

<<Human Reproductive Health and Rights>> The Law (Article 10) made a number of changes. The amended version has been signed by the President and came into force since 06.08.2016. Objective of the amendments to the laws are as follows:

- Sex-selective abortions are prohibited by law (such a provision was not included in the earlier legislation).
- Set the obligation to provide mandatory 3-day period of reflection for the final decision for a woman who has applied for an abortion.
- Commitment to set mandatory counseling before the abortion could provide her with all the consequences and complications of pregnancy, as well as informing and raising awareness of contraceptive methods after artificial interruption of pregnancy
- Minister of Health are assigned to medical, social abortion instructions, contraindications, powers invested to establish standard forms of documents necessary to establish lists of research, the process of abortion.
- It was also stipulated administrative responsibility for the doctor in case of failure to comply with a written notification and consent procedure. For more information on the project you can visit the following link, <http://iravaben.net/136053.html>.

Women's Resource Centre, a women's rights organization, expressed its concerns about the following points:

1. Armenia performs abortions on the basis of sex, and the numbers are quite troubling. Each year, 1,400 girls are not born because of sex-selective abortion of a fetus in pregnancy. The results are documented by the UN Population Fund, the Ministry of Health and Perinatology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, a joint research institution. The statistics from official data, since 1993, report the sex ratio to be 110 to 120 boys per 100 girls. At the same time, the natural sex ratio is supposed to be 102 to 106 boys per 100 girls. When the government decides to introduce a law that prohibits sex-selective abortions, there should be an understanding of the laws that forbid change, in order to move forward. As long as society does not change the view that men have a more dominant role than women, and does not realize that women should have equal rights and opportunities with men in every field, no change will occur. This is evidenced by the fact that abortion laws only allow abortions to be performed after twelve weeks. Permitted abortions only apply to certain factors of social consideration, which, naturally, does not cover abortions based on sex. Still, at this time they are being performed and abortions are sex selective. In order to change society's attitude towards this phenomenon, steps of special education without prohibition are necessary.
2. It is necessary to understand the nature and the purpose of counseling, which should be carried out with the woman before she turns to abortion. We fear during counseling the woman presents all of the most negative consequences of abortion and the accusation that it is her sin if she has an abortion, and this is how she hurts herself. Counseling should be carried out by specially trained professionals on the medical staff.
3. At the same time, we believe that for the preparation of all necessary documents by the UN should be established in a short period of time. Changes should be implemented quickly because the procedure can take quite a long time and this complicates a woman's health and mental state. We have reservations about the fact that the UN decides whether this social indicator pertaining to access to abortion is justified or not. This can create a quite subjective and biased attitude. We

attach importance to clearly set out the social indicators in order to carry out the procedures for all women in an equal and transparent manner.

Women's Resource Center NGO is concerned about the changes in the law, because it is understood that these changes have been made for the most strict control over abortion. Note that all of the countries where abortion is prohibited or there are obstacles related to the law, the birth rate is increasingly low. On the contrary, the opposite, women's deaths, is more common. In addition, women's reproductive health disease is more common. In the cases where women begin to use the legal service of abortion, they must also face the negative consequences of abortion.

In this country, the number of abortions is high. The reason is misinformation about contraceptive methods and violation of a woman's right to make her own decisions. Consequently, we suggest not to implement the law limits or control, but to organize information and educational events that will include a series of programs aimed at gender equal rights and access to contraception. It is important that these programs are available in all of the regions.