**The Republic of Armenia**

**Commission On The Status of Women**

**Promoting Gender Equality And Empowerment of Women**

The Republic of Armenia is a landlocked country in the mountainous regions of the Caucasus. The Republic of Armenia borders Turkey in the west, Georgia in the north, Azerbaijan in the east and Nakhchivan in the south. Yerevan is the capital and largest city. The area of the Republic of Armenia is 29,743 square kilometers. The Republic of Armenia is a democratic nation-state with an ancient cultural heritage. The first Armenian state of Urartu was established in 860 BC. The Republic of Armenia reached its height during the reign of Tigranes the Great in the 1st century BC and became the first state in the world to adopt Christianity as the official religion in 301. By 1922 became a founding member of the Soviet Union. Levon Ter-Petrosyan was elected by the people on 16 October 1991, as the first President of the newly independent modern Republic of Armenia.

Women in Armenia have had equal rights, including the right to vote, since the establishment of the First Republic of Armenia. The 80-seat legislature, charged with setting the foundation for an Armenian state, contained three women deputies: Katarine Zalyan-Manukyan, Perchuhi Partizpanyan-Barseghyan and Varvara Sahakyan. The constitution of the current Republic of Armenia was adopted in 1991 and officially guaranteed gender equality. Armenian women came to the fore in politics and other fields. Based on a report by the United Nations, there were 24 female mayors and community leaders in Armenia in 2011. Young Armenian brides developed a sign language called "Harnseren", which means "The Language of the Bride", against the rule of silence applied to married Armenian women. Despite the inferior position of women in Armenian society, the Armenian Apostolic Church gave women more opportunities to take on priestly roles than in many other Christian traditions. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and establishment of independent with free elections the quota system was abolished, which brought to a significant drop in the number of women elected in post-soviet states. Among Armenian women politicians, Hranush Hakobyan became the longest-serving woman in the Armenian National Assembly. In 2015, Arpine Hovhannisyan became the first Armenian woman to serve as Minister of Justice in Armenia until 2017. In 2022, Anna Vardapetyan became the Republic of Armenia's first female Prosecutor General.

Due to the increasing importance of women in politics and other fields in Armenia in recent years, we will work to bring women to the fore and include them more in state affairs in the Armenian National Assembly. We will introduce women more in the history of the country.