



# Women's Support Center

## Newsletter - July 2017

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Welcome to our quarterly e-newsletter designed to keep you informed of our current activities. Below we highlight the work we've carried out in the past few months to ensure the safety of women and children victims of domestic violence and advocate for change.

Engage with us by following our [Facebook](#) page, [website](#), and [contacting](#) us. We would love to hear from you!

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### OUR SUCCESSES

In the first half of 2017, we received over 1,000 hotline calls and supported 65 women and children with social, psychological, and legal counseling and trial defense as well as shelter assistance. Check out a recently launched [platform](#) that documents the stories of WSC beneficiaries and other inspirational women in Armenia who have survived abuse and discrimination. To support our shelter, see our ongoing [fundraiser](#).

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### OUTREACH



*WSC's Ani Jilozian (second to right) giving a talk in Vienna on femicide in Armenia.*

This past spring, WSC Researcher Ani Jilozian was invited to give a presentation in Vienna on femicide in Armenia at the 26th session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The event was organized by Women Against Violence in Europe, in conjunction with ACUNS, UNODC, the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, the OSCE, and other stakeholders. Data shows that roughly 1 out of every 7 murders in Armenia occur in the home, and women make up the majority of domestic homicides. To learn more about this phenomenon, see the 2016 [femicide report](#) authored by Ani and published by the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women.

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## TRAINING & PREVENTION



*WSC lawyers Nona Galstyan and Amalya Avagyan and WSC Project Coordinator Hasmik Gevorgyan take part in conferences organized by Global Rights for Women*

This past April, WSC staff members Nona Galstyan and Hasmik Gevorgyan, alongside representatives from the Republic of Armenia police department, investigative committee, and Ministry of Justice, took part in a workshop organized by Global Rights for Women in Minnesota on the topic of state mechanisms to prevent and combat domestic violence. Later in June, Global Rights for Women invited WSC Lawyer Amalya Avagyan and Armenian State representatives to participate in another conference in Bucharest dedicated to ending violence against women and girls through better laws and enforcement. These workshops provided us with the opportunity to work more closely with State authorities to tackle domestic violence and offered a valuable exchange of experience with women's rights advocates from many countries around the world.

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## CHALLENGES



*WSC beneficiary Naira Smbatyan giving an interview following her testimony in court.*

After being denied protection from police and other state bodies and refused defense from another NGO, Naira Smbatyan, mother of four, currently resides at the WSC shelter with her youngest son. She is in the midst of a divorce case and criminal trial, and her husband has displayed violent and coercive behavior on numerous occasions towards her and the WSC staff. Given the severity of the case, the WSC continues to hire armed policemen to protect them during court trials. See a recent EVN report [article](#) authored by WSC's Ani Jilozian on the impunity for domestic violence cases within Armenia's criminal justice system.

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