

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ARMENIA**

### **BELGIUM**

- Is the Government of Armenia considering ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
- Is the Government of Armenia considering accepting the individual complaint procedures under the human rights conventions to which it is already a State party?
- Is the Government of Armenia considering ratifying the Rome Statute of the ICC?
- Is the Government of Armenia considering retracting its reservations to art. 3 of OP-CRC-AC?
- What schedule has the Government of Armenia foreseen to prepare and handover the overdue reports to CERD and CEDAW?
- Has the Government of Armenia considered responding to the concerns voiced by the CESCR and HR Committee with regards to deeply rooted stereotyping of women in society and adopting and enforcing specific legislation on equality of men and women?
- Could Armenia give more information with regards to a law on domestic violence that is being drafted since 2012?
- What policies is the Government of Armenia implementing in the future to fight vertical and horizontal gender segregation in the economy and particularly in the Labour market, which entail disproportionately high levels of women unemployment and women in low-paid sectors?
- Is the Government of Armenia considering replying to concerns voiced by the CRC with regards to the lack of sanctions against recruitment of children in armed conflicts and adapting its Criminal Code to criminalize the recruitment of children under 18 into the armed forces?
- What plans does the Government of Armenia have to address the stringent issue of ill treatment and violence against children in closed and partially closed institutions? Have measures been taken to ensure proper investigation and sanctioning of perpetrators?
- Is the Government of Armenia considering taking steps to put in place a holistic juvenile justice system, entailing effective rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for affected children?
- Has the Government of Armenia addressed the recommendation of the CRC to apply special protection measures in criminal proceedings to all child victims and witnesses up to 18 and not subject these children to administrative or other types of liability for their

involvement in prostitution, along the way providing them with adequate protection and assistance?

- Will the draft law on combating discrimination explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity as prohibited grounds for discrimination? Which other steps has or will the Government of Armenia take to ensure LGBTI persons are not discriminated against, in law or practice?
- Is the Government of Armenia considering taking steps to amend its domestic legal provisions in order to ensure the independence of the judiciary from the other branches of power and considering establishing an independent body to appoint and promote judges as advised by the HR Committee?

## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

- How does Armenia implement recommendations of the election monitoring missions from recent presidential, parliamentary and also local elections? Have problems noted in this connection, such as election violence, alleged cases of manipulations with voters' lists and election results and intimidation of voters been properly investigated and dealt with?
- How does the Government intend to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, in particular with regard to existing presidential power to appoint, promote and dismiss judges and the alleged excessive influence of the Court of Cassation over court rulings and judges? What guarantees of fair trial are in place in Armenia?
- How does the Government fight discrimination; does it plan adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law?
- How has application of Strategic Programme against Gender-Based Violence improved the effectiveness of fight against domestic violence? Are there in place any protection mechanisms for its victims? What steps are being taken to raise public awareness of domestic and gender-based violence?
- Can Armenia elaborate on its policy for the prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment? How do the laws provide for accountability of public officials for involvement in these acts? How does the Government tackle the problem of high rate of non-conflict deaths in armed forces?

## **GERMANY**

- Which concrete steps is the Armenian Government taking to increase the representation of women, especially in leading positions in the political sector, in the public administration and in the business sector?
- Which measures are being taken by the Government to fight domestic violence and protect women from domestic violence?

- How does the Government intend to fulfill its obligation to bring Armenia's constitution and national legislation in line with Art. 1 of the UN Convention Against Torture?
- What steps has the Government taken to fight corruption in the judiciary?
- Has progress been made with regard to the investigations into the deaths which occurred during the violent unrest in connection with the presidential elections on 19 February 2008?

## **NETHERLANDS**

### **Freedom of Expression**

Which concrete steps has the Government of Armenia taken to amend its broadcasting laws so as to ensure the real independence of the regulatory body for television and radio?

What follow-up has been given to the European Court on Human Rights decision concerning the Government's denial of a license to A1 broadcasting company? When will the A1+ television station be allowed back on air?

### **Anti-discrimination**

What steps have been taken to address violence and hate speech against human rights defenders, in particular women's and LGBT rights defenders? Is the Armenian government willing to adopt comprehensive, stand-alone anti-discrimination legislation?

### **Freedom of Religion**

Which concrete steps have been taken by the authorities to assure freedom of religion and belief in Armenia and to prevent hate speech? What is being done to prevent discrimination on the basis of religion in public schools?

### **Freedom of Assembly**

Which concrete steps have been taken by the authorities to ensure, in its laws and regulations as well as in practice, that no arbitrary impediments are imposed with respect to exercising the right to freedom of assembly?

### **Administration of Justice**

How will Armenia work to address corruption in the judicial system, and to strengthen the independence of the judiciary?

When will Armenia ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court?

## **NORWAY**

- How is Armenia working to improve the situation of women and their place in society, especially regarding increased participation in decision-making processes? How is work progressing in improving legislation on domestic violence?
- What is being done to combat discrimination and to discourage intolerance towards vulnerable groups, including people with AIDS, people with disabilities and the LGBT community?

## **SLOVENIA**

- Given reports from different stakeholders on persistent discrimination in all aspects of life, increased female unemployment and lack of opportunities for decent wages for women we would like to ask the Republic of Armenia what steps have been taken to increase gender equality and to reduce the gender pay-gap.
- What steps have been taken by the Government of Armenia to ensure participation of minorities in public life and to secure due representation of minorities in the National Assembly.
- In light of the Republic of Armenia's adoption of National Strategy on Human Rights Protection in February 2014 Slovenia would like to ask what steps have been taken to implement the provisions of the mentioned document (National Strategy on Human Rights Protection).

## **UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

- As highlighted in the OSCE/ODIHR election monitoring report, lack of trust in electoral processes is a major area of concern. What measures are the Armenian government taking to gain the confidence of voters in electoral processes?
- What is the timeline for the adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, and how will you ensure that it effectively covers all minority groups?
- Concerns have been expressed over plurality of the media and the lack of transparency of ownership. Freedom House's 2014 report stated that 'despite constitutional and legal protections, press freedom in Armenia is restricted, and the media environment remains dominated by political influence'. Reporters without

Borders have expressed similar views. What measures are the government taking to ensure transparency and the freedom and independence of the media?

- There have been complaints from relatives that the investigation of noncombat deaths in the army has been inadequate and lacks transparency. Local human rights groups have also expressed concerns. How could the investigation be improved to ensure these complaints are addressed, and that lessons are learnt?
- What sanctions are applied to public officials who use or appear to encourage discriminatory attitudes towards religious and other minorities?