

**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus**

**Geneva**

*G. Samouel*

Intervention by Cyprus

Tuesday, 14 November 2023, 09:00-12:1230

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**44th Session**

**Azerbaijan**

Cyprus welcomes the delegation from Azerbaijan at today’s UPR and thanks for its report.

We strongly condemn Azerbaijan’s pre-planned military aggression against the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh on 19 September 2023. We remain extremely concerned by the dire humanitarian and human rights crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh and the situation of the Armenian population who were forced to fled from their homes.

We are equally concerned by legislative amendments and laws adopted which further restrict freedom of expression and impede NGOs from operating freely, and by reports that torture continues to be routinely practiced.

We recommend:

1. Ensure conditions for safe and dignified return of Armenian refugees to Nagorno-Karabakh.
2. Facilitate an on-site visit by UNESCO to Nagorno-Karabakh to monitor and draw up an inventory of cultural heritage;
3. Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
4. Implement the European Court of Human Rights case law and judgments at the national level;
5. Thoroughly and impartially investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment and hold perpetrators accountable;

Thank you.