



Director's Message

The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia recognizes family as the natural and fundamental cell of the society. Indeed, the formation and development of a human being and a citizen, his or her healthy, long and creative life is possible but in a safe environment. Development and nourishment of such a safe and secure environment is the major function of the family.

Alas, a family entangled in the claws of poverty often is unable to successfully carry out this major function. However, there are also cases when the reason for such failure is not really the poverty, but the terrible monster abiding in the family – violence. It turns the family from a safe and secure environment into a battlefield, where both adults and children alike sleep and wake up in the shadow threatening their lives and health. In such a family joy and warmth of caring are replaced with endless suffering and violence. Very often this suffering is silent and the violence is escalating.

The community, society and state should lend of hand of support to the family in order to restore its function of ensuring a safe and secure environment for all its members. Unfortunately, it is not always possible, and the family members continue surviving in an unfavorable environment. The family eventually fails its major function for which it has been formed. Moreover, it start doing the very opposite of it fundamental function. Perhaps in this case the solution is the breakup of the fateful family, which may be the beginning of the formation of a new family, an establishment of a safe and secure environment afresh.

Domestic, gender or any other kind of violence fruits where the violator lacks self-control, and where the society and the state lack effective leverages for restriction of the former's behavior. In such a situation violence increases daily. Gradually and unnoticed, offence and oppression transform into physical and psychological violence, and humiliation. Encountering no resistance, they escalate into a family tragedy, daily beatings and violence, and even death. Unfortunately we often become witnesses to such cases. Such state of affairs is possible only in an environment of non-punishment where the violator is certain that no one, neither the victim, nor the society and state, will hold him responsible. Therefore it is vital to break the vicious circle of non-punishment and prevent the break of violence.

Unfortunately the agencies responsible for the prevention of domestic violence lack adequate powers and skills to combat violence, break the faulty perception of non-punishment, save the family or at least its members from violence and prevent a disaster on time. Moreover, the incapability of the agencies responsible for addressing domestic violence, together with their occasionally erratic approaches and attitudes to issues of gender and domestic violence, contribute to rooting the environment of non-punishment and account for the further increase of domestic violence at one phase or another. Often it is the failure of the law enforcement bodies to interfere effectively with

The ICHD Quarterly Newsletter is published since Spring 2010. The Newsletter is intended to improve our communications with partners in civil society, government and development community in Armenia and abroad. We hope that the Newsletter will help you stay informed about our activities and gain a better understanding of who we are and what we do.

the cases of violence that raises a new wave of non-punishment within the violator and despair within the victim.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance to eliminate the environment of non-punishment and promote zero tolerance towards violence if domestic violence is to be prevented. To eliminate non-punishment it is essential to criminalize domestic violence and consequently, provide the law enforcement agencies with new powers, knowledge, skills and behavior. Violence in the family should be eliminated by all means.

The logic of the Armenian classic is true: the power of the nations is in the family. Powerful is the nation that has a powerful family. One cannot but agree as well that violence-torn families weaken the state and corrupt its foundation. In this sense, domestic violence is a crime against the state and society. Unfortunately, such perception is not yet rooted in our transitional society. It has spread no roots in our legislation and law enforcement practice either. The situation becomes more vivid in comparison. For instance, the legislation has established heavy penalties for illegal acquisition and carriage of guns. To avoid the responsibility and penalties might be possible only through quite arduous efforts: huge expenses and powerful social network. Whereas the sprouts of domestic violence are much more perilous than holding illegal guns, since one day they will definitely ruin the foundation of the family and of the state.

In terms of its danger domestic violence is doubtless a crime against the individual, the society and the state. Therefore its criminalization has no other valid alternative. No alternative exists to supporting the legislative and justice systems to build their capacities further in preventing domestic violence and providing adequate and timely support to the survivors of domestic and gender violence. Civil society organizations and alliances also have a say in this. Often they are the last hope and refuge of the victims, their voice and defenders of their neglected rights. Though fighting against the consequences of violence and supporting the victims is a rewarding and irreducible task, it is time to emphasize the need for preventing such phenomena, and to do so possibly soon. Environment of non-punishment is contagious and violence too dangerous.

Tevan Poghosyan
ICHD Executive Director

Project Highlights

Our own activities: initiatives, projects, events, publications

Assistance to Returnees

Since July 2010 ICHD and the Service of Repatriation and Return of the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Netherlands, supported by European Union, implement a project on post arrival assistance to Armenian returnees from the Netherlands for their further reintegration in the society. The project will provide opportunity for about 75 returnees to integrate into the Armenian society and economy, as well as to be able to exercise the fundamental rights and responsibilities of the citizen of Armenia.

In mid-October 2010 ICHD invited and hosted the first Steering Committee Meeting in the frames of the "Post Arrival Assistance to Armenian Returnees from the Netherlands" project. Representatives of the Consular Department of the Armenian Foreign Ministry, SME Development National Center of Armenia, Migration Agency of the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration, Armenian National Lyceum after Anania Shirakatsy (Educational complex), Medical Center "Diagnostics", "Armenian Caritas" charity and ICHD discussed the opportunities of cooperation and mechanisms of implementing the program at the Committee meeting.

On December 19, 2010, the representatives of ICHD and State Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration of RA accepted the first Armenian returnee from the Netherlands. The Project team and the officials met the returnee at the airport and provided medical and psychiatric assistance to him. After medical examination the Project team informed the returnee about the assistance offered. He was advised to visit Migration Service in order to receive further post-arrival assistance.

ICHD Leads Consortium against Gender-based Violence in Armenia

Forty five university and high school students participated in two three-days trainings for trainers courses on gender based violence in Tsakhkadzor and Yerevan in late September 2010. The training was facilitated by the Armenian Association of Women with University Education (AAWUE) in the framework of the UNFPA/Armenia funded project implemented by the ICHD led Consortium against Gender-based Violence in Armenia. Trainings aimed at providing relevant knowledge and skills to participants on gender based violence and preparing them as future trainers.

In the framework of this project over 250 professional staff of national machinery institutions and supporting bodies on gender-based violence in all regions of Armenia participated in training courses organized by ICHD by mid-October 2010. Gender focal points in regional administrations and local self-governance bodies (LSGs), staff of women's rights units and Public Advisory Committees on GBV in regional administrations participated in the training. The training was a part of the efforts by the ICHD led Consortium, particularly aiming at building the capacity at both national and local levels for protecting and

enforcing the rights of women and building reporting mechanisms. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the offices of regional governors have supported the training through mobilizing the focal points and their partners both in regional and municipal administrations.



Young leaders discuss the case on the role of police in preventing domestic violence. November 2010. Yerevan.

Over 90 social workers, 90 public health professionals, medical doctors, family doctors, nurses, resident doctors and interns, as well as 90 police officers from Hrazdan, Vanadzor, Alaverdi, Armavir, Metsamor, Gyumri, Yerevan and other communities of Armenia have been trained on gender-based violence issues by ICHD team of trainers in 15 two-days training courses by late-December 2010, in the framework of this project. The training program included domestic violence case studies from the United States and Armenia. Trainees have been asked to compare police responses in these case studies with that of their own. The goal of the exercise was to expose police officers to international policies and procedures towards domestic violence. Selected 10 public health professionals and 10 police officers – participants of the training courses - have received in a 2-day ToT training delivered by ICHD trainers.

Supported by UNHCR/Armenia ICHD and its partners in Consortium trained 26 refugees, 14 representatives of the State Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and 18 health professionals in Gyumri and Yerevan in mid-November 2010. Training aimed at increasing knowledge and skills of participants on gender based violence and its prevention, as well as raising their awareness of consequences of GBV.

In the framework of this UNFPA/Armenia supported project awareness of over 800 high school and university students and lecturers, journalists, urban and rural men and women, community leaders, refugees from different communities in Yerevan and regions have been raised on gender and gender based violence issues in 40 one-day meetings in September-December 2010.

In late September 2010, Tatev 95, under overall supervision of ICHD and UNFPA/Armenia developed a 2-days module for training of specialists delivering psychological assistance to the victims of gender based violence. By mid-October Tatev 95 delivered training to 15 psychologists in this area. Further, over 150 women exposed to the risk of gender-based violence have received a special training in the framework of this project.

ect by late November 2010. The training sessions facilitated by Tatev-95 NGO provided relevant knowledge to potential victims of violence and equipped them with skills to prevent gender-based violence at home, in the work place and in society at large. The training also enabled the consortium partners to learn about the practical concerns and needs of the at-risk-Awareness raising meetings on GBV in the regions of Armenia groups. The participants underlined the lack of legal mechanism to protect women's rights, to prevent violence and to support victims of violence. They have also emphasized the important role that police should play in preventing and prosecuting the violence, as well as the serious gaps in this area. After the training sessions over 50 women - victims of gender-based violence requested Tatev-95 to provide further psychological assistance. Several victims have been referred to ICHD's partner by other hospitals, health centers and NGOs.

In the framework of the 16 Days of Activism to Stop Violence Against Women ICHD organized a training session on GBV for young Armenian leaders. Over twenty students of different universities participated in the seminar, on November 25th - the International Day for Combating Violence against Women. Young leaders noted that the seminar substantially raised their awareness of gender-based violence, its consequences and means to combat violence. Men who participated in the seminar decided to bear the "White Ribbon" pledge to expose their active standing against violence to their friends and social environment during the activism days. The training session provided a brief overview of GBV followed by two cases of GBV - one Armenian case with tragic lethal outcome and another case from US. The dynamics of the cases, reasons leading to escalation of violence, as well as responses of law enforcement bodies in this regard have been discussed and analyzed by the participants. At the end of the day participants engaged in a dramatic role-play designed to emphasize various responses of people and police officers to violence.

In late December 2010, ICHD initiated evaluation of the impact of training and awareness raising campaign implemented in the past years by Consortium partners. The evaluators have conducted 5 expert interviews and 731 structured interviews (via phone survey) in December 10-18, 2010. According to evaluators, the integrated and universal manual, which can be used as a guide by those organizations that need to conduct gender-related studies and trainings was a significant asset created by ICHD and partners. The guide is rather flexible from the sense of introducing new methods and methodologies for specific target groups. The manual has also a separate chapter on teaching methodologies, which can be effectively used in ToT practices. The evaluators found that the Consortium partners have succeeded to raise awareness of nearly 4000 Armenian women and men on gender and gender based violence issues. The partners have considerably changed the attitude of these people and succeeded to deeply penetrate even families thus engaging nearly 4000 Armenian families. The evaluators particularly found that nearly half of training participants consider that the police and public health institutions play considerable role in prevention of GBV while only one third of women and men in general society thinks so. The evaluators mentioned that the partners succeeded to create different social networks stakeholders in this area that may help to create self-organized groups working in different fields of human rights in the future. The Consortium partners have consolidated specific results of the training campaign and subsequently presented recommen-

dations to the Government that have been incorporated in the draft national action plan to combat GBV in Armenia. The experts evaluated trainings effectiveness 4.8 with the scale of 1-5, where "1" means "minimum effective" and "5" means "maximum effective".

ICHD Contributes towards better policies and programs to combat GBV in Armenia

ICHD is a member and key contributor of both the Interagency Commission on Combating GBV in Armenia and its 5-member Working Group that has been elaborating the draft National Action Plan for Combating Gender-based Violence in Armenia for 2011-2015 (NAP). ICHD has particularly prepared a comparative review of the international best practices in this area and supported the Working Groups in consolidating the first draft NAP based on the comparative review. The first Draft NAP has been elaborated by the Working Group in mid-October 2010. ICHD presented the international experience and best practices of national policies and programs of various countries on combating Gender-Based Violence at the session of the Commission at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of RA in early November 2010. The Commission has also discussed the draft NAP, as well as the Annual Plan for 2011 elaborated by the Working Group.

Fight against corruption in the Eastern Partnership countries: a view from a civil society

ICHD in cooperation with FRIDE (Spain), Ukrainian Institute for Public Policy (Ukraine) and Institute for Public Policy (Moldova) has implemented a survey in the framework of the Black Sea Trust project "Fight against corruption in the Eastern Partnership countries: a view from a civil society". Within the framework of the survey each partner organization has interviewed about 30 representatives of national leading civil society organizations and business associations, government and development partners. The results of the survey were consolidated in a joint report and presented in various events since November 2010. After sending first drafts for the internal comments, all



Government and civil society experts discuss draft report on anticorruption at ICHD. November 2010. Yerevan.

partners organized National roundtables in their respective countries. In the framework of this project ICHD Executive Director participated in the Round-table discussion on "The Role of the Civil Society in Development and Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Reforms: Ukrainian Experience" in Kiev in late October 2010.

Over 20 representatives of the government, civil society, business associations and development partners have discussed the key points of the draft report "Fighting Corruption in Armenia: Views from the Civil Society" at the round table discussion "Fight against corruption in the Eastern Partnership countries: a view from a civil society" in late November 2010, hosted by ICHD. ICHD has finalized the draft report. The comments and recommendations voiced by participants have been incorporated into the second draft report by ICHD experts. The publication of the policy papers and policy briefs is planned for January-February 2011.

ICHD Striving to Promote Armenian-Turkish Rapprochement

ICHD in Consortium with its partners: the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia (UMBA), Yerevan Press Club (YPC) and "Eurasia" Partnership Foundation worked to promote Armenian-Turkish rapprochement throughout 2010. In late November 2010, the Consortium partners have launched the USAID sponsored "Support to Armenia-Turkey Rapprochement" project at Best Western Congress Hotel. The launching convened the Turkish partners of the Consortium organizations, Consortium teams, Armenian civil society representatives and experts as well as US Mission officials. Each of Consortium partners will be responsible for a particular strand with ICHD being responsible specifically for the interstate cooperation.

In late 2010 ICHD convened over three hundred experts and young leaders from Yerevan, Gyumri and Ijevan in Town Hall Meetings on legal, political and business issues related to Armenia-Turkey relations.

Supported by Sweden's Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Peacebuilding and Rights Program at Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights (USA) and the International Center for Human Rights (Armenia) convened the four members of Armenian Consortium for Armenian-Turkish Rapprochement: ICHD, EPF, UMBA and YPC, and their seven Turkish partners: Turkish Armenian Business Development Center (TABDC), GAYA Research Institute, Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV), Anadolu Kultur, Global Political Trends Center (GPOT), Izmir University of Economics, Faculty of Communication and Toplum Gönüllüleri at this Advocacy Summit at the Swedish Palace in Istanbul in mid December 2010.

The meeting helped Armenian Consortium members and their Turkish partners getting to common understanding of the program goal, objectives and targets, methods and activities. The partners have planned specific initiatives for the first year, discussed cross-cutting opportunities and synchronized "Forth Wave Clock" for civil society initiatives. The partners have also recognized the key role of communications, coordination, and cooperation for the success of the initiative.

It was agreed that the Third Advocacy Summit could be organized in Yerevan in late-May and/or early-June 2011.

Economic and business drive for Armenian-Turkish rapprochement

ICHD expert participated in the Discussion of Turkish-Armenian Relations in Kars in early November 2010. The discussion was been organized by the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) supported by the Friedrich Naumann

Foundation (FNF). ICHD representative presented the economic perspectives of cross-border cooperation between Armenia and Turkey. He specified that significant opportunities for the development of Kars region are lost as a result of the current state of affairs between Armenia and Turkey. Cooperation with Armenia will become particularly substantial for Eastern Turkey in the areas of energy, cross-border trade and agriculture, mentioned the speaker. Deepening economic and infrastructure cooperation and enhancing existing business partnerships under unfavorable conditions could become critical drive for moving rapprochement agenda ahead in Turkey, he concluded.

Engaging Young Leaders

ICHD Provides Conflict Transformation Skills to Young Leaders



ICHD's Ashot Khurshudyan transfers conflict transformation skills to young leaders. November 2010. Yerevan.

Six young Armenian leaders have been trained by ICHD in the framework of the initiative of the European NGOs Working in Partnership for Peace on the European Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh (EPNK) in Yerevan in late November 2010. The training was aimed at developing the skills of young leaders in conflict transformation, creating a common vision and thus contributing to peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Young leaders also gained skills in planning and implementing cross-border joint or cumulative peacebuilding activities aimed at promoting peaceful resolution of the NK conflict at societal level.

Effective Communication Skills for Young Professionals

ICHD facilitated next phase of training course on effective communication and presentation skills for the participants of the program "Technical Capacity Building Training Program for Armenian Small Hydro Powers" in late October. The project is implemented by Norsk Energy in cooperation with its Armenian partner Hydroenergy and ICHD and aims at technical capacity building and promotion of activities of numerous participants of small hydro power stations. The project is supported by Ameriabank, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, GAF-RE-KfW (German Armenian Renewable Energy Fund), Yerevan State University of Architecture and Construction, and is financed by the Foreign Ministry of Norway.

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Young professionals of energy sector build a "tower" practicing communication and negotiation for common good. November 2010. Yerevan.

Conferences, Seminars, Events

East-West Crossroad

In late November ICHD presented its new publication "East-West Crossroad", a series of articles, which comprises voices of young people from the countries of EuroForum East West Network, namely Armenia, Belarus, Germany, France, Poland and Spain, as well as young authors from Czech Republic and Sweden.

In an attempt to provide a platform for utilizing democratic values, ICHD brought together these young analysts and researchers with sound academic backgrounds to share their ideas and establish a lively discourse of polemics. The publication focuses on themes such as conflict management, human rights, European integration and European values. It reflects the personal opinions and perspectives of the authors only. The publication was generously supported by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.



ICHD's Tevan Poghosyan thanks FES leadership for supporting young analysts and researchers in voicing their opinions on European prospective of the region. November 2010. Yerevan.

ICHD's 6th Annual Conference on European Integration

The International Center for Human Development (ICHD) with the support of the EU Delegation and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation organized the International Conference "European Perspectives in the Context of Eastern Partnership and the Process of Negotiation of Associated Agreement" in Yerevan on November 26-27, 2010.

The Conference was aimed at increasing the role of civil society and think tanks in decision making in Armenia. This was the sixth annual international conference on European Integration organized by ICHD in cooperation with development partners in Europe and worldwide. The annual conferences have become a genuine forum for consolidating Armenia's progress towards integration of the country with the European Union.

H.E Mr. Tigran Sargsyan, Prime Minister of RA, and H.E. Mr. Göran Lenmarkner Former Special Representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President on the Nagorno Karabakh con-



The wrap-up session of the ICHD's 6th Annual Conference on European Integration. November 2010. Yerevan.

flict, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly former president (2006), Chairman of the Governing Board of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) made key note addresses. The Secretary of the National Security Council of Armenia Mr. Arthur Baghdasaryan and Head of the European Union Delegation to Armenia H.E. Mr. Raul de Luzenberger made opening speeches at the Conference. The Conference brought together representatives from Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia, Czech Republic, Dania, Turkey, Sweden. Key European institutions, such as the EU, OSCE, CoE and NATO were represented as well.

ICHD Representatives as Short Term Observers at Elections in Eastern Partnership Countries

In fall 2010 ICHD two representatives have received training in short-term and long term election observation delivered by OSCE/ODHIR in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

ICHD representative participated in the OSCE/ODHIR Election Observation Mission (EOM) as a Short Term Observer (STO) to observe the early parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova on 28 November 2010. These were the third parliamentary elections in Moldova in less than two years, since the parliaments elected in April and July 2009 were unable to elect a president of the Republic and were dissolved.

In mid December 2010 ICHD representative observed the presidential elections in the Republic of Belarus as a Short Term Observer (STO) of the OSCE/ODHIR Election Observation Mission (EOM).

OTR Discussion at ICHD

Twenty five representatives of the government, civil society institutions and think tanks, private businesses and development partners participated in the Off-the-Record discussion on “Armenia-NKR Civil Society Relationship: What are Institutional Gaps?” at ICHD in early November, 2010. ICHD consolidated the results of the discussion and issued a Policy Brief based on the OTR conclusions.

ICHD’s Executive Director Elected as a Member of PASOS Board of Directors

Tevan Poghosyan, Executive Director of ICHD has been elected as a member of PASOS board of directors by the PASOS General Assembly held on November 4, 2010 in Berlin, Germany.

EaP CSF Armenian National Platform Working Group Meeting

ICHD hosted Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Armenian National Platform Working Group’s 3rd meeting on October 8 at ICHD office.

ICHD Executive at Second meeting of the Civil Society Forum

ICHD Executive participated in the Second meeting of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum in Berlin, on 18-19 November 2010. ICHD Executive Director Tevan Poghosyan has been elected as a Co-Coordinator of the CSF Working Group IV (People-to-People) representing countries of Eastern Partnership.



ICHD in the Media

ICHD at OSCE Summit in Astana

As a part of the delegation of Armenian Civil Society representatives, ICHD representative participated in sideline events of the OSCE Summit – Review Conference “Transparency of civic society institutions and increase of trust of beneficiaries and population” and Parallel OSCE Civil Society Conference in Astana in late November, 2010. During the Parallel OSCE Civil Society Conference issues on Nagorno Karabakh conflict resolution, ceasefire violation, intolerance among OSCE member countries, particularly war rhetoric of Azerbaijan’s government were discussed. OSCE Review Conference mainly emphasized the issues of human rights’ defense and criticism to countries violating those values. ICHD representative condemned discrimination against other nations as well as intolerance and war rhetoric and threats, since such actions fuel the war and harm fragile stability in the region and conflict resolution process.

More about ICHD ▶

Established in March 2000 in Yerevan, the International Center for Human Development (ICHD or the Center) is a leading think tank in the South Caucasus that brings together a team of highly-qualified analysts and researchers with strong academic background and substantial experience in both public and private sectors committed to professional excellence and ethics. We cultivate a culture of inclusive policy making process, develop and introduce innovative instruments effective in the regional, national and local policy environments.

ICHD provides quality advice, policy analysis and development services to our stakeholders including government, civil society, the private sector and development partners, creating innovative policy communication tools and promoting adaptive environment for dialogue. We also champion development and introduction of new technologies used for effective participation of citizens in decision-making. Over the past decade ICHD became a center of excellence and knowledge in a broader region and internationally recognized as a credible and attractive partner.

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