

MGOSⁱ RESPONSE AND QUESTIONS FROM THE CSOs IN ARMENIA TO THE VNR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ARMENIA

Thank you, Vice President. I am Lilit Avetisyan an LGBT+ activist from Armenia, representing the local civil society organizations and coalitions committed to address all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination.

We welcome the Armenian Government's third VNR report and acknowledge its commitment to reaching all SDGs, despite the crises of the recent years which we have witnessed when supporting to overcome their enormous consequences. We respect Armenia's agenda on peace. We witness Armenian's attempts to advance the democratic institutions and green transition.

But we are also here to remind about the groups who are still left behind, because of persistent gender-based violence and discrimination. CSOs yearly document more than hundred cases of various types of gender-based violence and discrimination. We appreciate the state's reforms in the educational system, but we still have LGBTI+ adolescents who don't have access to education because of violence and discrimination at school and at home. We still have survivors of sexual violence and abuse who are not treated respectfully by law enforcement and whose experiences are disrespected publicly by state institutions. We appreciate the state's efforts in implementing the legal and judicial reforms, but we still have vulnerable groups who face hate crime and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, who are left without explicit court decisions and don't have access to justice. We appreciate the state's tremendous efforts in crisis response, especially for displaced people, but we also witness gender bias and discrimination which leaves women with multiple backgrounds and marginalized communities behind, such as displaced women, elderly women, women living with disability, LBT women, women living with HIV.

As a state committed to the values of not tolerating the violence and discrimination, what are the planned strategies, policies and specific actions to change the atmosphere of impunity and to make the existing legal regulations and support mechanisms applicable for the most vulnerable groups and people?

As Armenian citizens, we have witnessed that Armenia as an independent state has a political will to commit to the agenda of SDGs. And as CSOs we are willing to support the country not to leave any group behind.

ⁱ Major Groups and other Stakeholders. <https://www.mgos.org/>