



The 39th World Congress
of the
International Institute of Sociology
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REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: Gender Identity in National Framework

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Comments: -

Abstract: The panel will focus on gender issues, national peculiarities/problems of gender socialization, gender conflicts and national peculiarities arising in the process of globalization

Gender relationships play an important role in the regulation of social, economic and political processes of the society. Gender relations based on the idea of egalitarianism are the starting point for the development of any culture and for introducing open society values. Adequate expression of gender relations leads to development of the human rights protection system, higher self-realization potential, acceptance of different standpoints and tolerance.

Historically located on the crossroad of East and West, Armenia encompasses different, often contradictive views on gender relationships in the society. The Armenian Constitution guarantees equal rights to all citizens. Articles No. 105-113, 118 of the Criminal Code specifically protect women's rights. The country has joined the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights in eradicating all kinds of restraints towards women. Nevertheless, even though the Armenian Constitution has been designed in accordance with international human rights standards, policies that allow implementation of the law do not exist. Domestic and other types of violence against women are intertwined into traditional life style and are not viewed as human rights violations even by the victims.

Armenian history has examples of equal opportunities provided for men and women in the society. There are examples of women who actively participated in political, economic and social life of the country. For instance, according to the 12th century Armenian law book, women had the right to initiate a divorce case in the court. Current Armenian legislation provides for equal rights for women and men and there is hardly need for any drastic legal reform. However, while measures are taken to strengthen legislation and despite constitutional guarantees of the rights of women, much effort is required to ensure the equal participation of women in public life and more effective protection of women against all forms of violence. The real challenge is changing the mentality, raising social awareness of

the problem, and regarding women problems and requirements as integral part of social and economic development a as whole.

General Information

During each afternoon of the congress, there will be room for a large number of parallel regular sessions. Each session is 90 minutes long and consists of an oral presentation of 4 to 6 papers. Session conveners are expected to administer and chair their session at the 2009 IIS World Congress.

Starting in end-November, calls for papers to participate in approved sessions will be posted on the website. Interested participants should contact the session convener directly with an abstract no later than February 28, 2009. The session convener should take in all submissions and select the best 4 to 6 papers to be presented and forward this information, including e-mail addresses of accepted authors, to the IIS Secretariat no later than March 15, 2009.