



“WOMEN’S RESOURCE CENTER” NGO

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Yerevan 2025

The Women's Resource Center NGO (hereinafter, WRC) is a feminist human rights organization. WRC's vision is to establish the equal and self-determined status of women in Armenian society and to eliminate the oppression and restrictions imposed on women by the patriarchal system. Through its activities, WRC strives for behavioral and normative change in society by influencing state policy, socio-cultural, and legislative spheres. WRC was founded in 2003 and operates in three main thematic areas:

- Feminist [safe space](#) and empowerment of women and girls
- Sexual and reproductive health and [rights](#)
- Women's rights [advocacy](#).

Here is a short video about WRC's thematic areas [here](#).

This document summarizes WRC's activities according to the main thematic areas in 2024.

Feminist Safe Space

From the very first day of its founding, WRC has created a safe and welcoming environment for various groups of women. In the safe space, individuals have the opportunity to share their experiences, engage in discussions, and express themselves without facing any discrimination or criticism. We work from **Monday to Friday, from 12 pm to 6 pm**, except for Wednesdays; our safe space is open for working, studying, using our library, and interacting with staff. Here, we organize numerous *discussions, informational meetings, film screenings, book clubs, and various events aimed at improving participants' well-being and mental health*. In 2024, **353 people** visited the WRC feminist safe space to participate in various events and use the services provided by the center.

As every year, this year too, we organized two Women's Rights 3-Day training courses, on February 16-18 and June 14-16. The first training was attended by **23 people**, the second—by **24**. As a result of the courses, the participants had the opportunity to implement feminist sub-grant projects.

Four grant programs were implemented as a result of the first training, including a women's well-being gathering, meetings to raise awareness of adolescent girls' legal awareness, an information platform about Armenian women ([armfemmes](#)), and meetings on the topic of gender equality. As a result of the second training, **another four grant programs** were implemented, including an awareness-raising camp on women's rights with adolescent girls, a climate-adapted agricultural business course for young girls, awareness-raising meetings on labor rights for forcibly displaced women, and stress resilience meetings for mothers of children with health problems. Here is news coverage of the three-day training [here](#).

This year, we also organized another round of the **Girls Talk** program. Girls from various regions of Armenia and Yerevan participated in the **8 sessions** of the program. They discussed *self-discovery, healthy relationships, positive body image, feminism, activism*, and similar topics.



One of the main programs of the WRC femspace is the annual **art-activism workshop**. On July 13th, 2024 a similar workshop was organized in Martuni, during which we discussed activism through feminism and art, together we developed our art-activist ideas and implemented them in the form of graffiti.

On July 26-28, we organized the **Girls* Empowerment Camp 2024**, which was attended by **19 people**. The camp addressed topics such as feminism, self-care and mental well-being, leadership and equal participation, sexual and reproductive health, and similar issues.



Femtalks are also among the femspace important events. In 2024, we held **7 femtalks** on the following topics:

- The impact of COVID-19 on imprisoned and convicted women
- Shushanik Kurghinyan: the life and times of a revolutionary feminist
- The impact of climate change on women: femtalk and mandala making
- Women's labor rights
- The issue of abortion and its socio-cultural context in Armenia in the 1970-90s
- Woven stories
- Human papillomavirus (HPV): Why is it important to talk about this topic?



Since September, we have organized **3 movie screenings** in our femspace: [Caramel](#), [Offside](#), and [Dialogue in a Basket](#) (+ Q&A with the film's director, Varduhi Balyan).

Demonstrations

The fight for women's rights, of course, would not be complete without a resistance demonstration organized on March 8 and the campaign to expand women's rights. This year, we organized an **open discussion** addressing women's bodily autonomy.

The discussion was followed by a social media [campaign](#) aimed at further spreading our March 8th message.



Within the framework of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, on November 25, we held a silent demonstration to express solidarity with survivors of gender-based violence, to express disagreement with the atmosphere of tolerance towards violence in society, and to call on the state to adopt effective legislative mechanisms to combat violence.



Leading up to November 25 and during the 16 Days of Activism, we also carried out a comprehensive campaign aimed at raising awareness about various forms of gender-based violence, particularly [domestic violence](#) and sexual harassment in [public places](#) and the [workplace](#).

Psychological Meetings

WRC psychologists conducted a series of “Personal Growth” group therapies with two different groups during the specified period, each consisting of **9 meetings**. Individual psychological counseling was provided to another **21 people**.

Legal Consultation

In 2024, we received **237 calls** to our free legal consultation number and provided on-site consultation to **19 visitors**.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

The series of informational courses launched by WRC in November 2023 for forcibly displaced pregnant women from Artsakh continued from January 2024 onwards. The series consisted of **6 meetings**, during which a number of important topics were discussed. In total, **61 women** participated in the courses.



On this occasion, on October 22 and 23, we conducted an online training-discussion for about **200 healthcare professionals** on the topic of legislative changes regarding medical abortion. The purpose of the training was to familiarize participants with the new procedure for performing medical abortions, as well as international standards and practices. As a result of the training, **20 healthcare professionals** were selected from 200 to participate in an off-site meeting, where the principles of the new medical abortion guidelines were discussed in more detail.



On September 28, ahead of International Safe Abortion Day, we implemented a [social media campaign](#) aimed at raising awareness of legislative changes regarding medical abortion in Armenia. In the campaign, we addressed the issues of abortion accessibility and collective efforts to address them in order to make abortion a stigma-free reality for everyone.



Women's Rights Advocacy

The Women's Resource Center's Advocacy team continues its work by **influencing state policies and legislation**, making them gender-sensitive and inclusive for various groups of women. In 2024, the team implemented a number of initiatives with state agencies.



Regarding labor rights, we conducted the [study](#) "Manifestations of Gender Discrimination against Women in Labor Relations in Armenia." To consolidate the efforts of other organizations in the field, we established a platform of **15 human rights organizations** that will advocate for women's labor rights. These initiatives were made possible with the support of the Solidarity Center's Armenian office.



To advance the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda, we have formed a **network of 22 organizations**, with which we discuss systemic problems in the provision of services during crises and the role of women's organizations. Through this network, we held a meeting with Anna Zhamakochyan, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs of Armenia, with whom we discussed cooperation between the state and civil society in crisis situations and joint responses to gender issues during crises.

This year, we participated in the **68th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68)**. The annual meeting of the Commission is the largest global gathering of the UN on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The theme of CSW68 was "Driving feminist financing and accountability for women's economic justice and eradicating women's poverty."





In recent months, we have also held a series of meetings to **monitor the implementation of recommendations** to Armenia by UN treaty bodies, in particular, involving representatives of the diplomatic community operating in Armenia, civil society, and state structures, as well as representatives of the Human Rights Defender's Office.

On November 22, we held a discussion with representatives of more than **30 public organizations** on the topic "The omission of the rights of intersectional groups of women in the mainstream civil society agenda: deliberate practice or an oversight?" We talked about joint advocacy, solidarity, and cooperation.



Within the framework of advancing labor rights, we have established a cooperation platform with **14 human rights organizations**, the purpose of which is joint advocacy. We have held several off-site meetings with the group, during which we discussed work with the state and the state reform agenda in the field of labor rights.



Within the framework of the **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence**, on December 10, we organized a working discussion dedicated to the prevention of gender-based violence and harassment in the workplace, as well as the introduction and strengthening of effective state control mechanisms in Armenia.



The second half of 2024 was also full of opportunities for experience exchange and capacity building for the WRC Advocacy team. In October, the team's lawyer, Nvard Piliposyan, participated in the annual forum of the **International Network of Lawyers Assisting Workers (INLAW)** in Morocco, which was attended by **200 lawyers** from around the world.

During the forum, Nvard spoke as a panelist on the topic of **Feminism and Labor Rights** and presented WRC's experience in advocating for legislative changes aimed at preventing and responding to sexual harassment in the workplace.



From October 19 to November 9, Nvard also participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program organized by the US Department of State on the topic "**Responding to the Current Needs of Labor Rights Protection.**" During the program, she had the opportunity to hold meetings and exchange experiences on the topic of labor rights protection in **four US states.**

Capacity Building for Women's CSO-s

In 2024, sub-grant programs provided with Sweden's support were continued and completed by **24 partner organizations**. In total, 7 social-psychological support, 7 economic empowerment, and 7 joint social-psychological support and economic development sub-grant programs were implemented by local CSOs working with forcibly displaced women and girls from Artsakh.

More than **60,000 beneficiaries** have benefited from the sub-grant programs. Here is a summary of our work within this project over the past three years in our [new video](#).

Conference Participations

Lara Aharonian, co-founder of WRC, participated in the opening panel discussion of the Armenian Democracy Forum held on July 1, dedicated to human rights.

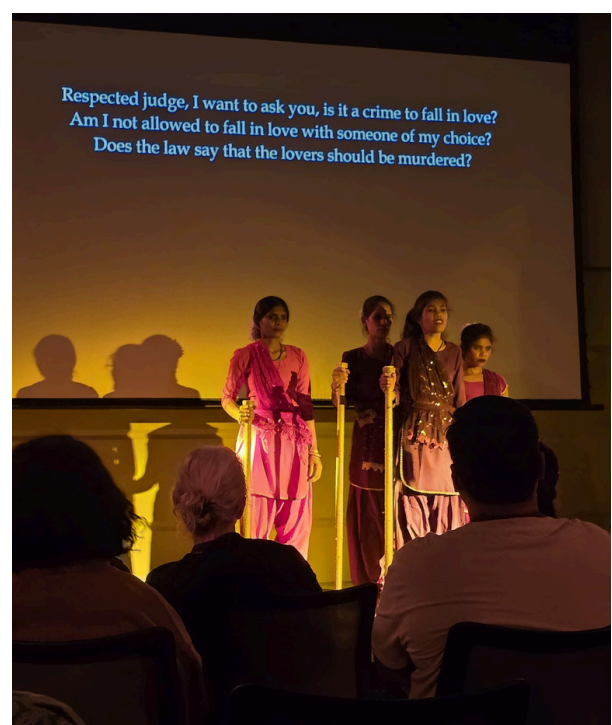
[Here](#) is her speech.



This December, we participated in the **AWID 2024 15th International Forum**, which was attended by inspiring feminists, activists, and fighters for social change from around the world. As an organization working in the field of women's rights protection, we were happy to be part of this space of solidarity, knowledge exchange, and collective vision.



From transformative discussions to empowerment workshops, we explored strategies for promoting gender justice, building sustainable movements, and reclaiming our strength and power. The energy, wisdom, and connections we gained during the forum were truly invaluable. **They contribute to our commitment to building a more just and equal world.**



Respected judge, I want to ask you, is it a crime to fall in love?
Am I not allowed to fall in love with someone of my choice?
Does the law say that the lovers should be murdered?

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