, include effective mechanisms to combat hate speech, hate crimes and other hate motivated incidents, including prevention of such cases, proper investigation, responsibility mechanisms and effective legal remedies.[34]

32. HRW stated that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people often faced harassment, discrimination, and violence in Armenia. Fear of discrimination and public disclosure of their sexual orientation prevented many LGBTI people from reporting crimes. HRW stated that, when reported, such acts almost always went unpunished.[35]

33. The Council of Europe (CoE) noted that the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights had urged the Government to take prompt and resolute action against all instances of violence, hate speech and hate crime targeting LGBTI persons.[36]

34. JS8 and JS9 recommended that the State organize and implement trainings for law-enforcement bodies concerning the investigation of hate crimes, as well as the specificities of work with the victims and witnesses of hate crimes, including on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.[37]

35. Right Side (RS) noted that trans people were routinely bullied and discriminated against at schools, that employees avoided hiring trans people, and that they were at a very high risk of being homeless or being victims of trafficking.[38]

36. JS1 recommended that the State conduct awareness raising campaigns, including through public television, targeting harmful stereotypes and discriminatory practices against marginalised groups.[39]

37. Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) recommended that the State undertake extensive awareness-raising and public education efforts to address discriminatory attitudes, perceptions and stereotypes against religious and ethnic minority groups.[40]

Development, the environment, and business and human rights

38. JS3 stated that the waste from metal mines caused serious environmental disasters and health problems for the affected communities with a disproportionate increase in cancer cases among the population.[41]

2. Civil and political rights

Right to life, liberty and security of person[42]

39. JS1 recommended that the State criminalise ill-treatment and ensure the documentation of injuries of persons subjected to torture or other ill-treatment, based on the Istanbul Protocol. It also recommended that the State provide adequate rehabilitation services to victims of torture and other ill-treatment, including medical, psychological, social and legal services.[43]

40. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) called upon the authorities to take urgent steps to review the system of handling cases involving possible ill-treatment by police officers. It also reiterated its recommendation that the authorities take steps to ensure that persons in police custody are effectively in a position to exercise their rights from the very outset of deprivation of liberty.[44]

41. CIVICUS stated that between 2015 and 2018, peaceful protests were violently repressed by the police and that protesters were arrested and detained and, in some cases, denied immediate access to medical assistance and legal representation. It stated that journalists were assaulted and intimidated during some protests.[45]

42. JS1 recommended that the State enhance the strict compliance of the police with the standards of using physical force and special means during assemblies.[46]

43. JS1 recommended that the State install audio-video recording in interrogation rooms of all detention centres and in investigation rooms.[47]

44. CPT called upon the authorities to take immediate steps to ensure that in all prisons medical examinations of detained persons are always conducted out of the hearing and out of the sight of police and prison officers.[48]

45. CPT called upon the authorities to take all necessary steps to ensure that the right of prisoners to lodge confidential complaints is fully respected in practice and that complainants are free from any pressure and reprisals.[49]

46. JS9 stated that penitentiaries were not customized to the needs of women, and that as a result of the absence of female personnel, prisoners were under the supervision of male personnel 24 hours a day and were deprived of personal space.[50]

47. JS9 stated that only one out of twelve penitentiary institutions had proper conditions for persons with disabilities. Bathrooms were not customized to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.[51]

48. JS1 stated that excessive use of pre-trial detention persisted as a major problem. It recommended that the State swiftly adopt new Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes, providing effective alternatives to pre-trial detention and extend the mandate of the probation service to cover the pre-trial stage.[52]

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law[53]

49. JS1 stated that public trust in the justice system, and particularly in the judiciary, was still extremely low.[54]

50. JS1 stated that the law did not ensure independence of judges, transparency of their appointment and promotion, case assignment mechanism, and effective data collection to enable the monitoring of court decisions.[55]

51. JS1 recommended that the State exclude the use of evidence extorted through torture at any stage of proceedings, and provide effective mechanisms for review and redress with no statute of limitations.[56]

52. HRW noted a long record of police impunity for using excessive force to break up largely peaceful protests, including in March 2008, June 2015 and July 2016. It recommended that the State promptly, thoroughly and effectively investigate all incidents of use of force by law enforcement officers, and attacks against peaceful protesters and journalists.[57]

53. The CoE noted that the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) stated that more was expected to be done with respect to safeguards against the use of disciplinary proceedings to influence or retaliate against judges. Effective rules against undue interference still had to be put in place.[58]

54. Path of Law (PL) stated that regardless of the constitutional amendments of 2015, the ruling party exerted pressure and intervened with the judiciary.[59]

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life[60]

55. CIVICUS stated that human rights defenders had been subjected to judicial harassment, smear campaigns, threats and acts of intimidation, in particular those working on sexual minority issues and gender. Human rights defenders working on environmental rights had been subjected to judicial persecution, harassment and intimidation for engaging in advocacy against corporate activities that impacted on the environment.[61]

56. Front Line Defenders (FLD) recommended that the State guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Armenia are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions, including judicial harassment, and ensure full respect for the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.[62]

57. Joint Submission 5 (JS5) urged the Government to conduct a high-level public campaign in support of human rights defenders, with the official and public condemnation of attacks on human rights defenders and their families when they occur. It also urged the Government to register and compile statistics of threats and attacks against human rights defenders, along with information relating to their investigation and rates of prosecution.[63]

58. JS5 stated that journalists who were critical of the authorities and those who exposed human rights violations and corruption were subject to harassment, restrictions on their work, threats and attacks.[64]

59. CIVICUS recommended that the State ensure that journalists are able to work freely and without fear of retribution for expressing critical opinions or covering topics that the Government deems sensitive.[65]

60. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR) stated that its Election Observation Mission for the 2018 early parliamentary elections had recommended that authorities continue to support editorial independence of the public media and foster citizens' access to impartial, critical and analytical political information and programmes, including when reporting on activities of officials.[66]

61. EPF stated that the course "The History of the Armenian Church" was imposed on all children from primary school age and that the entire teaching process for this course was controlled by the church. It recommended that the State ensure that the teaching process was exclusively secular.[67]

62. OSCE/ODIHR noted that, jointly with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, it remained concerned about the lack of guarantee of the freedom of religion or belief to everyone, not only Armenian citizens. It also remained concerned about the mandatory registration system for religious or belief communities.[68]

Prohibition of all forms of slavery[69]

63. The CoE Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) urged the authorities to strengthen their efforts to prevent trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, including by sensitising relevant officials, in particular the police, labour inspectors and social workers.[70]

64. GRETA urged the authorities to improve the identification of and assistance to child victims of trafficking. It also urged the authorities to facilitate the reintegration of victims of trafficking into society by ensuring follow-up after the termination of specialised assistance by NGOs, offering them vocational training and facilitating their access to the labour market.[71]

Right to privacy[72]

65. JS3 stated that there were frequent violations of patients' right to confidentiality, right to information and right to give informed and free consent, raising ethical issues and hindering many patients' access to medical services, particularly those from vulnerable groups.[73]

66. JS3 recommended that the State adopt a law on the E-health system to ensure mechanisms for electronic data protection.[74]

67. JS3 stated that palliative care and pain management remained inaccessible. The police continued the illegitimate control over the medication prescription process and access to patients' personal data. It recommended that the State ensure the right of patients to privacy and confidentiality and cease police interference into the opioids prescription process.[75]

3. Economic, social and cultural rights

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work[76]

68. JS1 recommended that the State introduce effective quotas and incentive measures for employers in the public and private sectors to employ persons with disabilities.[77]

69. JS3 stated that Armenia lacked an effective labour inspection. The inspection body oversaw only the health and safety conditions in the workplace, and did not cover the whole spectrum of labour rights prescribed by law.[78]

70. JS3 stated that the Labour Code did not protect workers from arbitrary dismissal, harassment and discrimination in the workplace.[79]

71. The CoE European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) noted that the gender pay gap remained persistently high, demonstrating that the enforcement of the right to equal pay was not effective.[80]

72. JS3 stated that the safeguards for exercising the rights to strike and to freedom of association were significantly compromised in the law. The Labour Code was vague concerning the question whether employees could create new trade unions or join existing trade unions in their respective sectors.[81]

73. ECSR noted that the minimum membership requirements for forming trade unions and employers' organisations were too high. It also considered that the sectors in which the right to strike may be restricted were overly extensive.[82]

Right to social security

74. The CoE noted that the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights recommended that the State, in order to address the inadequate level of social protection of older persons, raise old-age pensions, increase the availability of health care at home or in the community, and tackle the shortage of professionals specialised in geriatric care.[83]

75. JS3 recommended that the State ensure a geographically proportional distribution and availability of social services for elderly people.[84]

76. The CoE noted that the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights was particularly concerned by the placement in state care of children whose parents faced socio-economic difficulties. The CoE-Commissioner had encouraged the authorities to allocate sufficient support to parents resuming care over their children and to continue in parallel to promote foster care, including for children with disabilities.[85]

Right to an adequate standard of living[86]

77. The CoE noted that the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights recommended that Armenia strengthen its efforts to combat child poverty.[87]

78. JS3 stated that Armenia had an ageing population and that poverty made the socio-economic situation of the elderly critical, affecting their food security and health status.[88]

79. JS3 stated that the problem of housing of refugees lingered, posing an obstacle to their integration into society. The assistance provided by the State for this purpose was extremely limited, and did not meet the existing demand. Temporary and limited monetary assistance to refugees and the policy gap in addressing refugees' socioeconomic integration placed refugees at a high risk of poverty and social insecurity.[89]

Right to health[90]

80. JS3 recommended that the State improve and ensure geographic and physical accessibility of health services, particularly in remote areas, including access to facilities, medical equipment and essential medication. It also recommended that the State adopt a law defining the list of free-of-charge medical services, the list of their beneficiaries, and provision procedures.[91]

81. Joint Submission 4 (JS4) stated that gender stereotypes and biases created an overall discriminatory environment perpetuated by health workers providing services to women. Many women consequently avoided visiting gynaecologists.[92]

82. JS3 stated that patients with a physical disability who required assistance and could not move around independently in healthcare facilities faced challenges in accessing healthcare services, due to the absence of necessary accommodations and equipment, such as ramps and elevators.[93]

83. JS1 recommended that the State ensure that women with disabilities have access to medical services and facilities, including sexual and reproductive health.[94]

84. JS3 stated that many patients underwent compulsory treatment in psychiatric hospitals, which they could not challenge on their own. It stated that there were no direct mechanisms for an affected individual to seek a review of their hospitalisation, and that a court decision on their release might be sought only by the hospitals.[95]

85. JS1 recommended that the State ensure the quality and accessibility of medical services for inmates.[96]

86. JS3 stated that certain health services were not available to persons living with HIV due to stigma and discrimination, the geographic inaccessibility of services, and unprofessional conduct of medical personnel. Medical personnel often treated persons living with HIV disrespectfully and disclosed their HIV status without the patient's knowledge and consent. Women living with HIV faced double discrimination, especially in terms of violations of sexual and reproductive health rights.[97]

87. JS4 recommended that the State introduce comprehensive and evidence-based sexuality education in Armenian schools, including developing and implementing appropriate teaching materials for students and trainings for teachers in collaboration with feminist and women's rights organizations.[98]

88. JS4 stated that there were still various impediments to women's access to safe and legal abortion services, particularly for women living in rural areas. The three day waiting period, negative pressure from society and doctors, lack of information, and the high cost of the services often dissuaded women from going back to the doctor to obtain a safe abortion. This led them to resorting to less secure means of obtaining an abortion and performing the abortion at home.[99]

89. RS noted that when seeking medical support, trans people often faced disrespectful attitudes, and were even openly refused medical assistance or help.[100]

Right to education[101]

90. JS3 stated that education attainment of children was linked to the social status of the family and was particularly affected by poverty.[102]

91. JS3 stated that in 2017, the gross enrolment rates of children from poor households in higher education was only 29 percent. Children from extremely poor families did not enter tertiary level of education.[103]

92. JS1 recommended that the State establish an effective mechanism for the identification and referral of out-of-school children.[104]

93. JS3 stated that there were no effective and systemic measures to counter bullying that affected primarily children from vulnerable groups.[105]

94. HRW stated that despite some progress, children with disabilities continued to face segregation in separate schools or classrooms. It recommended that the State ensure quality,

inclusive education for children with disabilities in mainstream classrooms, not in segregated settings, including through the provision of reasonable accommodations.[106]

95. CoE-CM recommended that the State redouble its efforts to eliminate without further delay the difficulties experienced by Yezidi children, in particular girls, in accessing education.[107]

4. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women[108]

96. HRW stated that domestic violence persisted as a serious problem in Armenia. The authorities failed to ensure the protection of women and children survivors of domestic violence. Law enforcement bodies lacked awareness and training on protection mechanisms envisaged by the Law on Prevention and Protection of the Victims of Domestic Violence and Restoration of Solidarity in Family, such as protection orders, and did not adequately use them. Authorities sometimes pressured survivors who did file domestic violence complaints to reconcile with their abusers. HRW stated that there was only one shelter for domestic violence survivors, run by a non-governmental organization.[109]

97. FLD stated that the Law on Prevention and Protection of the Victims of Domestic Violence and Restoration of Solidarity in Family operated on the basis of notions of "strengthening traditional values" and "restoring family harmony", which reinforced gender stereotypes and did not provide sufficient protection from domestic violence.[110]

98. HRW recommended that the State include domestic violence as a standalone criminal offense in the Criminal Code. It also recommended that the State revise the Criminal Code to include an aggravating circumstance covering crimes committed within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the abuser shares or has shared the same residence with the victim, in line with the Istanbul Convention.[111]

99. HRW recommended that the State ensure prompt, thorough, and impartial investigation of all domestic violence incidents, using methods that mitigate risks for survivors, and prosecute and punish the attackers. It recommended that the State ensure availability of shelter spaces and services for survivors in line with European and international standards, including shelters and services operated by the State and in rural areas. It also recommended that the State continue campaigns to educate the public about the new domestic violence law, how to file complaints, and the availability of services.[112]

100. JS1 recommended that the State develop the capacities of the judiciary, law enforcement and social workers to secure effective responses to cases of gender-based violence and enforcement of protective measures.[113]

101. JS6 stated that the prosecution of rape was overwhelmingly limited to situations where the victim had the physical evidence of injuries and could prove physical resistance to sexual intercourse. It stated that when such evidence could not be secured, or when sexual violence was committed without using physical force, there was very little chance that the perpetrator would be brought to justice.[114]

102. The CoE noted that the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights urged the authorities to ensure full and effective representation of women in public decision-making as well as equal pay and equal access to the labour market, to counter persisting discriminatory gender stereotypes, to foster a gender-equal education environment, and to promote role models and champions of women's equality.[115]

103. JS6 recommended that the Government develop gender-sensitive education for children at schools, review the school textbooks and teach children about gender equality.[116]

104. EPF recommended that the State take targeted measures to end the practice of early marriage in a reasonable timeframe, including legal action and awareness-raising measures.[117]

105. JS7 recommended that the Government amend the Family Code to ensure there are no exceptions to 18 years as the minimum age of marriage.[118]

106. United Families International (UFI) stated that gestational surrogacy was largely approved and widely practiced and that there was a robust commercial surrogacy market in the country.[119]

Children[120]

107. JS3 stated that Armenia still did not have a comprehensive system for child rights protection to ensure children's social, economic and cultural rights. Interagency cooperation for the protection of the rights of children was weak or missing.[121]

108. JS7 recommended that the Government establish effective reporting mechanisms regarding sexual exploitation of children, including the ability for victims to self-report. It recommended that the Government establish protection services specifically tailored towards child victims of sexual exploitation. It also recommended that the Government provide specialized training for prosecutors who deal with cases involving the sexual exploitation of children.[122]

109. JS3 stated that community-based social and rehabilitation services for children in conflict with the law was weak. Armenia still needed to develop effective juvenile justice mechanisms.[123]

110. The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (GIEACPC) stated that prohibition of corporal punishment was still to be achieved in the home, some alternative care settings and day care. There was near universal social acceptance and use of corporal punishment in childrearing. It stated that explicit prohibition should be enacted of all corporal punishment and other humiliating and degrading treatment, in the home and all other settings where adults exercise authority over children.[124]

Persons with disabilities[125]

111. Just Atonement Inc. (JAI) stated that more than half of the disabled adult population was unemployed, most had not acquired secondary school education, monthly payments from the Government were unsubstantial, and many cities, including Yerevan, were not accessible to people with disabilities.[126]

112. HRW recommended that the State strengthen efforts to end the institutionalization of children with disabilities and prioritize family-based care and community-based services. It recommended that the State implement programs to prepare children, including those with disabilities, who are nearing adulthood, to leave institutions, to live independently, with support as necessary, and prohibit their placement in adult institutions without their informed consent.[127]

113. HRW recommended that the State develop a comprehensive plan for the deinstitutionalization of adults with disabilities and the development of community-based support services, including through assessment and reform, if necessary, of existing programs supporting adults with disabilities in community settings in Armenia.[128]

114. JS3 stated that under the current legislation, persons with mental health problems could be recognised legally incapable and become deprived of the possibility to exercise their rights fully and properly and to make decisions about their life independently. There were no effective mechanisms for restating a person's legal capacity.[129]

115. The CoE noted that the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights had called on Armenia to put an end to plenary guardianship for persons with psychosocial disabilities and to introduce a regime for supported decision-making.[130]

116. JS1 stated that major cultural, sport, leisure and recreation venues and many governmental buildings remained inaccessible to persons with disabilities. Most public facilities, such as educational and healthcare institutions, as well as polling stations, were widely inaccessible.[131]

Minorities[132]

117. JS1 recommended that the State develop a national strategy for protecting the ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities and creating conditions for its

promotion in line with the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.[133]

118. LLG recommended that the State organize campaigns about the rights of minorities in order to raise awareness of citizens of the existence of different religions and cultures.[134]

119. CoE-CM recommended that the State carry out an awareness-raising campaign encouraging the use of minority languages in contacts with local administration.[135]

120. CoE-CM recommended that the State ensure that the culture and history of national minorities is adequately portrayed and taught in all schools, including those attended by majority population children, and that they convey all aspects of national minority cultures as an integral part of Armenian society.[136]

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers[137]

121. JS3 stated that labour migrants were invisible in the statistics and migration policy. It stated that, with the exception for limited groups, labour migrants were required a work permit, but that there were no functioning mechanisms for obtaining them. These policy gaps increased the risk of labour migrants' exploitation.[138]

122. JS3 recommended that the State develop legal mechanisms regulating labour migration, work permits, and the protection of labour migrants' human rights.[139]

Notes

[1] The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org.

Civil society

Individual submissions:

CIVICUS	CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Johannesburg (South Africa);
EPF	Eurasia Partnership Foundation, Yerevan (Armenia);
FLD	Front Line Defenders, Dublin (Ireland);
GIEACPC	Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, London (United Kingdom);
HRW	Human Rights Watch, Geneva (Switzerland);
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva (Switzerland);
JAI	Just Atonement Inc., New York (United States of America);
LLG	London Legal Group, London (United Kingdom);
PL	Path of Law, Yerevan (Armenia);
RS	Right Side, Yerevan (Armenia);
UFI	United Families International, Gilbert (United States of America);
WCADP	World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Montreuil (France).

Joint submissions:

JS1	**Joint submission 1 submitted by**: Agate Rights Defense Center for Women with Disabilities NGO, Gyumri (Armenia); Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation, Yerevan (Armenia); Armavir Development Center, Armavir (Armenia); Armenian Progressive Youth NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Center for Legal Initiatives NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Center for Rights Development NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women, Yerevan (Armenia); Goris Press Club, Goris (Armenia); Group of Public Monitors Implementing Supervision over the Criminal-Executive Institutions and Bodies of the Ministry of Justice of RA, Yerevan (Armenia); Helsinki Association for Human Rights NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Helsinki Citizens' Assembly–Vanadzor, Vanadzor (Armenia); Helsinki Committee of Armenia Human Rights Defender NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Human Rights Research Center NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Institute of Public Policy, Yerevan

	(Armenia); Journalists' Club Asparez, Gyumri (Armenia); Khoran Ard Intellectual NGO, Gyumri (Armenia); Law Development and Protection Foundation; Legal Analyses and Development Center, Yerevan (Armenia); Mission Armenia NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); New Generation Humanitarian NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Non-Discrimination and Equality Coalition NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Open Society Foundations–Armenia, Yerevan (Armenia); Peace Dialogue NGO, Vanadzor (Armenia), Pink Human Rights Defender NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Protection of Rights without Borders NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Sexual Assault Crisis Center NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Society Without Violence NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Spitak Helsinki Group Human Rights NGO, Spitak (Armenia); Transparency International Anticorruption Center, Yerevan (Armenia); Union of Informed Citizens Consulting NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); United Nations Association of Armenia, Yerevan (Armenia); We Plus Social NGO, Gyumri (Armenia); Women's Resource Center NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Women's Support Center NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Yezidi Center for Human Rights Human Rights Defender NGO;
JS2	**Joint submission 2 submitted by**: Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis (United States of America); Human Rights Research Center, Yerevan (Armenia); Women's Resource Center Armenia, Yerevan (Armenia);
JS3	**Joint submission 3 submitted by**: Agate Rights Defense Center for Women with Disabilities NGO, Gyumri (Armenia) Arena of Education NGO; Armavir Development Center, Armavir (Armenia); Center for Rights Development NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); CineMart Youth NGO; Civic Development Educational and Research NGO; Civil Youth Center NGO; Ecological Right NGO; Ecolur Informational NGO; For Equal Rights Educational Center NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Gavar Civic Youth Center NGO, Gavar (Armenia); Helsinki Citizens' Assembly–Vanadzor, Vanadzor (Armenia); Helsinki Committee of Armenia Human Rights Defender NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Human Rights Research Center NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Institute of Migration and Social Changes, Yerevan (Armenia); Institute of Public Policy, Yerevan (Armenia); Iravates Club NGO, Hrazdan (Armenia); Journalists' Club Asparez, Gyumri (Armenia); Khoran Ard Intellectual NGO, Gyumri (Armenia); Martuni Women's Community Council NGO, Martuni (Armenia); Mission Armenia NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); New Generation Humanitarian NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Open Society Foundations–Armenia, Yerevan (Armenia); Pink Human Rights Defender NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Real World, Real People NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Social justice NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Spitak Helsinki Group Human Rights NGO, Spitak (Armenia); Transparency International Anticorruption Center, Yerevan (Armenia); We Plus Social NGO, Gyumri (Armenia); Women's Empowerment Center' NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Youth Avangard NGO, Yerevan (Armenia); Youth Syunik Youth NGO;
JS4	**Joint submission 4 submitted by**: Women's Resource Center Armenia, Yerevan (Armenia); Sexual Rights Initiative, Geneva (Switzerland);
JS5	**Joint submission 5 submitted by**: Socioscope, Yerevan (Armenia); Pink Armenia, Yerevan (Armenia); Women's Resource Center, Yerevan (Armenia); Real World, Real People, Yerevan (Armenia); Human Rights House Foundation, Geneva (Switzerland);

JS6	**Joint submission 6 submitted by**: Equality Now, London (United Kingdom); Sexual Assault Crisis Center Armenia, Yerevan (Armenia), Armavir Development Centre NGO, Armavir (Armenia);
JS7	**Joint submission 7 submitted by**: ECPAT International, Bangkok (Thailand); Hope & Help, Yerevan (Armenia);
JS8	**Joint submission 8 submitted by**: Pink Armenia, Yerevan (Armenia); Eastern European Coalition of LGBT+ Equality;
JS9	**Joint submission 9 submitted by**: Equal Rights Trust, London (United Kingdom); Non-Discrimination and Equality Coalition, Yerevan (Armenia).
National human rights institution:	
HRD	The Human Rights Defender of Armenia, Yerevan (Armenia).
Regional intergovernmental organization(s):	
CoE	The Council of Europe, Strasbourg (France); **Attachments:** **CoE-CM**–Committee of Ministers, Resolution CM/ResCMN(2018)5 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Armenia (May 2018); **CPT**–European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Report to the Armenian Government on the visit to Armenia carried out from 5 to 15 October 2015, CPT/Inf (2016) 31 (November 2016); **ECSR**–European Committee of Social Rights, Conclusions 2018 on Armenia (March 2018); **GRETA**–Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Armenia, GRETA(2017)1 (March 2017).
OSCE-ODIHR	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Warsaw (Poland).

[2] HRD submission to the universal periodic review of Armenia, para. 27.
[3] Ibid., para. 4.
[4] Ibid., para. 5.
[5] Ibid., para. 31.
[6] Ibid., para. 10.
[7] Ibid., para. 37.
[8] Ibid., paras. 13 and 40.
[9] Ibid., para. 14.
[10] Ibid., para. 39.
[11] Ibid., para. 36.
[12] Ibid., para. 44.
[13] Ibid., para. 26.
[14] Ibid., para. 8.
[15] Ibid., para. 7.
[16] Ibid., para. 46.
[17] Ibid., para. 16.
[18] Ibid., para. 21.
[19] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, paras. 120.1–120.26 and 120.45–120.46.
[20] JS3, para. 15.1. See also JS7, p. 9.
[21] HRW, para. 22, JS9, para. 38.
[22] WCADP, para. 6. See also LLG, para. 16; JS3, para. 15.1.
[23] LLG, para. 4.
[24] HRW, para. 19; JS1, p. 9; JS2, para. 49; JS6, p. 9, JS7, p. 9; JS9, para. 25.
[25] JS3, para. 3.1, JS6, p. 9, JS7, p. 9, JS9, para. 26.
[26] ICAN, p. 1.
[27] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, paras. 120.27-120.33, 120.44, 120.48–120.52, 120.55-120.56, 120.82, 120.84, 121.1 and 121.7.
[28] JS1, pp. 7-8. See also CoE, p. 3; EPF, paras. 1 and 4; JS2, paras. 6 and 49; JS8, paras. 3 and 34; JS9,

paras. 9 and 59.
[29] Ibid., p. 13. See also JS9, para. 74.
[30] HRW, para. 7. See also JS1, p. 8.
[31] JS7, p. 9.
[32] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, paras. 120.43, 120.47, 120.72, 120.79–120.81, 120.83, 120.85–120.86 and 121.2.
[33] CoE-CM, Resolution CM/ResCMN(2018)5, p. 2. See also JS8, para. 36.
[34] JS8, para. 33.
[35] HRW, para. 4. See also JAI, para. 21; OSCE/ODIHR, para. 28. See also RS, p. 5.
[36] CoE, p. 3.
[37] JS8, para. 38, JS9, para. 62.
[38] RS, p. 6. See also JS8, paras. 17-19.
[39] JS1, p. 7.
[40] EPF, para. 13.
[41] JS3, para. 18.1.
[42] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, paras. 120.87–120.98 and 121.3.
[43] JS1, p. 3.
[44] CPT, paras. 26-27.
[45] CIVICUS, para. 1.4. See also LLG, para. 9; JS5, para. 6.
[46] JS1, p. 11.
[47] Ibid., p. 3.
[48] CPT, para. 81.
[49] Ibid., para. 110.
[50] JS9, para. 23.
[51] Ibid., paras. 36-37.
[52] JS1, p. 2.
[53] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, paras. 120.126–120.135 and 120.145.
[54] JS1, p. 1.
[55] Ibid.
[56] JS1, p. 3.
[57] HRW, paras. 8 and 14. See also JS1, pp. 11-12, JS5, para. 6; LLG, para. 23.
[58] CoE, p. 8.
[59] PL, para. 6.
[60] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, paras. 120.139–120.144, 120.146–120.155, 121.8 and 121.10.
[61] CIVICUS, paras. 1.4 and 2.2. See also FLD, paras. 5, 7, 10, 11 and 14; JS1, p. 12; JS5, para. 6; JS5, paras. 20-27; JS9, paras. 69-72
[62] FLD, para. 16 (h). See also CIVICUS, para. 6.1.
[63] JS5, para. 2.
[64] Ibid., para. 4.
[65] CIVICUS, para. 6.2.
[66] OSCE/ODIHR, para. 8 (d).
[67] EPF, paras. 2 and 11. See also JS1, p. 7.
[68] OSCE/ODIHR, para. 12 (a) and (b).
[69] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, paras. 120.119–120.125.
[70] GRETA, p. 42.
[71] Ibid.
[72] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, paras. 120.137–120.138.
[73] JS3, para. 7.2.
[74] Ibid., paras. 7.3 and 9.
[75] Ibid., paras. 10.1 and 11.3–11.4.
[76] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, para. 120.159.
[77] JS1, p. 10.
[78] JS3, para. 20.2.
[79] Ibid., para. 20.2.
[80] ECSR, p. 13.
[81] JS3, para. 20.2.
[82] ECSR, pp. 20 and 24.
[83] CoE, p. 3. See also JS3, para. 26.1.
[84] JS3, para. 27.2.
[85] CoE, p. 3.
[86] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, paras. 120.161 and 120.163.

87 CoE, p. 3.
88 JS3, para. 26.1.
89 Ibid., para. 24.1.
90 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, paras. 120.162 and 120.164–120.165.
91 JS3, para. 9.
92 JS4, pp. 3 and 8-9. See also JS9, para. 45.
93 JS3, para. 8.3.
94 JS1, p. 10. See also JS4, paras. 13-17.
95 JS3, para. 14.1.
96 JS1, p. 4.
97 JS3, paras. 12.1-12.3. See also JS4, paras. 27-31.
98 JS4, p. 5.
99 Ibid., paras. 9 and 12.
100 RS, p. 6.
101 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, para. 120.166.
102 JS3, para. 4.2.
103 Ibid., para. 4.2.
104 JS1, p. 9. See also JS3, para. 5.4.
105 JS3, para. 4.3.
106 HRW, para. 22.
107 CoE-CM, p. 1. See also LLG, para. 7.
108 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, paras. 120.53–120.54, 120.57–120.71, 120.73–120.77, 120.99–120.115 and 120.156–120.158.
109 HRW, para. 19. See also JAI, paras. 11-14; JS1, p. 9; JS9, paras. 12 and 15.
110 FLD, para. 6. See also HRW, para. 16; JAI, para. 27; JS2, paras. 2, 8, 13-21; JS9, para. 14.
111 HRW, para. 19. See also JS1, p. 9; JS2, para. 49; JS9, para. 27.
112 Ibid., para. 19. See also JAI, para. 26; CoE, pp. 2-3; JS8, para. 46.
113 JS1, p. 9. See also JS2, paras. 32-33 and 49; JS9, paras. 18 and 29
114 JS6, para. 6.
115 CoE, p. 2.
116 JS6, p. 10.
117 EPF, paras. 3 and 14. See also LLG, paras. 6-7; JS1, pp. 8-9; JS2, para. 44; JS4, paras. 22–26; JS6, para. 23.
118 JS7, p. 9.
119 UFI, para. 6.
120 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11 paras. 120.34–120.42, 120.116–120.118, 120.136, 121.4 and 121.6.
121 JS3, para. 2.2.
122 JS7, p. 14.
123 JS3, para. 2.2.
124 GIEACPC, p. 2.
125 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, paras. 120.167–120.171.
126 JAI, para. 9.
127 HRW, para. 22.
128 Ibid., para. 22.
129 JS3, para. 14.2. See also JS9, para. 35.
130 CoE, p. 3.
131 JS1, p. 10.
132 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, paras. 120.78, 120.172–120.179 and 121.9.
133 JS1, pp. 8-9.
134 LLG, para. 17.
135 CoE, p. 2.
136 CoE-CM, p. 2.
137 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/11, paras. 120.160 and 121.5.
138 JS3, para. 22.1.
139 Ibid., para. 23.2.