

Check against delivery

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*Statement by Ms. Audra Čiapienė,  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lithuania,  
at the review of Armenia*

Mr President,

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed delegation of Armenia and thanks for the informative National Report.

Lithuania highly values the recently adopted Action plan for the National Strategy on Human Rights Protection and would like to encourage Armenia to continuously spread information on human rights among the public.

Lithuania welcomes the National Programme for the Protection of the Rights of the Child for 2013-2016 and recommends providing it with necessary resourcing and strengthening its implementation, especially in respect of children in closed or partially-closed institutions.

We recognize the positive steps taken by Armenia in ensuring equal opportunities for women and men by adopting new legislation in 2013. However, despite relatively strong policy framework, in practice gender inequalities still persist. Therefore, we recommend Armenia to improve efficiency of the implementation of the Gender Equality Act, to pay special attention to domestic violence against women and to adopt the necessary legislation in order to prevent violence and to protect victims.

Lithuania praises Armenia for the significant improvements in the area of freedom of expression since 2010. Nevertheless, the cases of violence against human rights defenders and journalists are still being reported. In this respect we recommend Armenia to improve investigation of such incidents and to publicly acknowledge the importance of human rights defenders in achieving pluralistic and democratic society.

Lithuania also welcomes the Strategic Program for Legal and Judicial Reforms for 2012-2016 and recommends further strengthening independence of the judiciary from the executive and legislative branches by establishing an independent body responsible for the appointment of judges.

Thank you.