
Annual Report

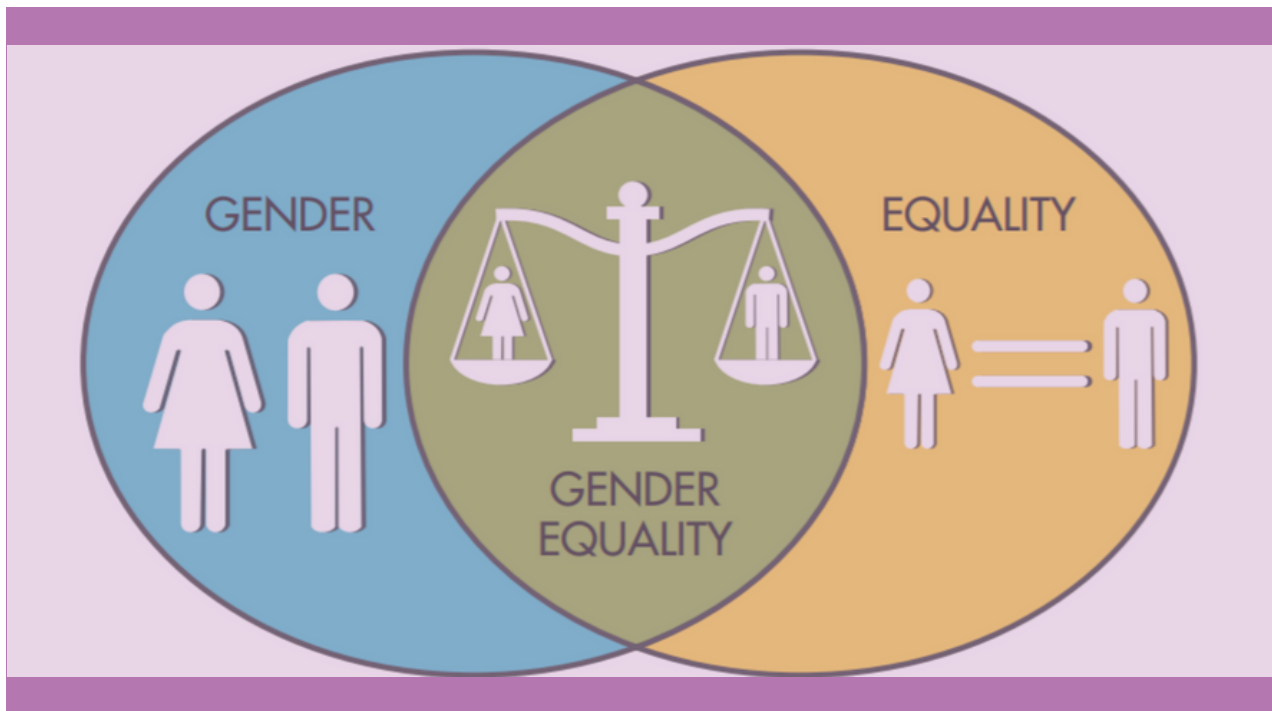
2019



**SOCIETY
WITHOUT
VIOLENCE**

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SINCE 2001



About us

Society Without Violence is a registered non-governmental organisation founded in 2001. SWV is a women's rights defender organization widely recognized not only in Armenia, but also in the South Caucasus due to its advocacy work on national and regional levels. From the inception the organization primarily focuses its projects on empowering young girls and women to become feminist activists, leaders in civil society and advocates of gender equality.

Our aim is to educate and empower young women, promote gender equality, advocate for women's representation and participation in all levels of decision-making and peace-building processes, contribute to the elimination of gender-based stereotypes, discrimination and violence.

Mission

Promote women's active involvement in the socio-economic, political and public life of Armenia through education.

Vision

Our vision is to have a society free of violence led by democratic values rooted in gender equality, a society where women/human rights are protected.

Organization's Pillars for 2019

Gender Education

One of the main objectives of SWV is to empower women and raise awareness on women's rights. SWV emphasizes the essential role of education in fulfilling this objective

Women in Politics

One of the important indicators of the establishment and consolidation of democracy is, among others, women's political participation in all levels of decision-making. Every person regardless of gender, has equal rights and should be provided with equal opportunities to participate in the political and civic life. SWV is working towards above indicated goal

Anti-discrimination

SWV advocates for the establishment of an effective enforcement mechanisms and strategies for prevention of the violence, prosecution of the perpetrators and rehabilitation of the victims of domestic abuse.

Women's Economic Emancipation

Women's economic emancipation is one of the pillars of SWV. Extensive research evidences that there is a massive gender gap in political participation and employment opportunities between men and women. Therefore, the truest way to push women forward to economic emancipation is to economically empower them.

Achievements

- 6 meeting/round table discussions involving members of governmental bodies, international organizations, and researchers to advocate for policy changes, and provision of gender-sensitive educational system
 - 9 training sessions on gender stereotypes and gender discrimination for 80 participants
 - 5 sessions on organizational capacity building for 10 staff members
 - 3 publications; 2 guidelines, 1 research on gender, feminism, gender based violence, teen dating violence, peacebuilding
- Member of Public Council of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports
- 4 policy proposals prepared by "Take Action" project participants and delivered to the respective institutions
 - 9 public awareness raising campaigns; 2 with "Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women"
 - 12 volunteers engaged in SWV activities throughout the year out of them 5 became ambassadors of "Love and Respect" project and made international visits

Enabling Accessible and Sustained Gender Education in Armenia(n)



SWV aims to create a **certified academic course on gender studies in Armenia (n)**. Within the framework of this project a comprehensive academic course (off-line) i.e., thematic guidebooks/educational materials/syllabus etc. pertaining to gender, for teachers, educators, and young specialists are being developed to serve as a foundation for the online version. Throughout the project a **feminist network** has been established.

The academic course has been designed by **national and international experts** (Dr Róisín Burke (University of Canterbury, New Zealand), Lady Sian Crisp (University of Cambridge), Dr Kerrie Thornhill (University of Oxford, Brooks), Anna Arutshyan (University of Oxford, Brooks), Ani Kojoyan (Yerevan State University), Dr Hasmik Gevorgyan (Yerevan State University)). The cooperation between them is specifically aimed at incorporating international and national experiences, which will enable us to create a comprehensive academic course with components of **international principle of gender studies harmonized with the national context**.

We also initiated a **round table discussion for experts and stakeholders** to have more complete image of the issues in educational system, and to create a platform where all sides can address their recommendations and suggestions.

Love & Respect - preventing teen dating violence

There was a research gap about violence among young couples. To tackle the gap SWV initiated to conduct an intensive research among 16-26 years old to reveal the prevalence of different types of violence. The research was conducted within the framework of **Love and Respect; Preventing teen Dating Violence**. It is available in Armenian:

<http://swv.am/index.php/hy/what-we-do-am/publications-am/1247-2019-08-15-10-18-36>



SWV has implemented “Love & Respect - preventing teen dating violence” project (2017-2019). The project aims to prevent violence among young people by highlighting the devastating effects of Teen Dating Violence and advocates for specific policies targeting this issue. This is an international project which includes partner organizations from 7 countries, including, Armenia, Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Italy, Spain. The program's content is designed in a relatively new format. One of the goals of the project is to reveal different forms of violence and by visualizing it to prevent abusive behavior among young couples. In the scope of the project Love & Respect Website was created. The website provides resources, publications, contacts, quizzes. Website: <http://www.love-and-respect.org/site>

SWV has designed and implemented **“Take Action” Women’s Political Club** Project funded by the U.S. Embassy's Democracy Commission Small Grant project. The one-year project aims at equipping young females with theoretical knowledge and practical skills in women and gender, political studies and policy making and promote their participation in Armenia’s public and political spheres, to create a platform for ensuring networking among active women from regions and the capital city.

In the scope of the project a guidebook on "Gender and Feminism" and "Women, Security, Women's Political Participation" has been developed.



**Act now,
Make a Change.**



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Public Awareness Campaigns

March 8

International Day of Women's Rights

Memorandum of Understanding signed between CSOs and the RA National Assembly

Women's Day Expo (UWC)

Movie Screening

July 27

SWV Annual Gender Equality Day

Pannel Discussion

Essay Competition

Social Media Campaign

Short documentary film by Armenian young woman

October 1

National Day to Combat Domestic Violence

Public Activism in Lori region and in Yerevan

November 25

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Public Activism to raise awareness on sexual violence

Social Media Campaign in the scope of 16 Days of Activism

December 10

Human Rights Day

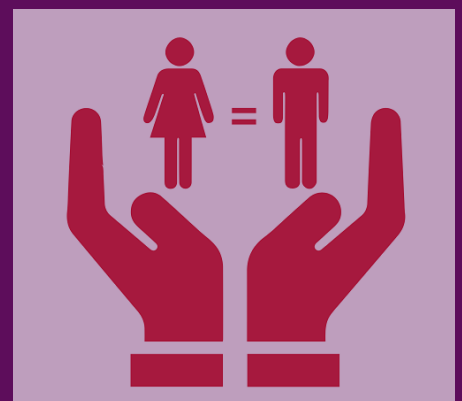
Participation in "Youth Opportunity Fair"

Since its foundation SWV contributed to the establishment of gender equality in Armenia.

For the advocacy purposes throughout 2019, SWV has organized numerous meetings, conferences and round table discussions by engaging representatives of governmental institutions. The highlight was a **meeting with deputy minister** of Education, Science, Culture and Sports has been conducted. In the scope of this, SWV has put its efforts to advocate for the establishment of accessible and sustainable gender education in Armenia.

In 2019 SWV NGO has been **reelected** in the **Public Council of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports**. SWV continues to raise the voice of women for gender equality in the public institutions.

ADVOCACY



International Networking



ASTRA Network annual conference; Central and Eastern European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

10 years anniversary of the Eastern Partnership by Forum Syd in Sweden.

The event focuses on media freedom, good governance and gender equality in the region and how the cooperation and situation for the civil society can be improved after 2020.



Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Working Group 1 "Democracy, Human Rights, Good Governance and Stability" meeting



11th Annual Assembly of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum: Joining Forces for a Win-Win Partnership"



Meeting with MEPs at European Parliament. Covered recent escalation of trans woman speech at Armenian Parliament

WE BELIEVE IN ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH AND IN GENDER EDUCATION



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