



Draft Women's Policy Platform

Women's Political Participation

1. Create a women's quota for the National Assembly, Yerevan City Council, and local elected bodies. The quota would mandate:
 - a. That women constitute 50% of the party list;
 - b. That women are listed in every other spot on the party list;
 - c. That parties that pass the 5% electoral threshold must include 50% women on the party list in order to take their seats.
2. Pass an equal opportunity law that would establish an equal opportunity commission charged with implementing other policy recommendations for increasing women's political participation, such as government funding for capacity-building for women at the national and local level and government subsidies for televised campaign advertisements for women candidates.
3. If a woman MP steps down for some reason, she is replaced by another woman.

Encouraging Women's Economic Participation

1. Improve business and work opportunities for women by ensuring passage of a gender equality law; creating training, loans and incentives for women-owned business; and addressing the needs of women in rural and special-need regions (i.e. earthquake and border areas).
2. Improve workplace conditions for women by providing incentives to expand access to daycare, kindergarten and after-school activities and ensure adequate maternity leave; increase the number of years spent raising children which count toward pensions.
3. Create effective reporting, oversights and enforcement mechanisms for existing laws against workplace discrimination, including meaningful penalties and sanctions, and strengthen the role of unions in protecting women's rights.
4. Improving access to quality education, including increased teacher pay and qualifications in primary schools (especially in rural areas); affordability of higher

education; access to vocational and adult education and agricultural education for women in rural regions.

Reducing Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

1. Pass legislation to establish a legal definition of domestic violence as a separate part of the penal code consistent with international norms, and to establish proper punishments for committing the crime. The punishment should be consistent with international standards.
2. Organize awareness campaigns in conjunction with community organizations, schools, and other interested organizations/groups/stakeholders that would include conferences, seminars, and educational programs for the general public and police. A part of this would include the expansion of the hotline for victims to all the regions of Armenia.
3. To establish centers or shelters for victims of domestic violence. These will include providing confidentiality, medical services, psychological counseling, legal counseling, and training for victim economic self-sufficiency. Shelters will be funded by government and other sources and operated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
4. Establish psychological counseling for perpetrators of domestic violence.

Women's healthcare

1. Institute a mandatory minimum healthcare insurance package for women: Enforce the luxury tax as well as tax extractive industries and use tax revenues to finance mandatory minimum healthcare insurance package for women.
2. Legislatively stipulate pre- and post-natal benefits (for 140 days) for unemployed women. Increase the post-natal benefits amount by 70 percent. Institute post-natal benefits for both employed and unemployed mothers (for 2 years).
3. Legislatively stipulate annual state-sponsored testing and diagnostic services (breast/cervical cancer, cardiologic diseases) for women above 18. Local self-government should provide transportation for women to pass testing in local medical centers. Provide public awareness campaigns on the above-mentioned diseases with participation of doctors visiting the regions. Sexual education in schools.