

Submission by the Republic of Armenia
to the report of UN Secretary General on the Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva
Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

International engagement and general context

Prevention of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and other atrocity crimes is one of the priorities of Armenia.

Armenia sees clear need for strengthening of early warning and action mechanisms as well as progressive development of international human rights, humanitarian and criminal laws and reinforcing synergies between the three.

Multilateral initiatives, including biennial resolution on “Prevention of Genocide” put forward by Armenia in the Human Rights Council which addresses number of aspects for protection of civilians, including the starvation of civilians as a method of combat is prohibited under international humanitarian law, fighting impunity for war crimes or other massive, serious or systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

October 3, 2023, Armenia ratified the Rome Statute and, therefore, formally became the 124th State Party to the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 1 February, 2024. Furthermore, the provisions of the Statute are vested with a retroactive power entailing in the recognition of the jurisdiction of the ICC over the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes provided for in Articles 6, 7 and 8 starting from May 10, 2021 (at 00:00) on the basis of paragraph 3 of Article 12 of the Statute.

Armenia has joined the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law contributing to activities within the work-streams of the initiative with special emphasis on the protection of civilian population and addressing the existing gaps in number of areas such as the use of Information and communication technologies in modern warfare.

The Interagency Commission on Issues of Prisoners of Wars, Hostages and Missing Persons (*whereabouts unknown*) was formed pursuant to the decree №1236-A of the Prime Minister of Armenia dated October 20, 2022. The Commission is chaired by the Director of the National Security Service (NSS) of Armenia. The establishment of the Commission indicates immense significance of this pressing humanitarian issue for both the Armenian Government and larger society.

In the context of the peace established between Armenia and Azerbaijan as a result of the Joint Declaration signed in Washington D.C. on 8 August 2025 by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and by the President of the United States of America as witness, the issue of the 19 ethnic Armenian detainees still held in Baku remains an important humanitarian matter requiring their safe return. Their release would constitute an important confidence-building measure, fostering trust between the peoples of Armenia and

Azerbaijan and thereby contributing to the consolidation of peace, as well as to stability and security in the region.

Activities in the sphere of protection of victims of armed conflict ICRC in Armenia

The scope of ICRC's activities in Armenia encompasses as follows:

- support to families of missing persons as well as visiting Armenian detainees and maintaining contact with them (*phone calls, prerecorded video messages and oral greetings*),
- inclusion of family members of missing persons as well as previously detained persons in MHPSS activities,
- technical and material support, including forensic expertise, to relevant public authorities, forensic and medical institutions (*to enhance preparedness and response for preventing disappearances and maximizing identification of dead in various emergencies*), provision of equipment to medical educational institutions, trainings of healthcare workers, including physicians, narrow specialists and nurses.¹
- Weapon contamination assessment activities in border communities, including recommendations to address them,
- facilitation of resilience-building programs in border communities, provision of economic assistance, including small-scale productive grants to start income-generating activities, multi-purpose cash assistance, agricultural crops and seeds, implementation of other economic undertakings (*for instance, a beekeeping project in Tavush region*)² etc.
- In partnership with competent Armenian authorities, programs and courses are initiated aimed at raising awareness on IHL.

Awareness

Extensive activities are carried out in the field of awareness-raising and promotion of IHL both among professional communities and the general public. Servicemen of the Armenian Armed Forces as well as service members of the Border Guard Troops of the RA National Security Service have been briefed on, respectively, the basics of the international HR law, IHL and the mandate, as well as the role of the ICRC. In particular, in 2025:

¹ For instance, the Staff of the “St. Gregory the Illuminator” Medical Center in Yerevan participated in the Mass Casualty Incident Management course.

² 50 households escaped to Armenia from Karabakh received 200 beehives with colonies, along with 50 sets of tools and uniforms, and attended beekeeping trainings provided in 12 communities.

- *30 servicemen of the Armenian Armed Forces preparing for deployment within the scope of the NATO-led KFOR mission, were briefed on the basics of HR law and IHL at the Peace Support Training Center in Abovyan.*
- *13 service members of the NSS Border Guards in Shirak region were introduced to the history, mandate, activities of the ICRC, fundamentals of both HR law and IHL.*

On May 23, 2025, the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia and the ICRC delegation in Armenia approved and put into effect the “Joint Action Plan for 2025-2026”. In accordance with this framework cooperation program:

- one-day basic training courses on IHL have already been conducted within all army corps of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia,
- a one-day pre-deployment training course on international HR law was conducted for personnel departing for missions within the peacekeeping brigade.
- a thematic lecture was held for cadets of the Military Academy as well as senior officers from different departments of the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff.
- moreover, the cadet group of the Military Academy of the Ministry of Defense participated in the competition on international human rights law and IHL among students of military academies from different countries held in San Remo (Italy) from March 22 to 28, 2026.
- additional events and joint initiatives planned under the Program are currently underway.

In addition, a series of books and publications have been issued, notably:

- “Comprehensive introduction to the IHL”,
- “Collection of reference sources on issues related to IHL”.
- the latest edition of the study “On Customary IHL Implementation for the period 2019-2024” with special sections on relevant regulations contained in the existing national legislation and judicial practices.

A two-day workshop entitled “Diplomatic Relevance of IHL for Diplomatic Staff” was held November 3-4, 2025, at the Diplomatic School of the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). The workshop was co-organized by the MFA and the ICRC Delegation in Armenia with the aim to introduce to diplomats (*especially young generation*) the operational framework of IHL (*scope of its application*), correlation with international HR law, the ICRC mandate and activities carried out by the staff, as well as to highlight the importance of IHL for diplomatic personnel.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

On December 4, 2025, Armenia adopted its Third National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) for the period 2025–2027 (Decree of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1760-L) in alignment with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 following the previous plans for 2019–2021 and 2022–2024. The new plan aims to enhance the role of women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, reflecting Armenia's commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women in all aspects of public life.

The Third National Action Plan on WPS places significant emphasis on addressing the specific needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups, particularly in the context of conflict and post-conflict situations. It prioritizes the issues faced by relatives of those who are missing due to military action, as well as mothers who have lost their children and women who have lost their husbands as a direct result of the war. In addition, it extends its focus to children who are left without fathers, recognizing the profound impact that these losses have on families and communities.

The NAP offers a comprehensive, gender-sensitive approach that goes beyond mere acknowledgment of these hardships. It actively seeks to provide tailored support, including psychological assistance, capacity-building programs, and other forms of aid aimed at addressing the unique challenges faced by these groups. By doing so, the plan aims to create sustainable living conditions and ensure that the rights of the most vulnerable are upheld and protected within the broader framework of the WPS agenda.

One of the objectives of the NAP is ensuring the protection of women and girls affected by violence during conflicts including by studying and gathering cases related to violations of international humanitarian and human rights law against civilians, applying WPS framework in order to improve response mechanisms for crimes against life and health, sexual freedom and immunity, honor and dignity in conflict situations, as well as mechanisms for detecting, identifying and referring female victims of violence, including sexual violence and trafficking, and localization of promising international experience, in particular considering the integration of the Murad Code. The NAP foresees number of concrete measures for ensuring special protection for women and girls in times of war and emergencies including climate change, development of civil defense skills and knowledge among women and girls (with special attention to women and girls living in border regions).