



“WOMEN’S RESOURCE CENTER” NGO’S ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Yerevan 2026

The Women's Resource Center envisions an Armenia free from patriarchal institutions and approaches—where all forms of oppression, discrimination, and restriction are dismantled, and every person can live with freedom, dignity, and equality.

The Women's Resource Center leads a collective struggle to challenge and transform patriarchal systems in Armenia.

WRC, established in 2003, 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.

A short video about the thematic areas of WRC is available [here](#). This document summarizes the WRC's activities in 2025 according to the main thematic areas.

Feminist safe space (Femspace)

From the first days of its existence, the Women's Resource Center (WRC) has been working to create an environment where women from different groups can communicate freely, share experiences, and discuss topics important to them without fear of discrimination.

The WRC feminist safe space operates **Monday through Friday, from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM** (we are closed only on Wednesdays) and is open for working, studying, using the library, and establishing contact with the team.

During the year, the center organizes public and closed discussions, educational courses, film screenings, readings, and other events that contribute to the well-being and mental health of visitors.

In 2025, about **1,000 people visited** the center's feminist safe space to participate in events and benefit from the services provided.

The Women's Resource Center's feminist safe space has a new address since the beginning of the year: 47 Baghramyan. It is located between the Baghramyan and Barekamutyun metro stations, **only 7 minutes away** from each. You can also find us through this [short video clip](#).



Awareness-Raising Meetings

In our new Femspace, we have continued to organize **thematic discussions** on the following topics:

1. Women and public transport price increases: deepening inequalities;
2. Armenia's environmental crises and women;
3. Life after marriage;
4. How does unpaid work affect women?
5. How do we mobilize our communities? The importance of women's political activism.

We also conducted **two more Femtalks** in universities, involving students from the faculties of Social Work and Psychology:

- Sexual Violence and Social Work: issues, responses, and feminist approaches;
- Gender violence around us: let's talk honestly.



Campaigns

At the beginning of the year, we implemented the [#WomenHumanRightsDefendersSpeak](#) campaign and published videos with 6 women human rights defenders who work in the fields of women's, feminist, and queer rights and issues. We also created an informative brochure and a [video](#) about the work of women human rights defenders.



Additionally, we organized [two regional meetings](#)—at the Women's Empowerment Resource Center (Hrazdan) and the Alvan Tsaghik Social-Educational Center (Gyumri)—for local coverage of the work of women human rights defenders.

During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (November 25 to December 10), animations and illustrations were shown on two large screens at the Barekamutyun metro station in Yerevan, informing about the struggle and providing a phone number for legal consultations.



Parallel to this, a [large-scale social media campaign](#) was implemented. With the aim of raising awareness about gender-based violence against women, women human rights defenders, and human rights, the social media campaign focused on engaging a wide audience through [posters](#) and [animations](#).

Ahead of the 16-days against activism, we also announced an [open call](#) for thematic essays, as a result of which 3 essays were selected and published during the campaign in the "[activist](#)," "[artistic](#)," and "[persuasive](#)" categories.

March 8

This year, on March 8, we carried out a public demonstration, uniting to reaffirm the historical significance of the day. Under the oppression of capitalist and patriarchal systems, March 8 has turned over the years into a day of giving flowers to women and going on dates; so, **we decided to address that problem at its roots.**



We installed a **graffiti wall** in the center of Yerevan, giving passers-by the opportunity to make feminist graffiti and discuss the real history of March 8 over hot tea.

Epress's coverage of the event is available [here](#).



Workshops and Camps

Our regular art-activist workshop was in Gyumri this time. We were happy to discuss various feminist ideas with a group of young women and girls and implement them through art.

"Girls Talk" is an eight-week program with around 10 adolescent and young girls discussing various topics from feminist perspectives—personal boundaries, healthy relationships, body positivity and activism. The program gives girls the opportunity to discuss issues that concern them in a safe space.

From August 2-4, our "Feminist Empowerment Camp ('25)" took place, in which 17 young people from Yerevan and the regions participated. Through interactive sessions, participants became familiar with a number of topics, including gender, feminism, body positivity, and sexual and reproductive health. Yoga and evening games contributed to strengthening close ties between them.

Women's Rights Trainings

We organized four Women's Rights Trainings in March, June, September, and October, with around 70+ people participating. As a result of the courses, a number of initiatives were implemented: discussions, a yoga retreat, documentary film shooting, research project, and other programs.



Legal and Psychological Consultation

The Women's Resource Center continues to provide free legal consultation to women. This year, our lawyer provided **367 consultations** via phone and on-site.

During this period, the center's psychologist provided free psychological consultation to **6 groups** (8 sessions each), and **individual consultations** to women human rights defenders and activists.



**FREE LEGAL
CONSULTATIONS**

for women



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Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

In the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights focus area, we continue our awareness-raising work with young women regarding healthy relationships, sexual and reproductive rights, and violence prevention. Our meetings with WRC volunteers and the public are of a continuous nature.

In January, we invited representatives of the Ministry of Health and civil society organizations, obstetrician-gynecologists, and public health lawyers to discuss the RA law on abortion and its compliance with international standards and best practices. At the conclusion of the meeting, we hosted specialists from the WHO office, who joined us online to present the WHO recommendations regarding safe abortion.

In May 2024, the RA National Assembly put into discussion the draft on making **changes and additions** to the Law on Human Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights, which was adopted by the National Assembly in its second reading and entered into force on August 6, 2024.

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*According to the new regulations, medical termination of pregnancy—**up to the 8th week of pregnancy**—can be carried out in hospital or outpatient conditions in medical organizations that have a license for obstetric and gynecological medical aid and service. Previously, abortions were carried out exclusively in hospital conditions.*

Clinical guide on medical abortion

The necessity arose to review the provisions of the clinical guideline for the organization of medical aid and service in case of abortion that relate to medical abortion, making them comply with the Law on Human Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights and the localized recommendations of the WHO.

Through the efforts of our organization, the "Clinical Guideline for the Organization of Medical Aid and Service in Case of Medical Termination of Pregnancy" was developed, which was approved by the RA Ministry of Health on June 13, 2025, by order N 3569-L.

This guide will make medical abortion more accessible.

Certification of the Training Course by the Ministry of Health

In September, the certification of the training course on the new changes to medical abortion was adopted by the Ministry of Health, so we organized a training course for obstetrician-gynecologists in October.

Legislative regulations and changes regarding abortion, as well as pre-abortion and post-abortion care and the specifics of intervention, were presented to the medical workers. 50 obstetrician-gynecologists participated in the course.



Off-site Meeting with Medical Workers and Ministry of Health Representatives

In November, we had an off-site meeting with 20 obstetrician-gynecologists from Yerevan and the regions. At the meeting, we discussed the procedures for implementing medical abortion in outpatient conditions.

Representatives of the RA Ministry of Health and the State Health Agency also joined us. This was a good opportunity for clarifying all questions, as well as for strengthening cooperation.

Two-day Training Course for Family Doctors and Obstetrician-Gynecologists

Within the framework of the "Human Rights with and for Refugees" project implemented with the support of the European Union, we organized a two-day online training course for family doctors and obstetrician-gynecologists, with 100 medical workers participating and receiving 10 theoretical credits.

During the course, topics such as the individual's right to reproductive health, international regulations of reproductive health, cases of gender-based violence by medical workers, reproductive health issues of different groups of women, and responses to them were discussed with the participants.



Training-Discussion for Bloggers and Journalists

In October, a one-day training course was organized for **journalists and bloggers**, during which the following topics were presented:

- Digital security and protection of personal information;
- Sources of misinformation;
- Fact-checking tools;
- How gender issues become a target of misinformation and what consequences they leave on the public.



As a result of the training, **5 journalists and bloggers** came forward with **thematic initiatives** regarding abortion as a fundamental right of the woman. Here are the results of some of the initiatives:

- "I am healthy." Abortion as type of medical aid;
- Inequality of access to reproductive health services in RA regions. Right, risk and reality | Aravot – News from Armenia;
- Abortions in RA: the causes and consequences;
- Abortion: a fundamental right of the woman;
- Safe abortion: a fundamental component of human rights.

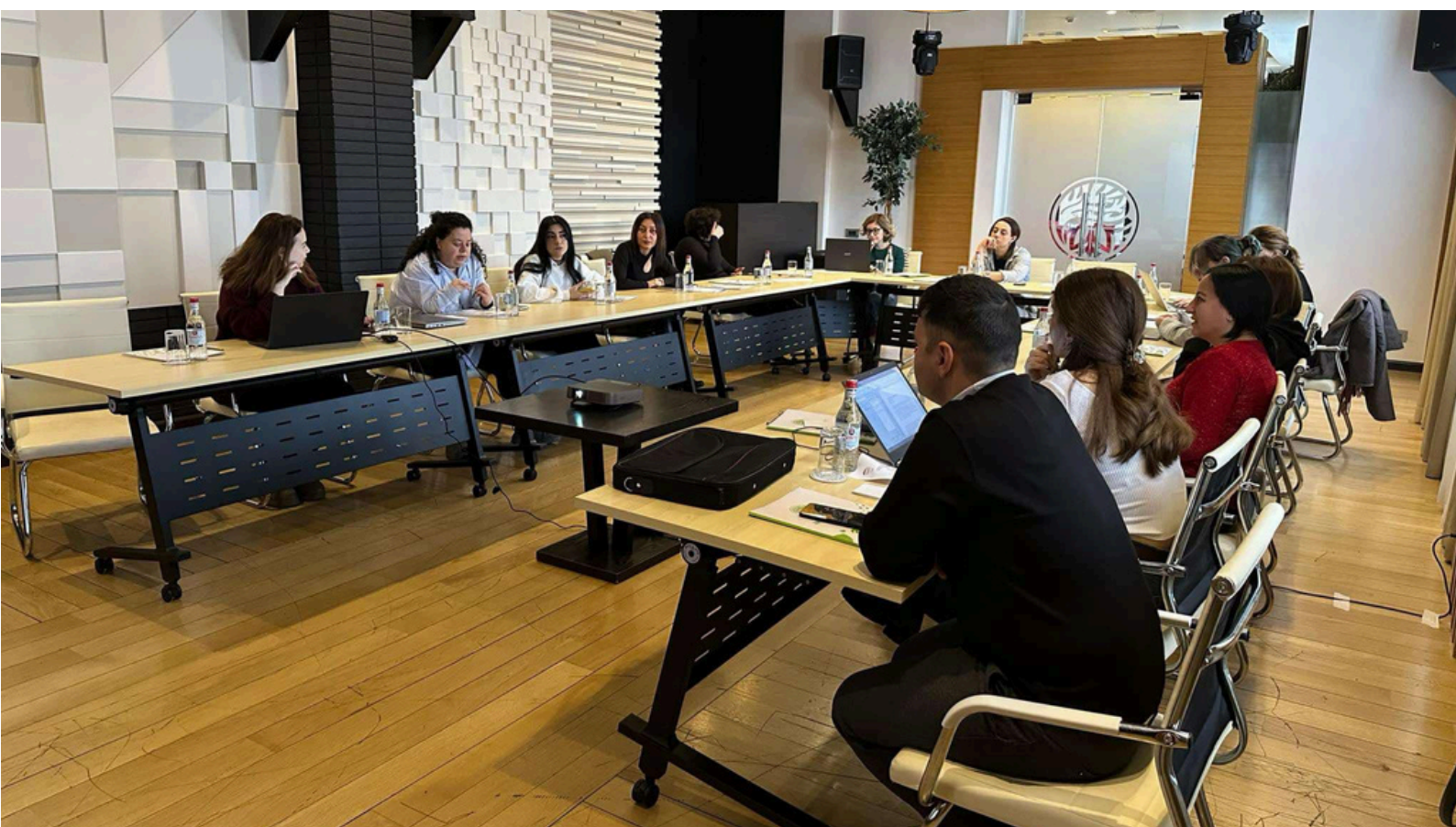
Women's Rights Advocacy

The Women's Resource Center advocacy team continues its activities with the aim of influencing state policies and legislative processes, ensuring a gender-sensitive, inclusive, and rights-based approach. The team also promotes cooperation between different organizations dealing with women's rights and participates in international platforms to make Armenia's experience visible and to develop new toolkits.

Labour Rights

On January 16–17, 2025, within the framework of the Women's Labor Rights Platform, our advocacy team organized a **two-day discussion** analyzing the Employment Strategy recently adopted by the RA Government and the action plan currently in the development.

The Women's Labor Rights Platform was formed jointly with the "Solidarity Center" Armenia office in June 2024. As a result of the January discussion, we **formulated proposals** regarding the action plan and presented them to the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.



Advocacy Through the United Nations

In February 2025, WRC advocacy team coordinator Anna Hovhannisyan participated in the **pre-sessions organized ahead of the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** of Armenia in Geneva, presenting recommendations on gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and labor rights.

She had the opportunity to personally **meet with representatives of around 15 countries**, presenting the progress and existing challenges in Armenia in the field of women's rights.

In March, Anna Hovhannisyan participated in the **69th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women** held in New York, joining other feminists, government representatives, and activists to discuss global challenges and the dangers of regression in the protection of women's rights.

This year's theme emphasized the **urgent necessity of protecting sexual and reproductive rights**, especially in response to the retreat trends recorded at the international level.



On May 1, during the 49th session of the UPR, Armenia received a number of important recommendations that were in line with the recommendations presented by the WRC: accessibility of modern contraceptives and SRHR services, introduction of comprehensive sexual education, promotion of gender equality at workplace, equal salary, and prevention of harassment, etc.

RA Gender Policy

On June 26, 2025, we organized a discussion of the "[Strategy and Action Plan for the Implementation of RA Gender Policy for 2025-2028](#)," focusing on the healthcare and socio-economic sector goals. Representatives of both the government and the legislative body and members of civil society were present at the discussion.

The Women's Resource Center had an active participation in the process of forming the strategy, contributing to the inclusion of provisions such as measures directed at ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Significant provisions are: access to medical abortion in outpatient institutions, gender-sensitive standards in universal healthcare insurance, and free contraceptives for vulnerable groups.



On July 24, 2025, we had a meeting with 25 representatives of women's rights organizations to discuss the programs implemented by the state promoting gender equality, and our further actions regarding them. The meeting created meaningful space for exchanging information, reflection, and outlining possible actions.

Legal Training: Effective Management of Gender Violence Cases

On September 29–30, we organized a thematic training for lawyers titled "The Legal Framework for Effective Management of Gender Violence Cases."

The purpose of the course was to develop the participants' capacities in providing legal support in cases of domestic and sexual violence, ensuring their knowledge regarding existing legislation, judicial practice, and international standards.

Lawyers working in the field of human rights, academics, and law students participated in the training.



Multiple Crises and the Gender Impact of Poverty

On November 7, a discussion on "Multiple Crises and Deepening Inequality: How Poverty Affects Women's Lives in Armenia" took place.

During the event, the results of the research "The Gender Aspect of Poverty in Armenia after Multiple Crises," implemented by the "Socioscope" NGO with WRC support, were presented.



In the discussion panel, the participants touched upon the mechanisms available today for women to overcome poverty and **emphasized the necessity of improving policy formation and state programs.**

Representatives of state bodies and civil society organizations participated in the meeting.



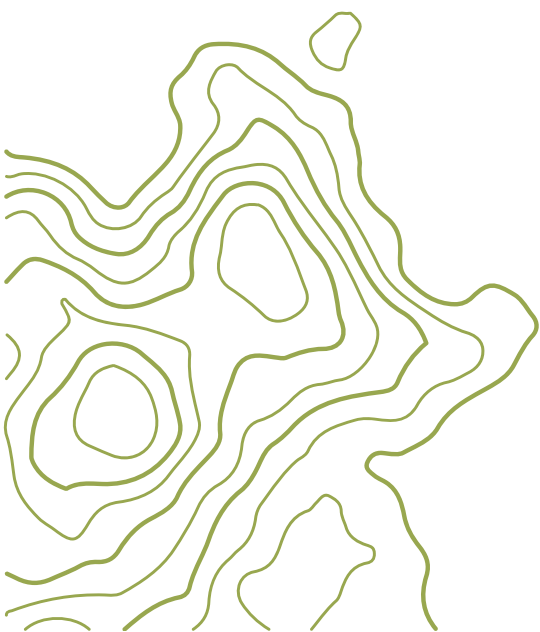
“Support for Resilient Women's Civil Society Organizing in the Context of Multiple Crises in Armenia”

Within the framework of this project, which has been ongoing for four years with the support of Sweden, the WRC has sub-grantee partners who implemented the following initiatives this year:

- **Women's Fund Armenia** organized online capacity-building courses on the topics of gender, well-being, and climate change, and published publications on collective care, trauma-based feminist leadership, and collective responses to collective traumas.
- **Women's Empowerment Resource Center** implemented a project to raise awareness and develop capacities regarding Technology-Facilitated Violence (TFV), organizing cybersecurity and online safety courses for women.
- **Sexual Assault Crisis Center** developed a toolkit for the prevention of and response to sexual harassment in the workplace, which includes a legislatively compliant model policy, an appeal procedure, and a practical guide for human resources specialists and employers.



- **Women's Center: Shushi** studied the problems faced by displaced women living in border regions, which served as the basis for a comprehensive report on their employment status, reproductive rights, and experiences related to gender violence.
- **Socioscope** carried out research on "The Gender Aspect of Poverty in Armenia after Multiple Crises," the results of which were presented and discussed during a conference with the participation of NGOs and government representatives.
- **Human Rights House Yerevan** implemented a capacity-building course for new activists to raise awareness regarding the challenges faced by women human rights defenders in Armenia.



Women's March 2025: Kotayk

From September 8-12, the Women's Resource Center, as an initiating team member, organized Women's March '25 in the Kotayk region. The Women's March is a **feminist initiative** aimed at getting acquainted with the lives and experiences of women living in the regions and raising awareness regarding domestic and gender violence.

By visiting rural and small urban communities, we get acquainted on-site with the situation of women from their own perspectives and try to find and create response mechanisms for the highlighted fundamental problems.

This year in Kotayk, we collected information about their situation from more than **1,000 women, visiting 20+ communities**. Soon, the study of the observations of the Women's March 2025 will be available on our [website](#), which will summarize the main results. Until then, you can get access to the preliminary analysis by watching the [press conference](#).





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