



Armenia



Government focal points

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Pathfinding since January 2018



**Government
Contacts and
References**

Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

1996

A law was adopted on the Rights of the Child which prohibits violence against children, but was not interpreted as prohibiting all corporal punishment.

2012

In July, the legal minimum age for marriage was raised to 18 for both men and women, making Armenia one of the few examples of a country with 18 years as the legal age of marriage, without exceptions. However, enforcement at the regional level continues to be inconsistent.

2015

During its 2015 Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Armenia agreed to examine recommendations to enforce the minimum age of marriage and accepted recommendations to prohibit all corporal punishment of children through draft amendments to the Family Code. The amendments were approved by Parliament in 2017.

2017

Parliament approved new legislation on Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence.

2017

The Government adopted a National Strategy of the Protection of the Rights of the Child, a policy framework outlining priorities for the 2017-2021 period.



**Multi-stakeholder
Collaboration and
Consultation
with Children**

- The Government of Armenia established an interagency multi-sectorial Council of Justice for Children, under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice, which comprises all concerned state agencies, the Human Rights Defender's Office, international and local child rights organizations and experts. It includes the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Healthcare, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Police and Investigative Committee, the Judiciary, the National Statistical Service, and representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and businesses. The main objective of this multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder platform is to discuss legal, policy and implementation issues to define priorities as well as coordinating different actions from diverse sectors and actors to end violence against children (VAC).
- The CSOs engaged in the Replace Violence with Love campaign in Armenia consulted with children at the beginning of the campaign during the planning phase, yielding some illustrative data. More than 117 children participated in Focus Groups, sharing their perceptions on the issues and offering possible solutions to prevent and fight violence.

Investments from the End Violence Fund

- Armenia is one of the ten priority countries of the regional project supported by the Fund and led by the **Council of Europe** to strengthen legislative frameworks and national capacity for preventing and responding to online child sexual abuse and exploitation, including awareness-raising activities on child online safety.

- In 2015, Armenia completed the [Demographic and Health Survey \(DHS\)](#), which indicated a high level of domestic violence and aggression against children in Armenia.
- In 2015, a survey found that 70.8 per cent of boys and 66.8 per cent of girls aged 1-17 years had experienced violence and aggression in the past year.
- In 2017, Armenia created national mechanisms to monitor and report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include the creation of [the National SDG Innovation Lab](#), the creation of the National SDG statistical platform and the effective incorporation of SDG targets and indicators into the design of relevant policies.
- The Government of Armenia has made significant efforts to identify administrative data gaps and is aware of the need for urgent action to cover those gaps in order to have relevant effective and timely collection of disaggregated data. It requires enhancing institutional capacities, enacting legislative amendments, and allocating the proper technical, financial and human resources. This effort also entails enhancing administrative capabilities in local municipalities, since large portions of the data gap are related to community, business and household-level activities.



Data Collection and Situation Analysis

In September 2018, UNICEF and the Government of Armenia organized a Conference on Violence against Children. The conference focused on violence as an adverse childhood experience and its devastating effects on children, touching upon different strategies from INSPIRE to address violence against girls and boys through prevention and response, and the importance of cross-sectoral approach and collaboration to achieve sustainable results. With over 100 participants, the conference included remarks by high-level officials from the Government of Armenia, UNICEF's Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, international organizations and international and national experts. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is currently organizing a Training Module for the Social Service Workforce on the early identification, prevention, and response to VAC, which will include training for social service professionals in five pilot regions.

In February 2017, ten major child-focused organizations came together to support [a campaign on ending violence against children](#), along with the two media companies: Lratvakan (News) Radio and Yerkir Media TV.5. The partners jointly developed the campaign action plan and a draft campaign narrative, which presents the goals, objectives, targets and messages of the campaign, as well as child participation principles.



Collective Action and INSPIRE

Reporting into CRCs and SDGs



Reported to the CRC in 2013.
Underwent UPR in 2017.



Reported to the High-Level
Political Forum in 2018.



Will undergo next UPR in 2020,
with May 2018 reporting deadline.



Opportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

Build political will/ global movement

1. Undertake a mapping of programs to prevent violence against children, broadly categorized using the INSPIRE strategies.
2. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice, develop a multi-sectoral national action plan that focuses on prevention and response of violence against children, with specific objectives and associated costs.
3. Encourage amendment of the Family Code to ensure prohibition of corporal punishment in home, alternative care and day care settings.
4. Ensure proper administrative data on children facing violence by effective and timely collection of disaggregated data.

Resource mobilization

5. Support budgeting and resource mobilization for the national action plan.

Equip practitioners

6. Develop evidence-based national guidelines on the health sector response to child maltreatment, with the support of WHO and UNICEF.
7. Train frontline healthcare providers in the identification of and response to children who have suffered physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect.
8. In order to create a composite picture of violence against children and build research capacity, synthesize existing data using the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children methodology, led by Innocenti and national partners.