



**45<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council  
14 September – 6 October 2020  
Item 6: UPR final reports adoption: Armenia**

**Madam President,**

The International Catholic Child Bureau and Arevamanuk appreciate the engagement of Armenia in the UPR process as well as the attention given by the UPR Working Group to the rights of child during the review.

Our organizations congratulate Armenia for the recent ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) and call for concrete steps to ensure the entry into force of this important instrument in January 2021. BICE and Arevamanuk would also like to relay the call to Armenia to expedite internal procedures for a prompt ratification and alignment of the following human rights instruments with its domestic legislation:

1. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Afghanistan, Slovakia, Georgia);
2. Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, France, Italy, North Macedonia, Norway, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Uruguay);
3. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ecuador, Honduras, Senegal).

It is important to conduct nationwide awareness-raising campaigns on these treaties.

In addition, as pointed out by Lao People's Democratic Republic<sup>1</sup>, we call on Armenia to allocate adequate resources to child-related programs, including those dealing with the prevention, care, support and protection of children against all forms of violence. Armenia should strengthen efforts to end online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse through well-resourced programs<sup>2</sup>.

To conclude, BICE and Arevamanuk call on Armenia to submit a mid-term report to the Council with specific details on concrete steps undertaken to ensure the effective protection of children against all forms of violence, including sexual abuse.

**Thank you Madam President.**

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/44/10, § 153.195.

<sup>2</sup> *Op.cit.*, § 153.204 Continue to enhance its programmes on combating online child sexual exploitation and abuse (Philippines);153.203 Continue efforts to end online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse (Greece).