

# HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM



**EURASIA  
PARTNERSHIP  
FOUNDATION**



The Transformative Paradigm lies at the core of EPF's Human Rights (HR) Program: EPF works on changing the structural causes of intolerance, violence and discrimination, as well as the attitudes and behavior of actors. Critical thinking methodology – deconstructing stereotypes, opening up tabooed discussions, changing imposed narratives and perceptions, challenging the notion of 'the other' – is a key to addressing issues of minority rights, non-discrimination and freedom of expression, areas which are at the foundation of EPF's Human Rights programming.

During the period 2013-2020 the program has enjoyed funding from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Youth Department of Council of Europe, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Democracy Reporting International (DRI).

Thinking and conceptualizing behind each project is based on EPF's conviction that contextual, cultural and political drivers of Human Rights violations should be addressed in the first place. Thoughtful study of a problem, close cooperation with all counterparts and beneficiaries, looking for out-of-the-box solutions are some of the instruments EPF applies while designing and implementing projects. Since EPF is a think and do tank, it works full circle from research to policy advice and implementation.

This presentation introduces a set of major documents covering a variety of issues that EPF Human Rights program has been engaged in and advocating over these years.

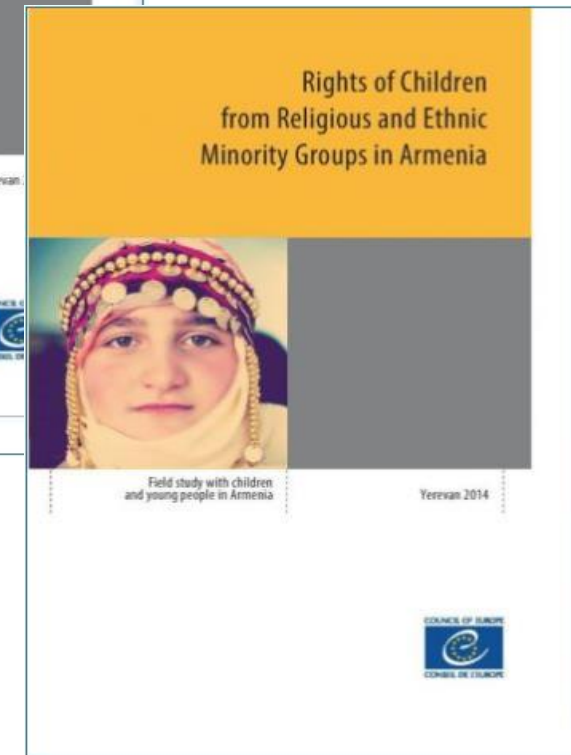
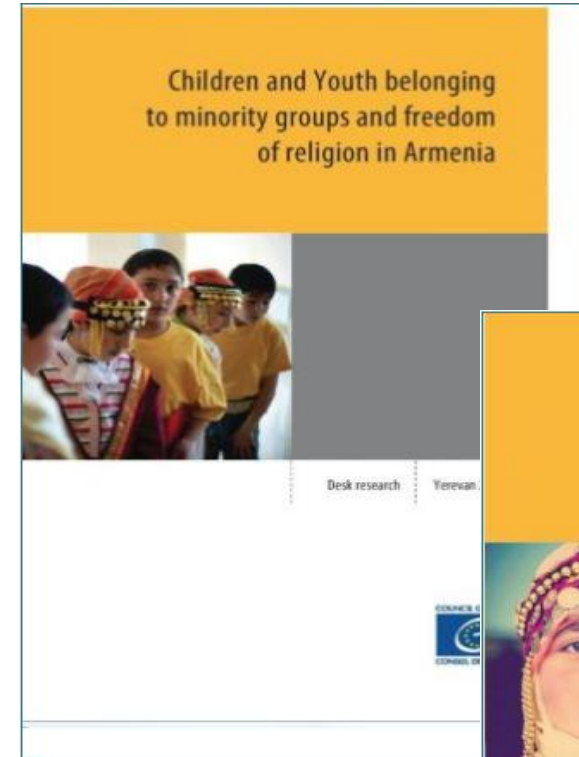
# PROTECTING CHILD RIGHTS OF RELIGIOUS MINORITY GROUPS IN ARMENIA (2014)

The goal of this desk research was to conduct a review of existing studies in relation to problems and specific issues affecting the children and youth of ethnic and religious minority groups, including intolerance and discrimination directed towards them and its possible impact on their well-being and daily life. This desk research indicates that both issues are very relevant for Armenia. Many of the problems identified within the scope of the study, such as early marriages and school drop-outs, are tightly linked to the issues of traditions and child rights limitations within the minority communities.

This field study is a first attempt to look into the cases of discrimination which children from ethnic and religious minority groups face in Armenia in the sphere of social, family, church and community life, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Based on hands-on evidence, case studies and findings of previously conducted desk research, the report presents conclusions and recommendations concerning the protection of the rights of children from ethnic and religious minority groups, which can contribute to a reduction of cases of discrimination and intolerance in Armenia.

To download the desk study please click [here](#).

To download the field study please click [here](#).



# ISSUES RELATED TO THE RIGHTS OF AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YEZIDI GIRLS RESIDING IN ARMENIA (2020)

As part of the Enhancing of Public Participation of Yezidi Girls in Armenia project, this study attempts to present the priority needs of Yezidi girls in Armenia, the extent to which Yezidi girls are vulnerable to early marriages, and their role in decision-making processes regarding their own lives.

The conclusions demonstrate that Yezidi girls and women are vulnerable to deprivation, particularly of their educational, social and cultural rights. As a result of the Yezidis' specific social structure, the socio-economic situation in the regions of Armenia and lack of security, early marriages are extensively practiced. Although Armenia has obligations to protect the rights of national minorities and eliminate harmful practices, Yezidi girls do not fully enjoy their rights, not only because of cultural and social issues, but also because of the omissions of the legal system.

To download the English version of the research please click [here](#).

To download the Armenian version of the research please click [here](#).

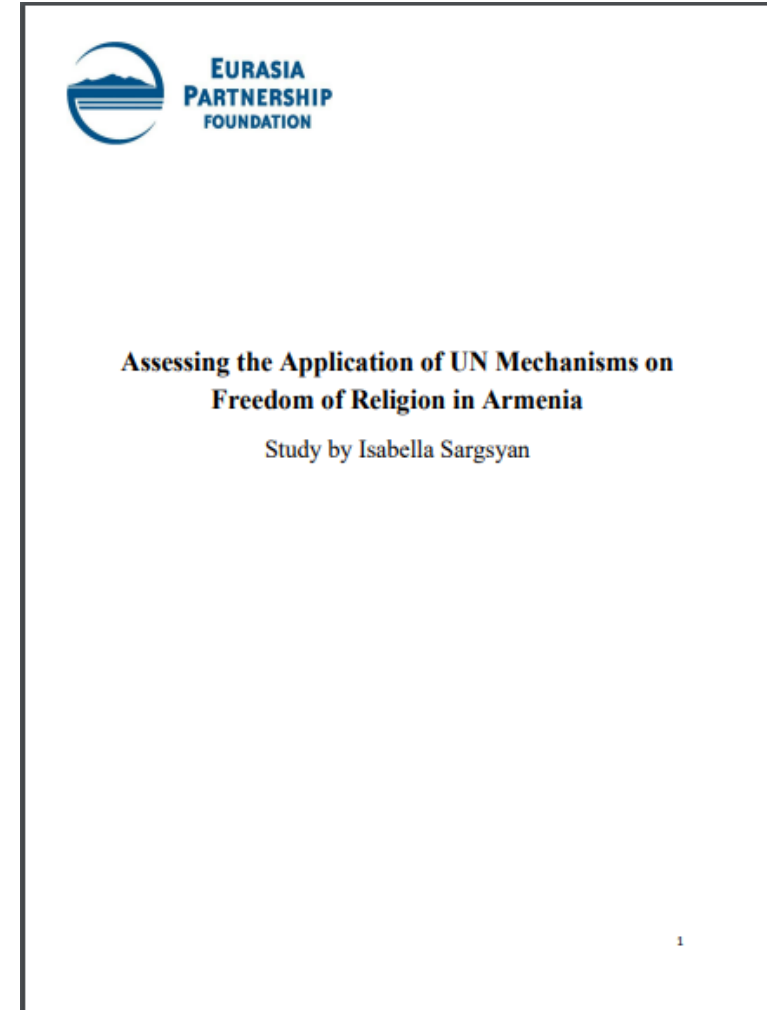


# ASSESSING THE APPLICATION OF UN MECHANISMS ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN ARMENIA (2014)

This study focuses on issues of freedom of religion in Armenia. Specifically, it examines the extent to which UN Human Rights mechanisms, and in particular, recommendations of UN Charter and Treaty Bodies on freedom of religion, are incorporated into Armenian legislation or reflected in governmental policies and practices.

The research is intended to be of use first and foremost to the Armenian Government. However, we believe that it can also be used by international organizations, intergovernmental bodies and local NGOs dealing with human rights. Taking into consideration the anticipated reader group of the paper, the study focuses on concrete recommendations, analyses and principles, while omitting widely-known facts and details. Nevertheless, wherever we feel that there is an obvious lack of information, or more elaboration is needed for grasping the argument, we also provide the necessary basic data.

To download the research please click [here](#).

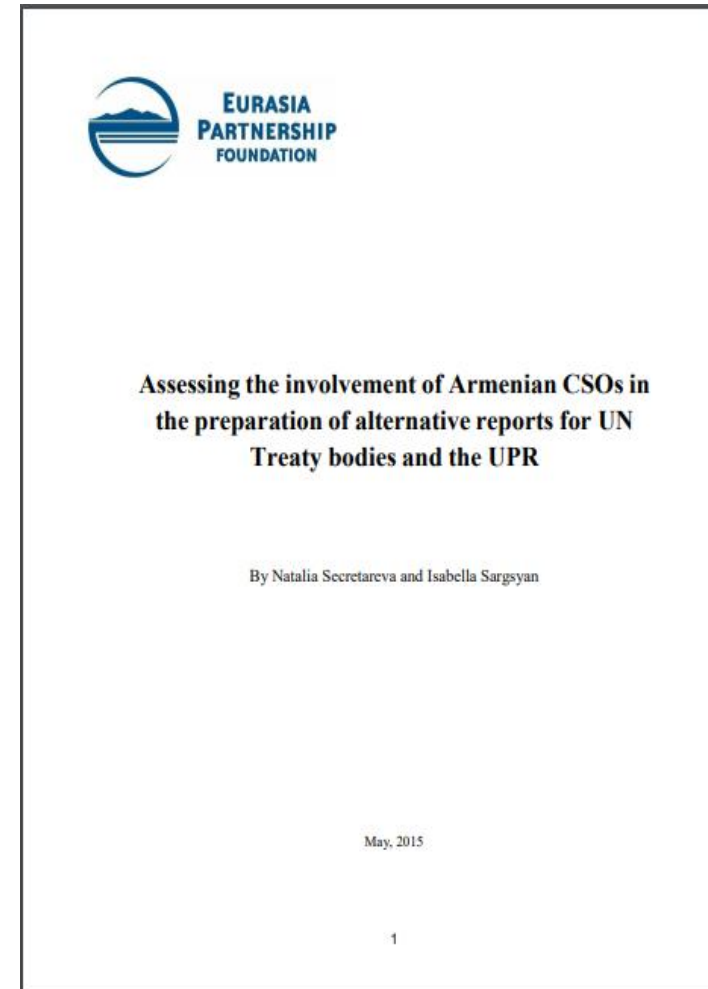


# ASSESSING THE INVOLVEMENT OF ARMENIAN CSOs IN THE PREPARATION OF ALTERNATIVE REPORTS FOR UN TREATY BODIES AND THE UPR (2015)

This research is aimed at assisting Armenian civil society organizations, but it can also be useful for the Armenian government and international organizations which may wish to assist local organizations in strengthening their capacities and the preparation of alternative reports.

The report focuses on a relatively new topic which has not been examined in Armenia before. There are some reports and other documents analyzing the work of United Nations (UN) treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) from the point of view of, for example, particular rights and freedoms. However, there are no studies which contain up-to-date information on the participation of Armenian CSOs in international human rights mechanisms and particularly in preparing alternative reports to UN treaty bodies and the UPR.

To download the research please click [here](#).



# HOW TO WORK WITH UN HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES (IN ARMENIAN, 2017)

This toolkit provides concise information and step-by-step guidance to Armenian CSOs, civic activists and other stakeholders on methods of using UN Human Rights Mechanisms to advance human rights work in Armenia. In particular, the toolkit covers the UN Special Procedures and illustrates the process of drafting alternative reports to the UN Treaty bodies and UPR.

To download the research please click [here](#).





# ALTERNATIVE REPORT TO THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD WITH A FOCUS ON YEZIDI CHILDREN (2019)

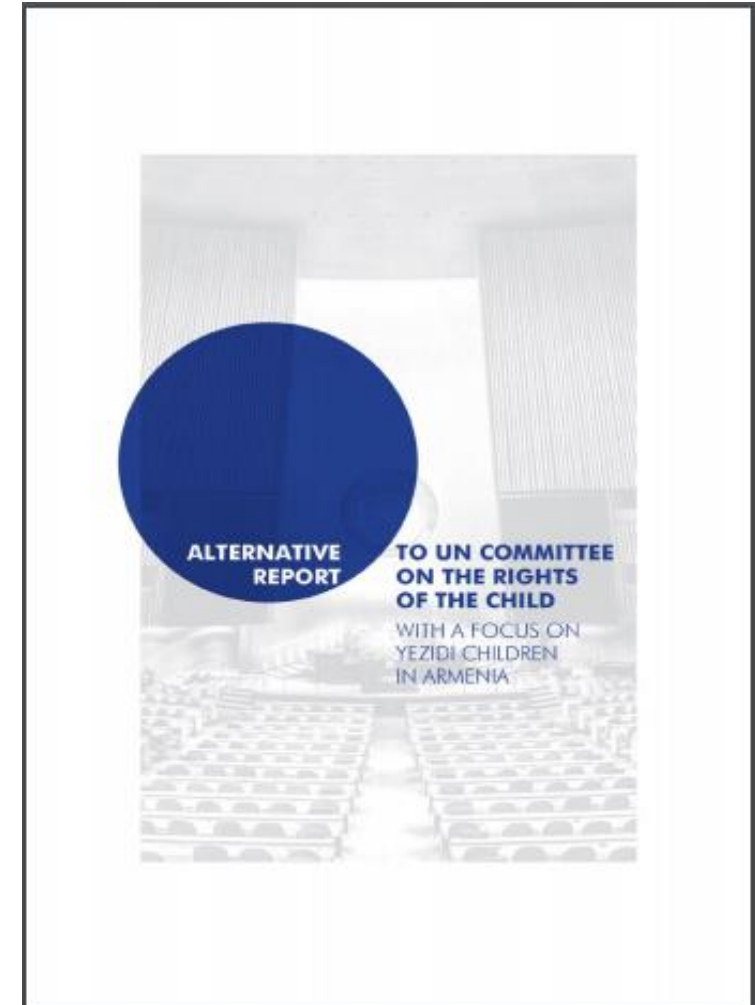
This is part of the 'Promoting Human and Labor Rights in Armenia through GSP+' project (2019)

The report analyses the legal and regulatory frameworks relevant to children's rights in general and minority rights in particular. It also includes the results of a media monitoring exercise and six focus groups conducted in the Armavir region, where many Yezidis live.

This is the first alternative report focusing on the rights of children from ethnic and religious minorities in Armenia. While these children face the same challenges and experience the same violations as those from majority communities, they also experience specific issues which have so far been largely excluded from general reports on children's rights produced by state bodies, international organizations and local CSOs. This alternative report focuses only on issues affecting minority children and does not consider those relevant to all children in Armenia, regardless of their religious and/or ethnic identity (e.g. child poverty).

The report urges the Committee to ask several questions to the Government of Armenia during the Constructive Dialogue and in this regard makes recommendations.

To download the report please click [here](#).





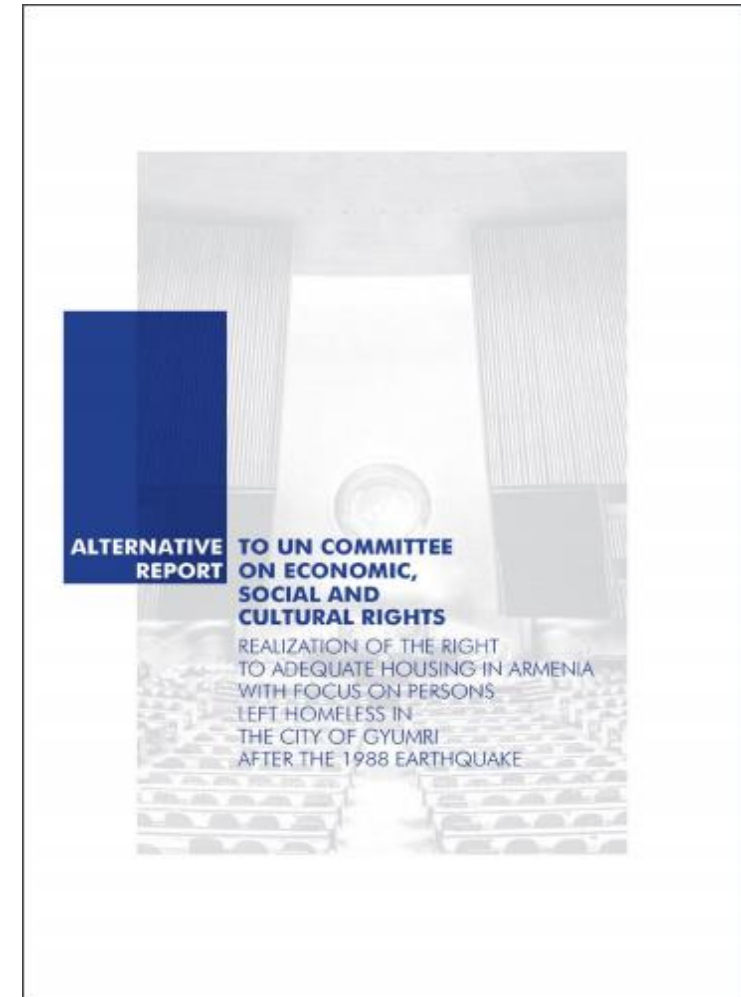
# THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING WITH A FOCUS ON PERSONS LEFT HOMELESS IN GYUMRI AFTER THE 1988 EARTHQUAKE (2019)

The purpose of this Alternative Report is to provide information to the GSP+ audience and the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regarding the Armenian government's implementation of its obligations to ensure the right to an adequate standard of living. This report focuses on the right to adequate housing conditions. The Report reviews the legal framework regarding the right to adequate housing as well as challenges to providing housing to persons left homeless after the 1988 earthquake, in particular those in the city of Gyumri in Shirak region.

Group interviews, in-depth interviews and site visits were conducted in order to collect the information presented in this report. Shirak region, and in particular the city of Gyumri, was selected because homelessness in Gyumri is one of the most urgent humanitarian problems of Armenia that has not been solved during the last 31 years.

Based on the results of the legal and field study analysis, a set of recommendations are presented in the report.

To download the report please click [here](#).



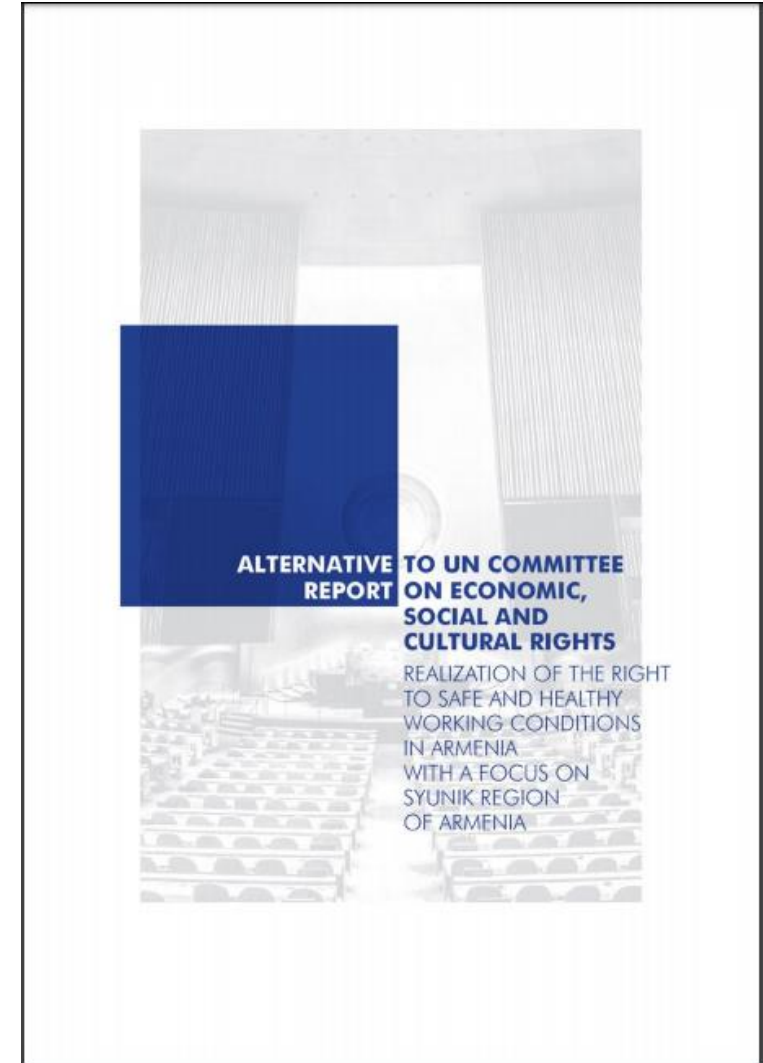
# THE RIGHT TO SAFE AND HEALTHY WORKING CONDITIONS WITH A FOCUS ON SYUNIK REGION OF ARMENIA (2019)

This Alternative Report aims to provide information to the GSP+ audience and the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) on the implementation of the Armenian government's obligations under Article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which sets forth the obligation of a state to ensure the right of everyone to the enjoyment of just and favorable conditions of work.

Following a general discussion of the legal, regulatory, and policy framework impacting safe and healthy working conditions, the report assesses the labor rights of persons employed in the mining sector in Syunik region through the lens of the right to safe and healthy working conditions. It also includes the results of field work conducted in April 2019, which formed the basis of the assessment.

Based on the results of the analysis, a set of recommendations are presented in the report.

To download the report please click [here](#).



# THE RIGHT TO HEALTH IN ARMENIA WITH A FOCUS ON GEGHARKUNIK REGION (2019)

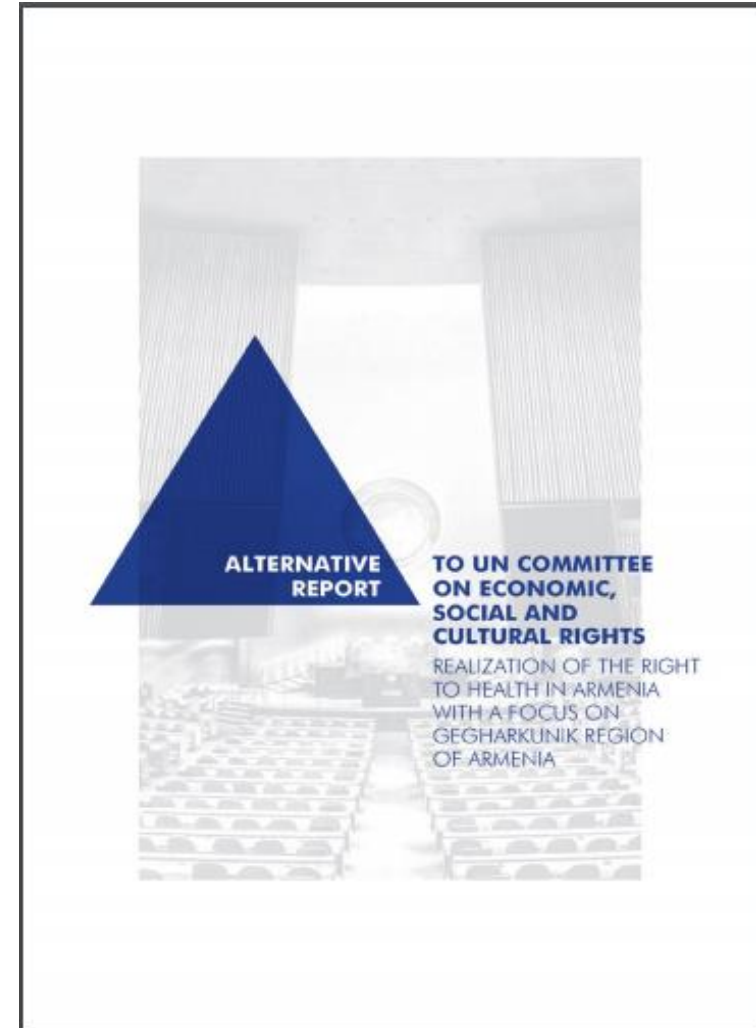
This Alternative Report aims to inform the GSP+ audience and the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) on Armenia's implementation of Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which sets forth the obligation of a state to ensure the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Group interviews, dyadic interviews and in-depth interviews were conducted with different social groups in three of the 5 cities in the region. Medical personnel in each of the 5 cities were also interviewed. Qualitative analysis was part of the methodology for the research.

The report analyses domestic legislation, policies and practices for compliance with the right to health and the four interconnected elements: availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality.

Based on the results of the legal and field study analysis, a set of recommendations are presented in the report.

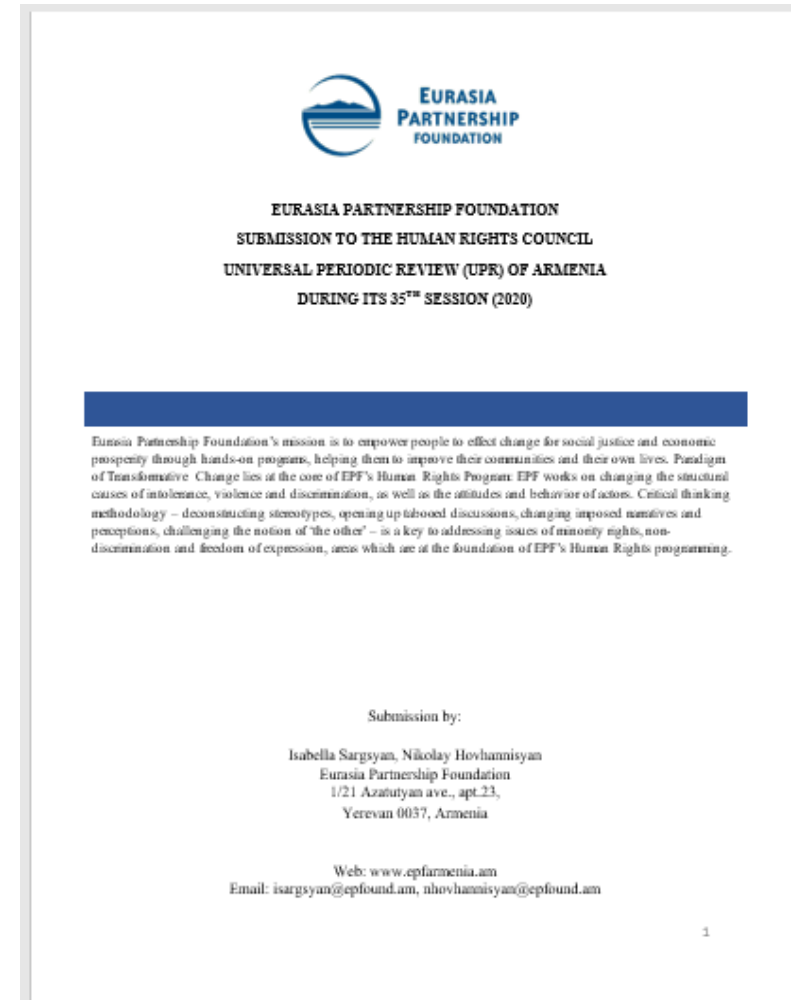
To download the report please click [here](#).



# SUBMISSION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF ARMENIA DURING ITS 35TH SESSION (2020)

In 2019 Eurasia Partnership Foundation made an individual submission to the Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Armenia during its 35th Session (2020). In the report, EPF acknowledges the Armenian government's efforts to improve its human rights record, but also draws attention on several emerging human rights issues relating to anti-discrimination and freedom of religion or belief. In light of the aforementioned issues, EPF makes recommendations for the state under review.

To download the report please click [here](#).



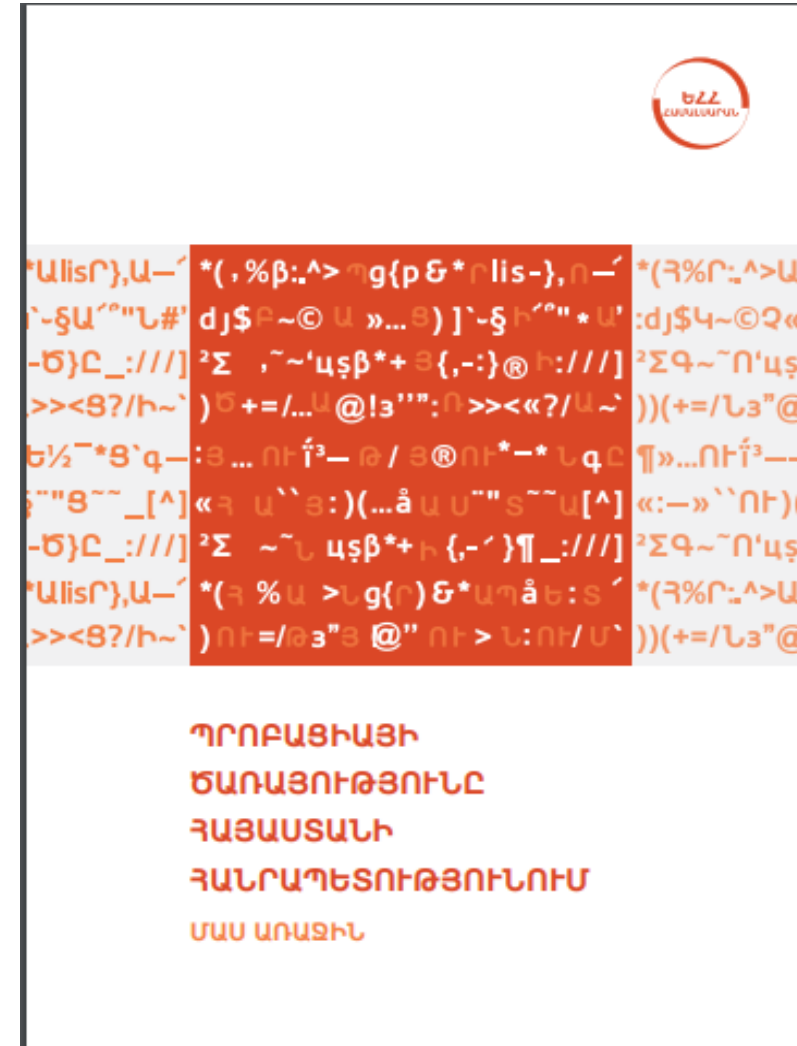
# PROBATION SERVICE IN ARMENIA (2020, IN ARMENIAN ONLY)

This research focuses on a study of the legislative framework which regulates the probation service in the Republic of Armenia, with the goal of identifying gaps and shortcomings that hinder the effective functioning of the service. It also proposes priority directions for reforms, and, based on the conclusions of the research, records the main factors hampering the service.

The research also addresses certain regulatory concerns regarding the role of the probation service in the processes of non-compliance with conditional sentencing, parole, e-control and mediation.

This work, among other issues, refers to the advanced experience of individual countries, in addition to providing a number of suggestions aimed at the improvement of the probation sector in Armenia and its systemic reforms.

To download the research please click [here](#).



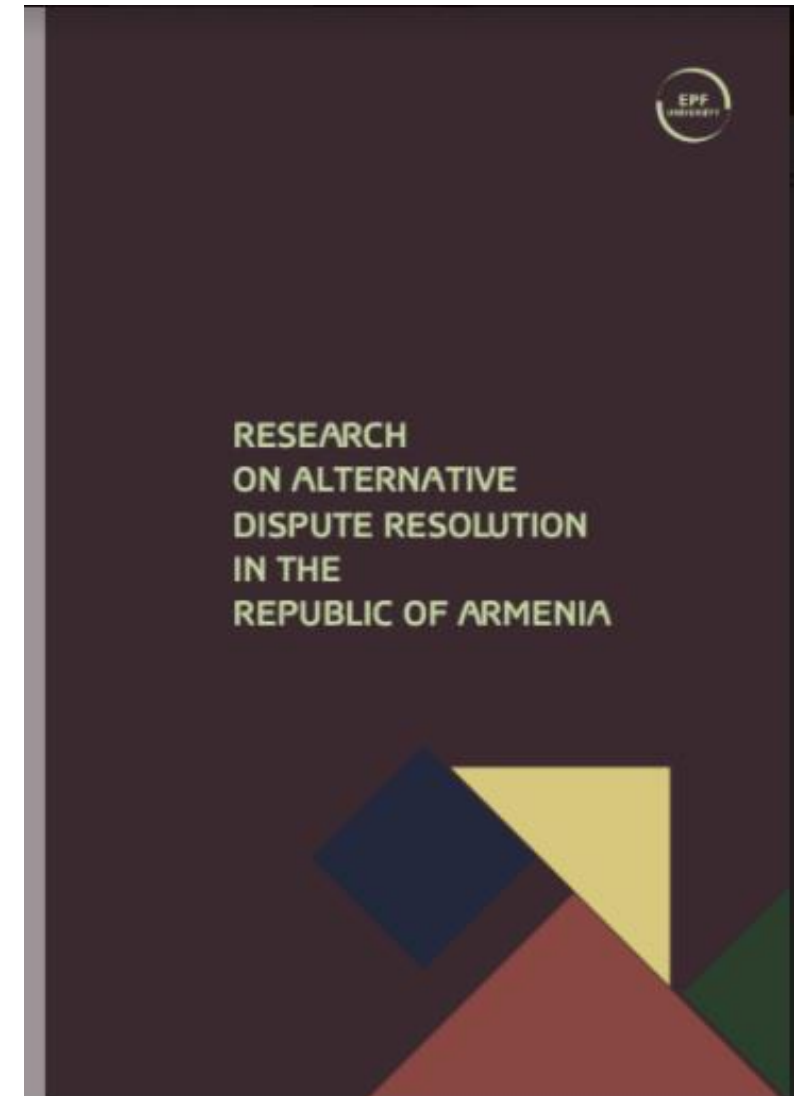
# ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN ARMENIA (2020)

The existing mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in the Republic of Armenia have a relatively short history. The arbitration system was introduced in 2006, when RA Law #55-N on “Commercial Arbitration” was adopted, replacing the previously existing system of arbitral tribunals.

In Armenia, lawyers generally refrain from advising their clients to go to arbitration as a means of resolving disputes. However, it is somewhat encouraging that lawyers choose arbitration as an ADR mechanism for particularly complex financial or large construction contracts, in the cases with an international element. Lawyers regard secrecy and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in other countries as advantages of arbitration. The study demonstrates that there are more problems in the field of mediation than in the field of arbitration. These problems are both legislative and practical.

To download the English version of the research please click [here](#).

To download the Armenian version of the research please click [here](#).



# COURT MONITORING AND COVERAGE (2020, IN ARMENIAN ONLY)

This guide is an Armenian publication prepared by Helsinki Association as part of the ‘Partnership for Justice Reform’ project, implemented together with the Eurasia Partnership Foundation and Human Rights Power. It is intended for representatives of civil society organizations and the media, who are interested or engaged in trial monitoring and coverage. However, it can also be useful for anyone who wants to know about trial monitoring and coverage and be engaged in this activity.

Among other issues, the guide addresses the mechanisms for the realization of the right to a fair and public trial as one of the fundamental human rights, as well as the right to trial monitoring and coverage in all types of trials (criminal, civil and administrative). The guide sets out the principles and methodologies of trial monitoring, and can be used to improve the skills of monitors and journalists in the field of professional trial monitoring and coverage.

To download the guide please click [here](#).





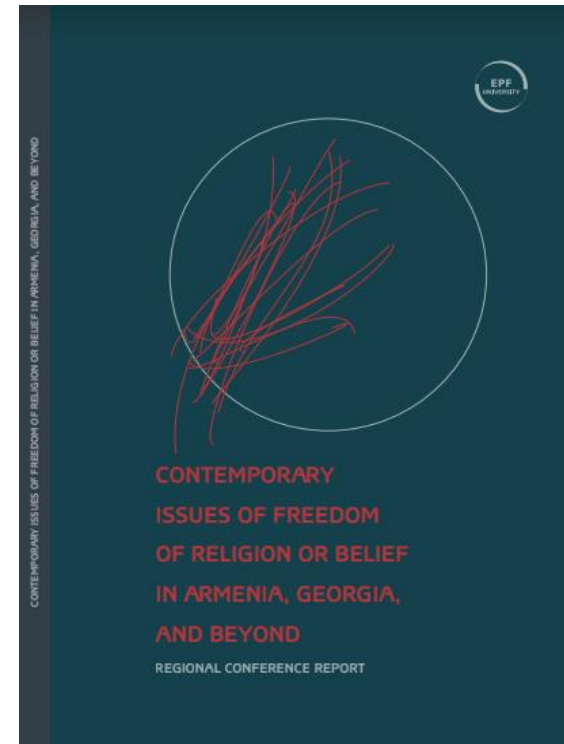
# CONTEMPORARY ISSUES OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF IN ARMENIA, GEORGIA, AND BEYOND. REGIONAL CONFERENCE REPORTS (2020, 2017)

On May 7, 2017 and on May 24, 2019 two regional conferences on Contemporary Issues of Freedom of Religion or Belief in Armenia, Georgia and beyond took place in Yerevan. These subsequent Regional Conference Reports provide an overview of the sessions and the text of the speeches – such as on global challenges of FoRB, International Standards of FoRB and the situation in Armenia and Georgia, issues regarding education, secularity, equality between men and women, the role of interreligious dialogue in conflict transformation, and conflicting rights.

These conferences provided a platform for officials, religious leaders, religious groups and organizations, civil society dealing with FoRB issues from Armenia and Georgia, international experts and representatives from international organizations and embassies to discuss the situation and developments of FoRB from different perspectives.

To download 2020 report please click [here](#).

To download 2017 report please click [here](#).



# COVID-19 RELATED VULNERABILITIES AMONG MIGRANTS IN ARMENIA (2020)

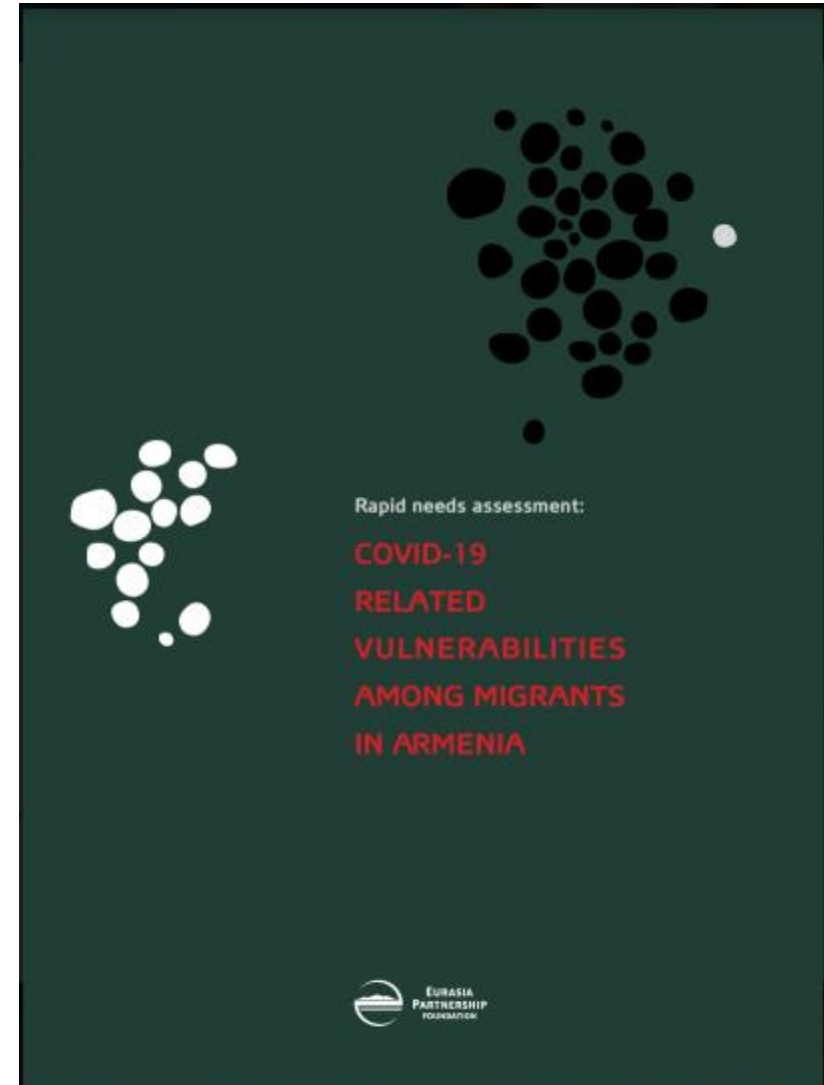
This study has been conducted in extraordinary circumstances under the state of emergency due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in the country.

The study demonstrates that migrants in Armenia are particularly vulnerable to the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19. Most migrants live in individual and communal accommodation and face coronavirus-associated health threats. The vulnerabilities of migrant communities – in particular their lack of knowledge of languages, their job conditions and their overall socioeconomic situation – should be taken into account when developing comprehensive response measures to combat the effect of COVID-19.

Even though in Armenia migrants are entitled to relevant healthcare services (provided they have relevant documentation) however factors such as language barriers and lack of knowledge about whom to apply result in insufficient access to health care.

Mid- and long-term recommendations to the Government of Armenia, International Organizations and local humanitarian and civil society emphasize the importance of a human rights based approach, evidence-based interventions and cooperation with local authorities, grassroots groups and mass media.

To download the research please click [here](#).



# MANIFESTATIONS OF TOLERANCE AND INTOLERANCE IN ARMENIAN LITERATURE (IN ARMENIAN, 2017)

A collection of studies titled “Manifestations of Tolerance and Intolerance in Armenian Literature” have been released! The studies were conducted with the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Georgia and Armenia.

The studies examine the roots of tolerance and intolerance and their manifestations in Armenian language texts passed on from generation to generation. They present this through an academic and popular approach, and attempt to foster a meaningful debate on these issues. The studies include Armenian medieval sagas, the classic prose of the 19th and 20th centuries, along with the literature of the Diaspora, the prose of post-Soviet Armenia as well as textbooks.

In essence, the book provides a guided tour through the whole body of Armenian literature which, in turn, offers a particular pleasure to the reader and presents a condensed image of the development tendencies in Armenian literature.

To download the book please click [here](#).

