



# **The Quadrennial Report 2007-2010 of the Armenian Constitutional Right Protective Centre to United Nations Economic and Social Council**

## **1. Introduction**

The Armenian Constitutional Right-Protective Centre (ACRPC) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in June, 1988, in the town of Vanadzor, Republic of Armenia. ACRPC has been the leading human rights education NGO in Armenia since 1996, having implemented about 70 projects costing approximately \$ 2 million in total. ACRPC central office is located in Vanadzor, Armenia. ACRPC activities cover all the regions of Armenia, including the capital city Yerevan. ACRPC's Human Rights Library Network (HRLN) includes six Human Rights libraries in the regional towns of Artashat, Dilijan, Gavar, Hrazdan, Sevan and Vanadzor. In 2001, ACRPC moved to its own reconstructed Educational-Cultural Centre. Since December 2002, ACRPC has been associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI). In July 2007 by the decision of the United Nations Economic and Social Council ACRPC was granted Special consultative status. ACRPC is a member of many networks and campaigns: the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the United Nations (CoNGO), Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), Civil Society Partnership Network (CSPN), the Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Fund Network Armenian coalition and has been coordinating Global Campaign for Education (GCE) Armenian coalition activities.

## **2. Aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action**

Since 2003 ACRPC NGO has been acting on the bases of well elaborated strategic plans. The current Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 was developed in May-December, 2010 during two workshops with the participation of ACRPC members, partners, beneficiaries and volunteers. The new Strategic Plan was approved by the ACRPC Assembly on 24 November 2010. The Logistic Framework of the 2011 - 2015 Plan includes: ACRPC Vision. A world living with the love and tolerance where law and justice given from above reign. ACRPC Mission: to contribute to the development of the society's legal culture in Armenia through scientific activity, education, information dissemination and advocacy. ACRPC Goal: to contribute to the development of legal culture in Armenia. The Strategic Plan will be implemented in five strategic directions: 1.Armenian Human Rights School (AHR): 1.1.AHR courses are aimed to raise the effectiveness of teaching the legal components and "Ethics" of "Social Sciences" through training of teachers, 1.2.Experience exchange conferences, 1.3.Provision of legal education and information to different groups of the society, 1.4.Human Rights Education national online forum, 1.5.Expansion of Armenian Human Rights School building and technical resources (new building construction, equipment), 1.6.Cooperation with international structures for human rights teaching experience exchange, 1.7. Coordination of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) Armenian National Coalition activities, 1.8. Continuous feedback with Armenian Human Rights School graduates, 1.9.Preparing of Social thematic films and their distribution. 2. Human Rights Library Network (HRLN), which includes six Human Rights Libraries in the towns of Artashat, Dilijan, Gavar, Hrazdan, Sevan and Vanadzor, 2.1.Providing library services to beneficiaries (including vocational and other literature, media, posters, reading-hall, thematic film shows, web services), 2.2.Establishment of electronic libraries, 2.3.Expansion of the Human Rights Library Network with the inclusion of one more Human Rights library in another region of Armenia, 2.3.Establishment and functioning of Human Rights Education Youth Clubs at HRLN libraries, 2.4.Legal Consultations. 3.Publications: 3.1.Publication and distribution of Legal Culture periodical and legal scientific methodological review "For the Sake of Justice", 3.2. Publishing of thematic posters,

3.3. Translation and publication of other thematic literature. 4. Legal Reforms: 4.1. Sowing and inculcating the conviction of necessity of Constitutional and legal reforms. 5. Collaborative Secondary School: 5.1. Implementation of public education by Collaborative Teaching Methodology in cohesion with state educational curriculum, 5.2. Actions to make the school known to the public, 5.2. Provision of sports and laboratory facilities, 5.3. Ensuring pupils' active participation in educational, sports and cultural events on municipal, regional and national levels.

### **3. Any change that made have had a significant impact on the organizations vision**

In 2008 ACRPC enrolled as a member in the National Assembly-NGO Partnership Network and was elected as a Board member. The ACRPC chairman was elected as a Responsible for the Network's Human Rights and Public Relations Commission. In 2009, ACRPC enrolled as a member in the Public Council and as a member of its Civil Society Commission's Human Rights Sub commission. During February-November 2010 the new Conception of the Armenian Human Rights School (AHRS) was elaborated. Representatives of national and international organizations, ACRPC members, volunteers, AHRS graduates and students, as well as beneficiaries participated in the workshop. The new concept was approved by the ACRPC Assembly on 24 November, 2010. In 2010 ACRPC enrolled as a member in the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Conference Armenian National Platform of the European Commission.

### **4. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

During the period of 2007-2010 the ACRPC contributed to the work of the United Nations and of the Economic and Social Council within the framework of its following strategic directions: 1. Armenian Human Rights School, 2. Human Rights Library Network, 3. Publications. ACRPC Representatives participated in or conducted events promoting physical, mental, ecological, and spiritual health through communication, educated reflection and insight. The Armenian Human Rights School (AHRS) organized 4 annual one-year advanced human rights training courses for teachers of "Human Rights", "Civic Education", "State and Law" and "Ethics" in the secondary schools of the Republic of Armenia. 245 teachers from all Armenian regions and from the capital city Yerevan participated in the AHRS Summer and Winter sessions. Those participants, who took tests and final exams, were given Certificates of Qualification. Within the framework of AHRS program participants studied the themes "United Nations structure", "United Nations Human Rights documents" "United Nations Human Rights Protection Mechanisms", "Children's rights", "Refugee's rights". Lecturers and experts from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) were invited and they delivered lectures, seminars and workshops on corresponding topics. UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR and UNDPPI Armenian offices donated a packet of literature to each participant, thus enriching regional school libraries with the United Nations related information. Human Rights Library Network (HRLN): All six Human Rights libraries have special United Nations related sections and have served as resource centers for Human Rights education, thus contributing to the United Nations World Plan for Human Rights Education. The libraries were provided with 794 new titles of United Nations related literature (2080 pieces) published by UNDPPI, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR Armenian offices and by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The United Nations section of the Vanadzor Human Rights Library is provided additionally with the compilation of the "Treaty Series of Treaties and international agreements registered or filed and recorded with the Secretariat of the United Nations". During the 2007-2010 period 25040 readers have used HRLN services. 146 teachers, students, NGO members and pensioners attended the monthly thematic film shows and participated in discussions. Among the films shown were "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights",

“Children’s Rights”, “We are our history” that had been donated by the United Nations Armenian offices. Publications: More than 80 United Nations related articles, information, statements and documents were published during the period of 2007-2010 in the ACRPC periodicals "Legal Culture" and "For the Sake of Justice” with the aim of acquainting the society with the activities of the United Nations. The periodicals were published in 2300 copies print run and delivered to educational institutions, libraries, state bodies and NGOs in all regions of Armenia. A CD From War to Peace, transforming generational trauma into healing and meaning making was published by the Main Representative and translated into 4 languages: English, Armenian, German, and Spanish. A paperback “Forgiveness and Reconciliation, Psychological Pathways for Conflict Transformation and Peace Building”, was published by Springer Publishing House in 2010. The United Nations Bookstore has expressed interest and has ordered several copies from the publisher.

## **5. Participation to the United Nations**

ACRPC Representatives’ Team maintains a close relationship with the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) office regarding meetings, dissemination of NGO materials and weekly briefings. Through a multiple platform, ACRPC is allowed to access a calendar of United Nations events to attend extra meetings, such as NGO Hearings at the General Assembly, by way of its grounds clearance through the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Additionally, through UNDP, ACRPC has access to an NGO Resource Room which serves as a provider of various NGO publications and advertises meetings of possible interest. 2007-2010: Each Thursday the ACRPC representatives gathered on a weekly basis at the United Nations to discuss initiatives and adjust actions to suit the goals. Every week a representative was responsible for attending the UNDP briefings in the North Lawn Building, and the Main representative together with the other representatives attended weekly meetings for Committee for Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns (CSVGC-NY.ORG) in the DC-1 building. 2009: ACRPC in collaboration with the UNDP Armenian office and in participation with UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR and other international and national bodies organized a forum to coordinate human rights education actors to join efforts in developing suggestions for the Second phase of the United Nations World Plan on Human Rights Education (WPHRE) at the UN House, Yerevan, Armenia, 02 July. The developed document was submitted to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. 2007-2010: The representatives worked in the United Nations NGO/DPI Annual Conference planning committees and United Nations Commission on the status of women (CSW). 2007-2010: Representatives attended the 51st session of the CSW from 26 February to 9 March 2007, the 52nd session from 25 February to 7 March 2008, 53rd session from 2 to 13 March, 2009, the 54th Session from 1-12 March 2010 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the United States. 2007-2010: Representatives attended the Committee weekly scheduled meetings of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) regarding the topics on HIV/AIDS, Mental Health, Spirituality, Values, and Global Concerns, as well as the UNICEF working group meetings on Child's Rights, Family, and Refugees, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the United States. 2010: Representatives attended the United Nations conference on Health, Consciousness and Spirituality 26 June 2010, United Nations Church Center, New York, the United States. 2010: A Representative attended the Universal Periodic Review 8th Session, related to human rights progress in the Republic of Armenia. Review by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on 6 & 10 May, at the United Nations office in Geneva, Switzerland. 2010: Representatives attended the United Nations Program “Hibakusha, our life to live: The lives of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Survivors”, a film by David Rothauer, Chaired and discussion led by the main representative Dr. Kalayjian at the Conference Room A, at North Lawn Building, 19 May, New York, the United States.

## **6. Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

ACRPC cooperation with United Nations bodies has developed in several spheres: Human Rights Library Network (HRLN) development and its supplementation with the United Nations sections book fund, 2. Joint projects in cooperation with OHCHR, UNDP and UNICEF Armenian offices, 3. Joint activities, presentations with UNDPI Armenian office, 4. Human Rights courses with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNDP, UNDPI, UNICEF Armenian offices. ACRPC representatives are actively involved in building relationships with Permanent Missions to the United Nations (Permanent Mission of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone ), which are in line with humanitarian outreach goals. The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia has cosponsored a few ACRPC events at the United Nations. These missions provided valuable information and assistance for implementing humanitarian outreach projects in their respective countries. Project "Strengthening Awareness in and Response to Exposure of Corruption in Armenia" in collaboration with UNDP Armenian Office, the Government of the Republic of Armenia and regional coordination organizations, aimed at improving transparency and accountability of the Armenian governing structures through promotion of effective civil society participation in monitoring of the Government's anti-corruption strategy processes in February – November, Republic of Armenia, 2007. Project "Sowing Human Rights Seeds" in collaboration with UNDP Armenian Office and United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), was aimed at spreading human rights and democracy ideas among school-age children through promotion of human rights education and information in Armenia, 2008-2009. Project "Translation into Armenian and publication of the Manual on Human Rights Education for children – Compasito" in collaboration with UNDP and UNICEF Armenian offices was aimed to translate the Council of Europe Human Rights Education textbook for children into Armenian and thus to rectify the lack of human rights educational teaching materials in the Armenian language, Vanadzor, Armenia, 2009-2010. 2010: United Nations Week of Spirituality: From War To Peace: In conjunction with the Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns (CSVGC), ACRPC cosponsored this event honoring 2010 International Year of Rapprochement of Cultures and a Decade of a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for Children of the World (2001-2010). The event was held on 29 October, at the Salvation Army Auditorium, New York, the United States of America. Representatives were partners of several psychologically based United Nations NGOs organizing Psychology Day event on April 14, 2010 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, the United States. ACRPC cosponsored the Annual Meaningful World Conference on Health, Consciousness, and Spirituality of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), held on 26 June, 2010, at the United Nations Church Center, New York, the United States. 2010: ACRPC cosponsored the United Nations conference on Preventing Torture and Genocide, 29 July, at the United Nations Church Center, New York, the United States.

## **7. Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the MDGS**

2007-2010: ACRPC contributed to all Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by providing literature and information to 25040 users through its network of Human Rights libraries in the Armenian towns of Artashat, Dilijan, Gavar, Hrazdan, Sevan and Vanadzor. Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty of October 17, in 2007, 2008 and 2009 was observed by ACRPC participating in Global Campaign for Action Against Poverty (GCAP) through local TV round tables, publications, participation in the month of Mobilization of "Stand Up and Speak out Against Poverty and Inequality". In July, 2010 Representatives distributed health bars and vitamin supplements to those in need, during humanitarian outreach trips to the Republic of Haiti, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Sierra Leone, and to Democratic Republic of Congo: approximately 500 units per each country. Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education 2007-2010: 144 schoolchildren were taught at the ACRPC Collaborative Secondary School and 45 young people were involved in ACRPC Human Rights

Educational Youth Clubs at the Vanadzor, Sevan and Hrazdan Human Rights Libraries, Armenia. In April 2010, ACRPC Main Representative organized and took teams to the Republic of Haiti. Focusing on care of 160 children each day (for 2 weeks) and provided therapy via interactive exercises such as coloring, draw and tell techniques, as well as donated and distributed 6 big bags of goods for children, including clothing.

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women 2010: The main Representative Dr. Kalayjian conducted informative and healing sessions for approximately 20 victimized children in High Schools each day of the mission, in order to teach methods of prevention and action, city Kunya, the Republic of Kenya.

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality Rates 2010: ACRPC Main Representative worked diligently to empower the disadvantaged generation in the Republic of Kenya and in the Republic of Sierra Leone empowering approximately 100 women in the community predisposing them to give birth to healthier children, with less risk to both mother and child. Representatives worked in 2 clinics helping approximately 50 women daily in their birthing process and educating them.

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health 2010: Educational sessions and workshops were conducted in the Republic of Kenya and in the Republic of Sierra Leone in 2009, in the Republic of Haiti in 2010 with great outcomes (100 women 150 children, and 50 school children in each country).

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases 2007-2010: six humanitarian outreach missions were initiated in the Republic of Haiti, in the Republic of Kenya, and past outreach locations. In Kunya, Kenya, main representative Dr Kalayjian conducted 7 hour/day trainings on mindfulness and conflict transformation in the High Schools, with 12 High school teachers, as well as at the HIV clinic.

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability The humanitarian outreach was intended to establish partnerships for training on solar cooking, for two weeks in Kunya, the Republic of Kenya, in which about 100 women and men, including representatives of 20 organizations assembled for an educational meeting on the use of solar cookers, August-September,2010.

Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development. 2007-2010: Every year, in the last week of April, the organization has been coordinating the national events of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) Armenian coalition, in cooperation with UNDPI, UNESCO and UNICEF Armenian offices.

## **8. Additional Information**

Additional Information: ACRPC vision “A world living with the love and tolerance where law and justice given from above reign” and ACRPC strategic directions are aimed ultimately to contribute to the Rule of Law, global Justice and Peace, which coincide with the main goals of the United Nations Charter and with the principals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Armenian Constitutional Right-Protective Centre NGO is eager to continue to contribute to the work of the Economic and Social Council and of the United Nations in the future.