



## Women's Support Center

### Newsletter - December 2017

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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!

### HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

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Your support today will go towards...

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Food, Hygienic Products, Medical  
Care, Utilities, Rent

In 2017 the WSC served over 300 new and old beneficiaries. We received a 50% increase

in hotline calls from 2016 to 2017, and are proud to report that 57% of survivors were able to find employment and 73% live apart from their abusers. This holiday season, consider giving to women and children who are looking for a way to rebuild their lives. Your donation to the WSC will give them hope and a means to live free of abuse. Learn more by visiting <https://goto.gg/25926>.

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## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGISLATION



*WSC Executive Director Maro Matosian & WSC Lawyer Nona Galstyan participating in a public hearing on the domestic violence draft law*

After many years of advocating for reform, Armenia finally adopted a law on domestic violence prevention on December 13, 2017. The law creates obligations for police to use urgent intervention measures to protect victims, introduces court-ordered protection orders, and mandates government-run shelters for victims and trainings for service providers. Going forward, we will continue our advocacy and capacity building work to improve service delivery and keep the state accountable to its obligations under the law. For more information on the law, see: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/armine-ishkanian-maromatosian/heated-debates-around-domestic-violence-in-armenia>.

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## CAPACITY BUILDING



*WSC staff pose with trainers Holly Aldrich and Janet Yassen*

The WSC continually engages in capacity building by inviting outside professionals to train local service providers. This past autumn, we invited US-based clinical social workers Holly Aldrich and Janet Yassen for a week-long training to train social workers and psychologists at the WSC and partner organizations on trauma principles and practice.

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## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS



This year, our staff published 5 [guidelines and research studies](#) that support proper domestic violence service provision and inform best practices in the field. They include:

- Standard operating procedures for social workers serving women and girls subjected to domestic violence
- Guidelines for setting up and running a women’s refuge
- "The woman must satisfy, the man must be satisfied": Impact of domestic violence on women's sexual and reproductive health in Armenia
- Examining sex-selective abortion policy, practices, and rhetoric in Armenia from a rights perspective
- Gender politics in Armenia: An exploration of legislation, anti-gender rhetoric, and community strategies

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