

Women's Support Center

Spring 2019 Newsletter

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Welcome to our 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!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL

We started off 2019 in "New Armenia" with many interesting and encouraging initiatives by the government. The new Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Zaruhi Batoyan has an in-depth understanding of domestic violence and is open to collaboration with civil society. She chaired the first Domestic Violence Council, where WSC representatives addressed many underlying issues with inefficient government action and poor state decisions and mechanisms. We are presently preparing amendments to the domestic violence and are hopeful that these changes will be presented to the parliament this year.



FEMICIDE CONFERENCE

WSC lawyer Nona Galstyan was the main presenter at the Femicide Conference, which was organized by the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women and took place on February 19 in Yerevan. Nona identified gaps in the criminal law and how the new law is ineffective and insufficient in addressing and punishing domestic violence.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

For the first time in Armenia, on the occasion of the International Women's Day (March 8th), Deputy Chairperson of the Armenian Parliament Lena Nazaryan organized a hearing on women's issues with MPs and civil society representatives. We were proud participants at that significant event, where instead of praising women for their beauty and domestic roles, the issue of women's rights was highlighted. We are truly hopeful that the changes we are seeing at a state level will translate to greater rights for women in Armenia.



SUCCESS STORY

Our shelter has been full to date. Recently Anna came to our safe house with her 5 children. The shelter had at that time 2 babies under 6 months and 9 children under 7 years old. During the 2 months she stayed at our shelter, Anna regained her strength, the children were treated for various illnesses and with the help of the social worker we reconciled Anna with her parental family so she can live with them away from her violent husband. The criminal case is on-going.

Those who haven't already read our 2018 Annual Report can find it here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wRXrxQ6nu-J3lajocz1_RL03UPSkrrf/view