

Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online – 2014 Reporting Form

ARMENIA

Policy Target No. 1

Enhancing efforts to identify victims and ensuring that they receive the necessary assistance, support and protection.

Operational Goal: Increase the number of identified victims in the International Child Sexual Exploitation images database (ICSE database) managed by INTERPOL by at least 10% yearly.

A) Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report

In February 2013 by the Order of the Head of Police of the Republic of Armenia 3rd Department of Fight against domestic violence and Juvenile issues has been established within the Criminal Prosecution Department of the RA Police. During 2013 extensive measures have been undertaken by the 3rd Department as well as the territorial subdivisions dealing with juvenile issues aimed at disclosure of cases of sexual exploitation of children, as well as of any other activities of involving children in prostitution or preparation of pornographic materials or items. At the same time the mentioned subdivisions are carrying out operative works to collect operative information on the basis of which disclosure works are organized. Preventive measures also constitute a part of the functions of those subdivisions.

During 2013-2014 as a result of the undertaken measures 2 criminal cases were initiated under the 2nd Part of the Article 263 of the RA Criminal Code relating to the dissemination, advertisement, realization and preparation for that purpose of pornographic materials or items, including printed publications, movies, pictures or other pornographic items.

B) Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance

C) Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up

Policy Target No. 2

Enhancing efforts to investigate cases of child sexual abuse online and to identify and prosecute offenders.

Operational Goal: Establish the necessary framework for the criminalization of child sexual abuse online and the effective prosecution of offenders, with the objective of enhancing efforts to investigate and prosecute offenders.

A) *Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report*

Crimes and violations mentioned in the policy target 2 are envisaged under the following articles of the RA Criminal Code:

Article 166. Involving a child into antisocial activity.

1. Involvement, by a person who reached 18 years, of a child into regular use of alcoholic drinks, strong or other narcotic drugs not for medical purposes, into prostitution, vagrancy or beggary, into preparation or dissemination of pornography or pornographic materials, is punished with correctional labor for up to 1 year, or with arrest for the term of 1-2 months, or with imprisonment for the term of 5 years.
2. The same action which was committed by a parent, teacher or other person in charge of rearing the child, is punished with correctional labor for up to 2 years, or arrest for up to 2 months, or imprisonment for the term of up to 5 years, with deprivation of the right to hold certain posts or practice certain activities for up to 3 years, or without that.
3. Actions envisaged in parts 1 and 2 of this Article, which:
 - 1) were committed in relation to 2 or more persons;
 - 2) were accompanied with violence or threat of violence, are punished with imprisonment for the term of up to 6 years.

Article 142. Lecherous acts.

1. Lecherous acts with a person obviously under 16, in the absence of elements of crime envisaged in Article 140 or 141, is punished with a fine in the amount of 200 to 400 minimal salaries, or with correctional labor for up to 1 year, or with imprisonment for up to 2 years.
2. The acts envisaged in part 1 of this Article committed with violence or threat thereof, are punished with imprisonment for up to 3 years.

Article 263. Illegal dissemination of pornographic materials or items.

1. Illegal manufacture, sale as well as, dissemination of pornographic materials or items, as well as, printed publications, films and videos, images or other pornographic objects, and advertising, is punished with a fine in the amount of 200 to 400 minimal salaries, or with arrest for the term of up to 2 months, or with imprisonment for the term of up to 2 years.

2. Forcing minors to get involved in creation of software, video or film materials, pictures or other items of pornographic nature, as well as presenting children's pornography through computer network, is punished with a fine in the amount of 400 to 800 minimal salaries, or with arrest for the term of up to 3 months, or with imprisonment for the term of up to 3 years.

3. The same act committed by an organized group, is punished with imprisonment for 2-4 years.

The same actions are also punished by RA Code on Administrative Violations,

Article 179 - Engaging in Prostitution: Engaging in prostitution is punished with a fine in the amount of twenty times the minimum wage. Same action, carried out within a year from the appointment of an administrative fine is punished with a fine in the amount of forty times the minimum wage.

B) Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance

According to the existing procedure children identified on the territory of the Republic of Armenia, who have violated the law, are parentless, are left without appropriate care, and all other children who fall under such "risk group" are referred to the Children Support Center of the "Armenian Relief Fund," where they receive medical, moral-psychological, and social assistance.

Children who have become victims of trafficking are referred to the relevant organizations ("Hope and Help", "UMCOR" NGOs) providing assistance to trafficking victims according to the National Referral Mechanism of Trafficking victims.

C) Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up

Provisions relevant to combating child sexual abuse online and protecting its victims are contained in following Government decrees :

1. Decree "On approving the National Plan of Action for the Protection of the Rights of Children in the Republic of Armenia, 2004-2015" from 18 December 2003 (entered into force on January 30, 2004)

2. Decree "State-guaranteed free medical care and service" from 4 March 2004 (provisions relevant to combating THB were included on September 3, 2010)

3. The fourth RA National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons for years 2013-2015 envisages trainings on trafficking in persons, especially labor trafficking and trafficking in children.) entered into force on 14 March 2013).

The National Commission on the Protection of Children's Rights operates in the Republic of Armenia, the members of which include both concerned state bodies and representatives of non-governmental organizations. The Commission continues its activities aimed at the implementation of a unified state policy on protection of children's rights and interests, ensuring the basic safeguards for the protection of their rights and interests, and developing suggestions for solution of the problems.

The main objectives of the commission are:

- To assist in the coordination of activities of the state bodies responsible for the children's rights protection;
- To assist in the development and implementation of state policy and strategic programs aimed at the protection of children's rights and interests.
- To assist in solving the problems of children living in difficult situations;
- To assist in the cooperation between state government and local self-government bodies implementing the protection of children's rights and interests; the state, community and private institutions carrying out children's care; non-governmental, political, scientific and other organizations.

The activities aimed at combating trafficking in persons are coordinated by the Anti-Trafficking Council on Trafficking, which is headed by the RA Deputy Prime Minister.

An interagency working group headed by the head of the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is operating to organize the ongoing works of the Council. The Council coordinates all the

activities in the area of the struggle against trafficking. Representatives of public and international organizations and social partners actively participate in the activities of the council and the working group. The Council coordinates all activities in the area of anti-trafficking, including actions aimed at preventing child trafficking.

The Council and working group follow the implementation of the National anti-trafficking program by all respective state structures and reports on activities conducted are regularly posted on the official website of the RA Government.

For detailed information on anti-trafficking activities, including child trafficking, please, see the US TIP report for 2014.

<p>Operational Goal: Improve the joint efforts of law enforcement authorities across Global Alliance countries to investigate and prosecute child sexual abuse online.</p>
<p>A) <i>Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report</i></p>
<p>Specialized subdivisions of the RA Police deal with the prevention and investigation of the cases of child forced labor/trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, use of children in illicit activities, as well as crimes against and by children. "Juvenile justice in the RA" Manual has been worked out and published. The manual is designed to train the police officers of the RA Police Educational Complex working with juniors.</p>
<p>B) <i>Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance</i></p>
<p>C) <i>Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up</i></p>

Policy Target No. 3

Enhancing efforts to increase public awareness of the risks posed by children's activities online, including grooming and self-production of images that results in the production of new child pornography that may be distributed online.

Operational Goal: Develop, improve, or support appropriate public awareness campaigns or other measures which educate parents, children, and others responsible for children regarding the risks that children's online conduct poses and the steps they can take to minimize those risks.

A) Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report

Efforts towards increasing online security for children and youth has been undertaken during the recent years. In particular, the "World Vision Armenia" in cooperation with the Educational Technologies National Center of the RA Ministry of Education and Science, "Microsoft Armenia", "Children supportcenter" of the Armenian Relief Fund and relevant departments of the RA Police has been implementing "Children's online security" program.

In 2013 and 2014 within the framework of "Secure internet 2013" and "Secure internet 2014" programs "Internet society" and "Center of Media Education" NGOs announced competitions of the best open class, parental meeting and electronic materials. "Orange Armenia" company provides assistance for the "Secure internet 2014" program and the information support for the competitions is being provided by the Educational Technologies National Center of the RA Ministry of Education and Science in the "Armenian education area" portal.

B) Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance

C) Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up

To raise public awareness, the RA Police organized preventive educational activities in schools, higher educational institutions, and internet clubs. Besides, this issue is covered on a regular basis within the framework of "02" of Public TV Channel program.

The Police also provide all day hotline service for immediate response in such cases. To raise public awareness publications of child sexual abuse related materials are continued to be submitted on www.police.am website.

Operational Goal: Share best practices among Global Alliance countries for effective strategies to inform the public about the risks posed by online, self-exploitative conduct in order to reduce the production of new child pornography.

A) Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report

Within the framework of the program " Children's online security" several steps has been successfully undertaken, particularly, publication of printed materials for pupils, as well

as teachers and parents, launching of "Secure internet" website (<http://www.safeinternet.am>). organization of 15 trainings and seminars in different Marzes/administrative regions/ of Armenia.

B) Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance

C) Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up

Policy Target No. 4

Reducing as much as possible the availability of child pornography online and reducing as much as possible the re-victimization of children whose sexual abuse is depicted.

Operational Goal: Encourage participation by the private sector in identifying and removing known child pornography material located in the relevant State, including increasing as much as possible the volume of system data examined for child pornography images.

A) Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report

Since January 1, 2013 Zatik Orphanage of Yerevan has ceased to work as an orphanage. On February 1, 2013 the RA Minister of Labor and Social affairs approved decree endorsing the charter (in new edition) of the state non-profit organization Yerevan Zatik Children Support Centre of the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, based on which through the RA 2013 state budget it is envisaged to provide day-time care to 100 children in difficult life situation and round-the-clock care for six months to 20 children aged 3-18 in difficult life situation.

The centres actively cooperate with the regional departments for the protection of the rights of the family, women and children.

In the recent years 20 day-time centres for children's development and rehabilitation (non-state) have been created in different regions of the republic.

B) Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance

CD- DVD stores are in the spotlight of Police RA, WebPages have been regularly monitored in order to identify and remove materials of child pornography and child sexual exploitation.

During 2013-2014 as a result of the undertaken measures 2 criminal cases were initiated under the 2nd Part of the Article 263 of the RA Criminal Code.

C) Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up

Operational Goal: Increase the speed of notice and takedown procedures as much as possible without jeopardizing criminal investigation.
<i>A) Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report</i>
<i>B) Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance</i>
<i>C) Please indicate specific actions that will be undertaken as a follow-up</i>