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NEW GENERATION



Human Rights Violations Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Republic of Armenia

**Alternative Report
Regarding the List of Issues
CEDAW/C/ARM/Q/7**

83rd Session
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
Review of the sixth periodic report by Armenia

August 2022

Human Rights Violations Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Republic of Armenia. Alternative Report Regarding the List of Issues CEDAW/C/ARM/Q/7. 83rd Session Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Review of the sixth periodic report by Armenia.

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I. Introduction

1. The current Alternative Report — a commentary on the List of Issues CEDAW/C/ARM/Q/7 — is submitted as per the invitation of the Committee that welcomes “alternative reports” from regional NGOs regarding the observation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (later, Convention) by a State Party, in this case, by Armenia.

2. In its List of Issues CEDAW/C/ARM/Q/7 (hereinafter, LoI), among other issues, the Committee inquired Armenia to indicate the steps it undertook to integrate the recommendations provided by the civil society as to encouraged the office of the Human Rights Defender to strengthen the implementation of its anti-discrimination mandate, in particular regarding lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons’ rights (LoI №5). Further, the Committee asked that the State Party reported on measures taken to counter stereotypical attitudes towards people who experience intersecting forms of discrimination for being lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LoI №9). Finally, within the scope of this alternative report, the Committee queried that Armenia offered information on periodic and mandatory training for health workers on women’s and girls’ sexual and reproductive health and rights, paying particular attention to lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and intersex persons (LoI №15).

3. “ECOM - Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity” filed a report¹ on human rights violations of lesbian, bisexual, and trans (LBT) women based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE) with the honorable Committee in 2021. Said report outlined the: lacking state of Armenian legislation in terms of all-encompassing protection against all forms of discrimination; hostile attitude of the government, the law enforcement, the medical staff, and the general public towards the LGBT+ community as a whole; state-sponsored homophobia and transphobia; as well as a large number of documented cases of violence, ill-treatment and torture of trans women as a result of hate crimes based on SOGIE discrimination that happened in Armenia routinely and went unpunished. Considering the above issues that the Committee found based on the reporting of the civil society in its LoI, CEDAW/C/ARM/Q/7, unfortunately, the Republic of Armenia (RA) has not acted to address them properly or in any decent, measurable way.

4. The current alternative report is filed by ECOM, a regional NGO, in coalition with an Armenian New Generation Humanitarian NGO (NGNGO) to emphasize the dire situation the human rights of LBT people in Armenia are in. Regardless of the Committee’s implications and directions, the Armenian government still has not established any proper rapport with the LGBT+ civil society. To this day, Armenia has not adopted any noticeable measures, steps, or regulations to explicitly address the issues raised by the Committee in its LoI based on a wide range of reports outlining widespread unpunished SOGIE-based discrimination and violence that befalls LBT people, especially, trans women, in Armenia.

5. Article 18 section 1 of the Convention outlines that “States Parties undertake to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the present Convention and on the progress made in this respect.” ECOM and NGNGO consider that, within

¹ Alternative Report Regarding CO CEDAW/C/ARM/CO/5-6, ECOM, 2021
https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fICO%2fARM%2f45061&Lang=en

the scope of the right to equality (article 2 of the Convention) and the right to health (article 12 section 1; article 14 section 1 para (b) of the Convention), Armenia fails to adopt any of the measures required by the Convention to facilitate the respect for the human rights and freedoms enshrined therein when it comes to LBT people on its territory. The given Alternative Report is meant to serve as additional information regarding the non-discrimination of LBT people but, particularly, trans women in Armenia, the observation of their right to equality and right to health and as an instrument to advance positive changes to amend the current underwhelming position in which the mentioned minority group tends to find itself.

II. Article 2 — Right to Equality

6. Armenia still has not adopted a law that would ban all forms of discriminations, including, discrimination based on SOGIE. There is a draft law "On Ensuring Equality" pending since 2018. The draft law was published on the unified website for publication of legal acts drafts (e-draft.am). However, the law has still not been adopted. Moreover, as previously reported by ECOM, the draft law in itself misses a number of provisions prohibiting discrimination, for instance, it does not include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected grounds. NGNGO documented 130 cases of discrimination and violence on the basis of SOGIE in 2020 alone,² and 106 cases of SOGI-based discrimination and human rights violations in 2021. PINK Armenia, an LGBT rights group, documented 12 incidents of physical attacks based on sexual orientation or gender identity from January through August 2021, and eight cases of threats and calls for physical and psychological violence. In 13 cases, violence and threat of violence were committed by a family member.³ The majority of victims refuse to proceed with legal action against their abusers as they have been repeatedly subjected to ill-treatment or otherwise abused by the law enforcement itself or have been threatened with ill-treatment by the bodies that should, in essence and as defined by Armenian law, protect them.⁴ Human Rights Watch indicates that "fear of discrimination and possible humiliation due to public disclosure of their sexual orientation or gender identity prevent many LGBT people from reporting crimes against them, even when these are clearly motivated by anti-LGBT bias."⁵ Even when reported, investigations into such crimes are often inconclusive or ineffective. There is no proper, explicit law that would ban discrimination based on SOGIE and would define respective hate crimes and aggravating circumstances. LBT women lack preventive legal measures to be safe from SOGIE-based discrimination and once such discrimination has occurred, they lack the legal provisions that would allow them to protect and defend themselves in accordance with the motive of the perpetrator — which would be hate for the victim based on their SOGIE. Various LGBT+ NGOs, including NGNGO, filed recommendations regarding the said draft law "On Ensuring Equality" with propositions on how to improve it. The Armenian government rejected it, arguing that all legislation of the Republic of Armenia shall proceed with the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, whereas, Article 29 thereof: The Prohibition of Discrimination does not provide SOGIE as protected grounds from discrimination. There is no valid reason for such a fundamental law to remain a draft for over four years, since 2018, except for the fact that RA is not intent on actually adopting it and extending proper protection against discrimination for everyone, regardless of their social attributes, including regardless of their SOGIE.

7. With this in mind, there are no appropriate laws that allow the victims of SOGIE-based discrimination to effectively restore their violated rights. The analysis of the documented cases by NGNGO shows that most LBT people (as victims) do

² Annual Legal Report, NGNGO, 2020, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HMv69ojW0YGi8tx62a6Wr-vFI8RsR7B7/view>

³ "World Report 2022: Armenia," Human Rights Watch, 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/armenia>

⁴ NGNGO Input for the 11th EU-Armenia Human Rights Dialogue, NGNGO, 2020,

<https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=7C15211A1DA68422!14744&ithint=file%2cdocx&authkey=!AL63IXjqeH5iBdo>

⁵ "World Report 2022: Armenia," Human Rights Watch, 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/armenia>

not receive proper legal criminal qualification by the law enforcement agencies: they are often qualified under lighter articles or, most often, as hooliganism, and, in most cases, criminal cases are not launched based on the actual case materials and evidence.⁶ The motive — SOGIE-based bias — for committing a hate crime or a hate speech act against an LBT person is not foreseen by any criminal or administrative legislation. There is no legal precedent for the courts to follow as well. Moreover, the high levels of stigma against the LGBT+ community as a whole from the general public and state-sponsored acts of homophobia and transphobia prohibit any law enforcement agencies or judiciary from trying to extend the existing general provisions to somehow include protection for SOGIE grounds. On the contrary, the absence of the necessary protection laws and the high level of stigma invite discrimination perpetrated against the LBT by the very bodies established to protect their human rights. There is no possibility for trans women, to restore their rights that have been violated based on their SOGIE. RA's criminal legislation has no material and procedural provisions to prevent, investigate, and punish hate crimes, especially SOGIE-based hate crimes. Hate crimes as such are not even stipulated legislatively the way the international community understands them. Hate speech is not commonly defined and regulated by the Armenian law either.

8. Hate speech against the LGBT+ is widespread in Armenia. 2021 was a year full of events for the State Party. NGNGO conducted a monitoring⁷ of the Internet and mass media for bias mentioning of LGBT in 2021 where it found the already stereotypical weaponisation of LGBT to discredit any opposition that would argue for progressive change. After the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, a number of movements started demanding the resignation of Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and it continued until April 2021. The border issues that arose after the war further inflamed the situation. The Internet was full of hate speech and videos. Some actors did not miss the opportunity to target LGBT people as well. Many politicians and public figures, particularly those who supported the previous government, used anti-LGBT rhetoric, often presenting LGBT people as a threat to national security. After a number of protests, on March 18, 2021, RA Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan announced parliamentary elections for June 20, 2021. During the election campaign, both the ruling and opposition parties were campaigning in different settlements of RA. The campaigns were more intense particularly in the border province of Syunik. RA Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's visit to Syunik province on April 21, 2021 was accompanied by protest actions. Residents of a number of communities tried to hinder the movement of the Prime Minister, demanding him to leave. One of the protesters, expressing his indignation towards the Prime Minister, called out: "You've gathered with a few faggots, made a government, do you want to break our guys?" The video quickly spread through a number of media outlets and various social media platforms. After that, a number of social networks started targeting LGBT people again. On June 17, 2021, during the pre-election campaign, candidate for prime minister Nikol Pashinyan paid a short visit to Shurnukh on his Facebook page, thanking the people of Shurnukh for the warm reception. Later, a number of media outlets spread news that the organiser of the "warm" reception for Pashinyan and Pashinyan's active interlocutor is the father of a famous LGBT activist from Shurnukh. Further, on June 1, 2021, when the International Children's Day was celebrated, the event had a visualisation with a rainbow. Some people presented this as the flag of the LGBT community displayed during the event dedicated to children, alleging that the RA Prime Minister was trying to ensure the support of this community in the upcoming early parliamentary elections. One of the supporters of the "I have the Honor" parties block, also spoke about this topic. On June 2, 2021, he wrote on his Facebook page: "The capitulator, having raised flag on the Republic Square, asks the LGBT community to support

⁶ NGNGO Input for the 11th EU-Armenia Human Rights Dialogue, NGNGO, 2020, <https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=7C15211A1DA68422!14744&ithint=file%2cdocx&authkey=!AL63IXjqeH5iBdo>

⁷ Hate Speech and Discrimination Against LGBT People on the Online Platform, NGNGO, 2021, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-RAMwA0WOrbHiwn6q-xdXHOY-3mvsprV/view>

him in the elections... Poor Armenian people, what you have come to?... PS You know, we were celebrating International Children's Day! No such luck!" Apart from this, on July 14, 2021, the newspaper "Iravunk" spread the following information: "The founder and co-chairman of the Women's Resource Center NGO, who is best known in Armenia as a prominent defender of the LGBT community, often meets with the judge of the Constitutional Court. They are quite close. These two are making new plans related to the LGBT community at nights. Holding an LGBT parade in Armenia is at the core of the duet plan." (names are excluded). NGNGO holds annual events on May 17 to celebrate the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia. In 2021, NGNGO traditionally hosted relevant events as well. In their aftermath, as the respective participants would post their experience and thoughts about the events on the Internet, they, again, became a target for expressions of discrimination and hate against the LGBT people.⁸

9. Such hate speech against LGBT+ people goes unpunished in Armenia. LGBT people often become the target of hate speech not only by radical nationalist groups but also by public figures and other officials. All this is presented in the Armenia 2020 Human Rights Report published by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the US Department of State, indicating that "transgender persons were especially vulnerable to physical and psychological abuse and harassment."⁹ The events taking place in 2021 indicate that anti-LGBT discourses and hate calls escalated particularly during the period of intensification of political processes, i.e. for political purposes. Many political and public figures, especially supporters of the former government, used anti-LGBT rhetoric, often presenting LGBT people as a "threat to national security" in order to turn the population against the current government. Each time such manifestations of hate condition the boundaries from the point of view of moderate application of the right to freedom of expression, and, in this sense, are defined as "hate speech." The absence of a law against hate speech allows public figures and the media to promote hate in the context of freedom of speech. LGBT women, and the LGBT+ community as a whole, are weaponised by any political forces whenever they need to discredit their opponents, especially those who are trying to usher in progress and positive change.

10. Trans women are especially susceptible to SOGIE-based discrimination. Despite the Committee's previous Concluding Observations and current LoI, Armenia made no progress to alleviate the stigma, discrimination, and violence that befall trans people. There is no properly established procedure for gender recognition. Trans women cannot acquire new identifying documents based on their chosen gender identity and expression freely. The only option is to present a medical certificate that proves a person underwent gender affirming surgery. However, gender affirming surgery is not regulated by Armenian law. Also, a trans woman who does not want to undergo the surgery, virtually, has no option to obtain the desired documents to recognise their gender. NGNGO has drafted the draft law on Legal Recognition of Gender Identity and the draft for additions to N 276-Ն Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of March 27 2008, the adoption of which will allow transgender people to legally undergo gender-affirming procedures in Armenia. The draft legal acts and their justifications were submitted to the Ministries of Health and Justice of the Republic of Armenia. The Ministry of Justice informed that the suggestions will be discussed in the context of possible legislative changes of the Ministry of Justice, but nothing has been undertaken so far. The Ministry of Health rejected the request to make the suggestions a subject for

⁸ Hate Speech and Discrimination Against LGBT People on the Online Platform, NGNGO, 2021, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-RAMwA0WOrbHiwn6q-xdXHOY-3mvsprV/view>

⁹ Armenia 2020 Human Rights Report, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the US Department of State, 2020, <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/ARMENIA-2020-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf>

discussion.¹⁰ This intersecting discrimination results in trans people being forced into leading degrading lives in all aspects. It is currently impossible for trans women to achieve the highest attainable standard of living in Armenia, as they cannot even achieve a decent one because of lacking legislation and state-sponsored discrimination of the LGBT overall.

11. In February 2022, the Human Rights Defender (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Armenia changed. The latter has shown to be more open about publicly speaking about SOGI-based discrimination which can be considered to be a progress as compared to the previous human rights defenders of Armenia who always avoided the issue in their public speeches. Moreover, the new Ombudswoman is more cooperative with the NGOs working with the LGBT+ issues in Armenia in form of their participation to the NGOs' meeting discussions about the issue of LGBT+ people in Armenia. Nonetheless, without proper support from the government and proper legislation in place, considering how various political forces quickly weaponise the LGBT+ to discredit any opponent, there is no guarantee for the new Ombudswoman office and the effectiveness of her work in the direction of sensitization of the government and raising the awareness of the general public with regards to SOGIE issues, as well as guarantee for her work to protect the LGBT+ community from discrimination.

III. Article 12 and 14 — Right to Health

12. The HIV/AIDS Prevention Strategic Program of the Republic of Armenia¹¹ includes the HIV Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS) among the most-at-risk groups as part of HIV prevention and control interventions. In 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 IBBS was conducted among people, who use drugs, female sex workers and men having sex with men. Due to the NGNGO advocacy and visibility raising activities, also due to the fact that since 2016 NGNGO started reporting the program results separately for MSM and trans people, as well as considering the Global Fund recommendations, the IBBS is conducted separately among trans people, too, since 2018.

13. NGNGO took part in the field work of IBBS 2021¹², conducting studies among MSM, female sex workers and trans people. Based on the results of IBBS-2018, the estimation number of MSM was 16,100, the number of trans people was 150 and the number of female CSWs was 4,600. Due to the advocacy activity as well as field studies carried out by NGNGO, within the implementation period of IBBS-2021, the estimation number of MSM has been reported as 22,716, the number of trans women as 1,015, and the number of female sex workers as 8,140. Thus, the estimation number of MSM has increased by 6,616, the number of trans women has increased by 865 people and the number of female CSWs has increased by 3,540 as compared to the previous IBBS-2018 results.

14. Due to advocacy work as well as empowerment of LGBTI community leaders, NGNGO has finally achieved inclusion of a trans community representative as a member to the Country Coordinating Mechanism against HIV/AIDs, Tuberculosis and Malaria of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter CCM), i.e., in the decision-making processes in the field of HIV. The NGNGO has been actively involved in the development process of HIV national Strategic Plan 2022-2026 of the Republic of Armenia (Strategic Plan) in the relevant meeting discussions, and though the draft of the plan or the plan itself has not been received by NGNGO yet, however, during the meeting discussions with the stakeholders and representatives of MOH Armenia,

¹⁰ NGNGO Input for the 11th EU-Armenia Human Rights Dialogue, NGNGO, 2020, <https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=7C15211A1DA68422!14744&ithint=file%2cdocx&authkey=!AL63IXjqeH5iBdo>

¹¹ <https://ngngo.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/1.pdf>

¹² https://ncid.am/uploads/shared-files/Armenia_IBBS-2021_ENG.pdf

the latter have confirmed their intentions to include transgender people in the Strategic Plan as a separate target population.

15. Trans people cannot acquire satisfactory healthcare services because of the danger to the secrecy of their SOGIE and health status. There are no legal provisions that regulate the gender reassignment surgery in Armenia. Additionally, the RA Government Decision N 276, 27 March 2008, which outlines the types of medical care and services conducted for the people of Armenia, does not include gender reassignment as a type of healthcare service available in the country. Trans people would have to go abroad to perform the surgery and come back; they would also not have any ability to apply for post-surgery care and hormonal therapy. There is also danger of them not being able to re-enter Armenia because of the disparity between their new appearance and the old documents. Trans people sometimes invite doctors to Armenia (or turn to local doctors) and perform the surgery undercover, again, without any guarantee of a follow-up treatment and they are not protected in case the surgery is performed badly. One prominent Armenian trans activist, shared that it's a big problem, because there are trans people who do not want gender affirming surgery.¹³ Access to hormone treatment is also a problem in the country. She was the first trans woman in Armenia to legally change her name in her passport in 2015; she changed the gender marker to 'F' in 2021, all of which took a very long, protracted, humiliating, and costly litigation with state bodies. The situation has not in any way improved in the succeeding years, either. In February 2022, trans person who has undergone gender affirming surgery, applied to NGNGO, informing that she had applied to the Civil Status Acts Registration Agency, MOJ of RA, for gender marker change, presenting all the required documents, however no actions were taken by the Agency for over one month. NGNGO assisted the person to write a complaint letter to MOJ Minister, only after which the trans person was provided the relevant certificate and she was finally able to make her gender marker change in her identification documents. The gender recognition procedure should be akin to a regular administrative process without deeming trans women to be recognised as psychiatrically ill and as having undergone gender affirming surgery to be the only reason for receiving identifying documents based on the trans person's chosen new identity. Unfortunately, issues of trans health and legal gender recognition are unregulated in Armenia by law whatsoever.

16. The absence of the ability to change one's gender legally, regardless of them undergoing the gender affirming surgery or not, also facilitates the inadequate representation of trans women as victims of hate crimes. With this in mind, the Independent Expert concluded that "transphobic crimes are at times rendered invisible by a lack of proper identification of the victim. The fact that trans women are as a rule registered with sole reference to the gender marker in their official identity documents leads to most of them being registered as men, literally erasing the problematic that they face."¹⁴ Regardless of any stereotypes, science (in ICD-10 and ICD-11) has long debunked all the phobic statements and biased claims regarding trans people being inherently psychiatrically ill and having the need to be diagnosed as such and only then be allowed (if allowed) to change their gender marker and other identifying documentation in order to suit their chosen gender identity.

17. The above-mentioned issues in this section of the report result in trans women's health and very lives being endangered. Because they are not protected from SOGIE-based discrimination by law and because they cannot acquire proper documents to recognise their gender expression and live freely according to their own self-determination, they have trouble getting employed and being integrated into the society at large.

¹³ "Armenian Activist Won't Stop Fight for Trans Rights," Opendemocracy.net, 2022, <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/transgender-rights-armenia-lilit-martirosyan/>

¹⁴ ECRI Report on Georgia (Fifth Monitoring Cycle) A/HRC/41/45/Add.1, <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/41/45/ADD.1?>, para 44

As a result, they frequently resort to sex work to make ends meet. The sex work in Armenia is uncharted, highly stigmatized, and dark, which only adds to intersecting discrimination of trans women sex workers. The latter are frequently blackmailed, assaulted, or even killed by their clients (law enforcement officers are often among such clients), as shown in multiple cases of violence against trans women outlined in the 2021 ECOM report¹⁵ to the Committee. In addition to not being able to receive proper trans healthcare, as there is no regulation, trans women also cannot receive regular healthcare for the same aforementioned reasons. They also cannot receive proper preventive or treatment HIV services due to various intersecting forms of discrimination, which only endangers their health evermore. Medical workers, as shown in the 2021 ECOM report, also resort to physical and verbal violence against trans people, refuse to provide aid, commit forced outing, disclose their confidential medical information or blackmail them. Having said that, there is also discriminatory and aggressive attitude towards the NGO representatives working on LGBT issues from state bodies. Notably, the Head of Legal Department of the Ministry of Health of Armenia exhibited apparent homophobic and transphobic attitude. NGNGO filed a letter with the Prime Minister of Armenia and its copy to the Minister of Health of Armenia, describing an incident of an intolerant and discriminatory attitude of MOH legal department head towards NGNGO representatives participating in a discussion about the issues of LGBTI people during a meeting at the Ministry of Health on July 7, 2022.¹⁶ The MOH issued a response letter, stating that the head of MOH law department is a civil worker, and currently the Armenian legislation doesn't establish any rules/code of conduct for civil workers, so it can be concluded that the MOH cannot or does not want, or doesn't have the relevant tools/mechanisms to do any action against the misbehavior of their employee.

IV. Concluding Note

18. Lesbian, bisexual and trans women in Armenia do not have the opportunity to enjoy even a decent standard of living and health, not to mention the highest attainable standard at all. The right to health is a fundamental right of every person: it is the foundation for them to enjoy all of their other human rights and fundamental freedoms. LBT women do not enjoy their right to health, right to privacy, right to self-determination, and right to life as a result, because the State Party does not have a comprehensive anti-discrimination law in place. Sadly, Armenia denies LBT women a framework of protection of their rights based on sexual orientation and gender identity as attributes that are universally protected by the Convention. Seeing how many events happened in Armenia because of the desire of the people to live in a democratic, legal, and free state, it is unfortunate and illegal that the government denies the LBT the necessary legal levers needed to protect them from discrimination, stigmatization, hate, and violence. If Armenia wants to achieve true positive changes in its form of governance and state affairs, there is no way around denying its disadvantaged groups their rights and freedoms enshrined in the Convention.

¹⁵ Alternative Report Regarding CO CEDAW/C/ARM/CO/5-6, ECOM, 2021

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fICO%2fARM%2f45061&Lang=en

¹⁶ Letter to MOH, NGNGO, 2022, Available in Armenian:

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21A1mzcXTwbX9btCc&cid=7C15211A1DA68422&id=7C15211A1DA68422%2139135&parId=7C15211A1DA68422%2139122&o=OneUp>

V. Recommendations

19. ECOM and NGNGO asks the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, during its 83rd Session, to demand that:

- Armenia undertakes active measures with haste, specifically, to adopt legislation that would ban all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression within a reasonable timeframe;
- Armenia exercises activities to include SOGIE as aggravating circumstances for committing a crime, as well as to criminalize hate speech and hate acts based on SOGIE;
- Armenia takes steps to exclude homosexuality, gender dysphoria, and "transsexualism" or any other related terms from its list of psychiatric disorders as per the recommendations and data available in ICD-10 and ICD-11;
- Armenia undertakes to adopt an evidence-based, progressive national HIV-prevention plan that would include LBT women as individual key population groups, allocate the necessary resources for their HIV-coverage, and start gathering proper HIV-statistics in relation to LBT women;
- Armenia creates and adopts a progressive, evidence-based legislative framework for legal gender recognition and change of gender markers for trans people at large, making gender recognition akin to a regular administrative process, as well as eliminates the need to undergo gender