



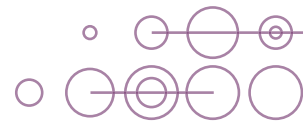
Armenia's Statement

Armenia became a Pathfinding country in 2018. As part of the Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit Series, the Council of Justice for Children had made commitments to end violence against children and issued a Leaders Statement.

Key highlights from the Leaders Statement are as follows:

- 1.** Introduction of child-friendly forensic interviewing procedures, where child victims of violence will only be interviewed by trained and certified psychologists to avoid secondary victimization.
- 2.** Adoption of legislative amendments to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings.
- 3.** Establishment of Barnahus-type facilities for child victims of sexual violence and special training for social service workforce professionals working with child victims of sexual violence.





Council of Justice for Children

25 December 2021

Concluding meeting on National Policy Dialogue to End Violence Against Children in Armenia

Statement

Since its accession to the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children as a pathfinding country in 2018, we have recorded progress in various aspects of prevention and response to violence against children in Armenia. In particular, the Law on prevention of violence within the family, protection of victims of violence within the family and restoration of peace was enacted and respective state officials were trained, justice professionals were trained on violence against children and working with child victims of violence, Armenia signed and ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention), capacity of social service professionals was built on early identification and prevention of violence. However, a lot still needs to be done to ensure that every child in Armenia is protected from all forms of violence.

Taking note of all the positive developments, as well as the gaps and issues, identified by the Council of Justice for Children through analysis of available data, including administrative data, Human Rights Defender's Reports, reports of civil society organisations, reports and studies of international organisations, as well as discussions during Council sessions and events, we reinstate our commitment to continue efforts to reduce violence against children in Armenia, by putting in place effective mechanisms and strategies to identify, prevent and respond to violence against children, such as:

- Introduction of child-friendly forensic interviewing procedure, where child victims of violence will only be interviewed by trained and certified psychologists in the criminal procedure to avoid secondary victimization
- Adoption of legislative amendments to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, based on the result of the study already conducted by the government with support of international partners
- Establishment of Barnahus-type facilities for child victims of sexual violence and special training for social service workforce professionals, working with child victims of sexual violence

While these reforms are planned for 2022, the Council will be further analyzing and monitoring the situation to advise on other important steps to tackle violence against children in the Republic of Armenia.

