Challenges in Adopting Domestic Violence Legislation in Armenia

Deputy Minister of Justice
Vigen Kocharyan
Main Topics to be covered

- Elaboration process
- Main Challenges
- Meeting Challenges
- Further steps
- Adoption of the Law
Elaboration Process

Discussions with relevant stakeholders on Draft Law

Government agencies
Civil Society Organisations
Church and law enforcement agencies
Women experienced violence
Online Public Discussions on **www.e-draft.am** platform

One of the most viewed and discussed draft laws
Main Challenges

➢ ARTIFICIAL perception

Values and traditions

Protection of human rights
DATASTANAGIRK (Code of Laws of Armenia)
by Mkhitar Gosh
12nd century
Main Accusations

➢ “Armenian families DISTORTION”

➢ “Conditions for taking CHILDREN out of FAMILIES”

➢ “INTERFERING in family RELATIONS”

➢ Anti-Western rhetoric

“National oriented” activists and NGOs
Meeting Challenges

Awareness raising campaigns

#NoToDomesticViolence

Information on

- Urgency of adopting Law
- Content and importance of Law

Elimination of

- Manipulative propaganda
- Related myths
- Disinformation
CAMPAIGN: RAISING AWARENESS ON DRAFT DV LAW
#NoToDomesticViolence

**Expected outputs**
- Series of thematic events (at least 4) to discuss and present draft law in Armenia
- Attendance of 20-30 participants at each thematic event
- Media interest and articles on DV and other related topics
- Over 50,000 social media reach and up to 1,000 engagement in some form

**Expected outcomes**
- Unified communication around the DV draft law
- Comprehensive approach to presenting the draft law to various publics
- Putting DV on public agenda and encouraging dialogue and engagement
- Synergy between all stakeholders active or associated with DV in Armenia
The Umbrella message frames

➢ The Law aims to protect and save lives

➢ The Armenian family is a family without domestic violence

➢ The Armenian traditional values condemn domestic violence against women and children
# Targets and Delivery Tools

## Social Media

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- Attempts at misinformation
Social advertising and ADboards

What You see

What her family sees
TV appearances
Submission of the Law to the Parliament

• “External pressure”
• “Draft Law is imposed by the Western countries”
• Accusations of “spying”
Amendments to the Law

“Law on Prevention of Domestic violence and Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence”

“Law on Prevention of Violence within the Family, Protection of Victims of Violence within the Family and Restoration of Peace in the Family”
Adoption of the Law
December 13, 2017

Results of the Voting of the Parliament

- For
- Against
- Abstained
The Law was adopted with a view to:

➢ Provide special protection to the family as a natural and fundamental unit of society;

➢ Set forth legal mechanisms to prevent violence within the family, ensure safety and protection of the victims of violence within the family, and guarantee their rights and legitimate interests;

➢ Ensure safety of the family members and assist in restoring peace in the family;

➢ Regulate activities of competent bodies in preventing violence within the family and protecting victims of violence within the family;

➢ Stipulate legal grounds for operation of bodies responsible for provision of psychological, material and social assistance to the victims of violence within the family and their social rehabilitation.
Istanbul Convention

Armenia signed Istanbul Convention in January 2018
Thank you for attention