ABSTRACT

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ARMENIA

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Presented at Gender and Power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference
August 20-24, 2003 Lund University, Sweden

Background
Culturally in Armenia women were always obedient to men whether it is her father, husband, father-in-law or brother. The status of women has been changed during the Soviet times when men and women shared the same legal rights. Although legal discrimination against women does not seem to exist in Armenia, in practice, women and men do not have the same access to the legal system. In addition, poor economic conditions, especially unemployment, increase family tension and domestic violence against women.

Aim
Aim of research is to collect information from different studies, conducted by international organizations, to have an idea about violence against women in Armenia.

Methods
Different sources of information have been collected for this report: literature, representative surveys (demographic and health surveys, women status report).

Results
The research highlighted that several types of violence are present in Armenia:
1. Forced marriage: the most repeated type of violation.
2. Rape: numerous rapes are not disclosed at all since the victims do not report them.
3. Beating: Armenian women can be exposed to beating for burning the food, arguing with the husband, going out without telling him, neglecting the children, and refusing sexual relation. Sometimes the victims do not realize that their freedom has been constrained and their rights violated, since the violations were committed by their close ones. Women are afraid to take action against violence because of public opinion, financial dependence, and absence of knowledge on their rights.

Conclusion
Due to the characteristics of the Armenian national mentality, it is rather difficult to measure the real situation. Very few Armenian women will talk about their family problems with a person whom they do not know well. Knowing that the data are underestimated we conclude that the problem exists and needs to be resolved.