

Newsletter - April 2017

Welcome to our quarterly e-newsletter designed to keep you informed of our current activities. Below we highlight the work we've carried out in the past few months to ensure the safety of women and children victims of domestic violence and advocate for change. Engage with us by following our [Facebook](#) page, [website](#), and [contacting](#) us. We would love to hear from you!

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2016, we recorded a substantial increase in demand for our services, as more women in Armenia are fleeing domestic violence and seeking assistance than ever before. See our impact below and our [fundraiser](#) to see how you can support our mission

1 Year Follow Up



84%
of women survivors
report living free
of abuse

70%
do not live with
their abusers

63%
are working

OUR SUCCESSES

Together with the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women, we brought attention to the Ministry of Justice Compulsory Enforcement Service's mismanagement of child custody cases. As a direct result of our protests, three women—two of whom are WSC beneficiaries—were reunited with their children and have begun the process of rebuilding their families.



Protest outside the Ministry of Justice Compulsory Enforcement Service building.

TRAINING & PREVENTION

On January 31st, an international conference on preventing violence against women took place in Yerevan. The event was jointly organized by the Council of Europe, the Human Rights Defender of Armenia and the United Nations Population Fund Armenia. Among the speakers were WSC's Hasmik Gevorgyan, who spoke eloquently about the various barriers survivors face in receiving proper assistance, and WSC beneficiary and women's rights defender Hasmik Khachatryan, who spoke courageously about breaking the cycle of violence.



Hasmik Gevorgyan (left) presenting at a conference sponsored by the CoE, Human Rights Defender of Armenia, and UNFPA.

PUBLICATION

WSC's Maro Matosian recently published an [article](#) in Asbarez on the Russian-sponsored anti-gender campaign in Armenia and new developments in the region that risk softening laws against domestic violence.

UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

WSC's Ani Jilozian was invited by the UN to speak about our work at the 61st UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York City. She also spoke on a panel sponsored by the Armenian International Women's Association about the challenges that women victims of domestic violence face in achieving economic empowerment as well as the need for policy reform and greater safety nets for women in Armenia.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN: LESSONS FROM ARMENIA



Ani Jilozian (second from right) presenting at the UN Commission on the Status of Women.