

## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. Domestic violence in Azerbaijan is prevalent. 43% of women have experienced domestic violence, and in 29% of cases, the abuser was the victim's spouse.<sup>1</sup> Azerbaijanis view domestic violence largely as a private matter, resulting in normalization<sup>2</sup> and underreporting.<sup>3</sup> Domestic violence violates a woman's rights to freedom from discrimination, equal protection before the law, life, liberty and security of person, equality before the law, and freedom from torture. Problems with legislation and implementation preclude effective protections for victim safety and offender accountability.
2. This stakeholder report addresses Azerbaijan's compliance with its human rights obligations regarding domestic violence. Prior to the second cycle of reporting, the government of Azerbaijan took an important step toward protecting domestic violence victims by adopting the 2010 Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence (Domestic Violence Law or Law).<sup>4</sup> The Law has yet to be effectively implemented and further amendments made to the law.<sup>5</sup> The government recognizes that, without attention and prevention, violence against women will remain a problem,<sup>6</sup> and further efforts are needed to fulfill its international obligations. This report sets forth remaining challenges and recommendations to more promote victim safety and ensure offender accountability.
3. Information for this report was gathered from secondary sources and interviews with experts within the country. Some interviewees requested anonymity due to security concerns; hence, the authors reference interview sources anonymously.

## **II. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK**

### **A. 2013 Universal Periodic Review**

4. During its 2013 Universal Periodic Review, Azerbaijan received 28 recommendations on women's human rights, including domestic violence.<sup>7</sup> Countries recommended that Azerbaijan: intensify efforts to promote women's rights and gender equality, combat domestic violence; implement the laws and formulate a national action plan; adopt measures to ensure implementation of reforms in the area of gender violence; strengthen measures to combat violence against women; take measures to develop an effective implementation and monitoring mechanism for the domestic violence law, especially granting access to justice for women victims and guaranteeing their protection; and conduct educational campaigns on gender equality.<sup>8</sup> Azerbaijan accepted all of these recommendations.
5. In accepting the above recommendations, Azerbaijan cited the 2010 Domestic Violence Law and the 2011 increase of the minimum age for marriage as evidence of working toward the goals of ending domestic violence and promoting gender equality.<sup>9</sup> By accepting these recommendations, Azerbaijan committed to implementing these objectives. Yet, there has been neither monitoring of implementation nor effective training to effectuate change.

1. *Take all possible measures to eliminate stereotypes and practices which contribute to discrimination against women*

**Status of Implementation: Accepted, Not Implemented**

6. Harmful stereotypes about women's traditional role in the family and society prevail. When systems actors, such as judges or executive authorities, subscribe to these misperceptions, it hinders an effective government response to domestic violence.

2. *Intensify efforts to promote and protect women's rights, combat domestic violence, and promote gender equality*

**Status of Implementation: Accepted, Not Implemented**

7. Government support and funding to combat domestic violence is weak. NGOs must complete a cumbersome accreditation process. The European Court of Human Rights found Azerbaijan violated the right to freedom of association by denying registration to NGOs in five cases.<sup>10</sup> Government funding for victim services is insufficient, rendering services scarce.

3. *Implement the laws, adopt measures to ensure reforms on gender violence, and consider developing a national action plan to promote women's rights*

**Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented**

8. Although Azerbaijan adopted the Domestic Violence Law in 2010, it has not amended the Law despite recommendations. It also has yet to develop a national action plan. Implementation of the Law remains weak, trainings are needed, and interagency cooperation is fragmented. It has undertaken some reforms to promote equality, such as increasing the minimum age for marriage, but more measures are needed to ensure compliance.

4. *Develop an effective implementation and monitoring mechanism for the domestic violence law*

**Status of Implementation: Accepted, Not Implemented**

9. Implementation of the Domestic Violence Law remains weak, and there is no systematic monitoring mechanism to evaluate how it is functioning.

**B. Domestic Legal Framework**

10. The Domestic Violence Law is an important first step in combating domestic violence.<sup>11</sup> **It contains several measures to promote victim safety and hold offenders accountable.** It provides for protective orders and punishes the violation of such orders. An appeal does not stay the entry into force of a protective order, and the Law envisions preventative measures and various forms of victim assistance.<sup>12</sup> The government is to establish a databank of offenders and incident statistics, and work with NGOs to combat domestic violence.<sup>13</sup> The Law also envisions public education campaigns on domestic violence, its consequences, and prevention to modify attitudes and destigmatize domestic violence.<sup>14</sup>

11. **Several provisions of the Law, however, do not comply with best practice standards.** One of the biggest obstacles to victim protection is that she can secure long-term protection only after the issuance of a short-term protective order. One expert explained that, realistically, the victim rarely obtains the long-term protective order because of harmful attitudes, especially those held by the police and described below.<sup>15</sup> Portions of the Law reinforce the patriarchal notion of family preservation over victim safety.<sup>16</sup> For example, in conjunction with Article 7 criminal proceedings, the Law foresees “normalization of relations between parties and resumption of family affairs during examination.”<sup>17</sup> Reconciliation in domestic violence contradicts best practice standards, yet in practice, it becomes the main goal of domestic violence prosecution.<sup>18</sup> This attitude prioritizing family preservation is pervasive.<sup>19</sup> The Law also allows police to issue warnings to domestic violence offenders,<sup>20</sup> a practice that fails to hold offenders accountable.<sup>21</sup>
12. Azerbaijan has not ratified the Council of Europe (Istanbul) Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.<sup>22</sup>

### **III. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS**

#### **Institutions and Policies**

13. **Coordination among state actors on domestic violence is severely lacking.**<sup>23</sup> One researcher observed: “everything is so torn apart now in pieces.”<sup>24</sup> There is no cooperation between the judiciary, prosecutors, or police, and institutional efforts address domestic violence are piecemeal.<sup>25</sup> Efforts are underway to develop a referral mechanism to coordinate interagency responses among the health, social protection, police, and justice sectors.<sup>26</sup> If adopted, the referral mechanism would create guidelines on identification of domestic violence, trainings, capacity-building, and link all the agencies together in the response to domestic violence.<sup>27</sup>

#### **Human Rights Education and Training**

14. One expert regretted that systems actors, with the exception of law enforcement, resist training on domestic violence.<sup>28</sup> **Police generally have cooperated well with NGOs** for such trainings.<sup>29</sup> As a result, for example, some police have begun tracking families where domestic violence has occurred.<sup>30</sup> Nevertheless, **police still hold misperceptions** that domestic violence issues should stay within the home.<sup>31</sup> Police also scrutinize the woman’s behavior, rather than the violent conduct. When one witness reported domestic violence, the police questioned why she was alone at night on the street.<sup>32</sup> The expert cited the need to include curriculum on domestic violence in the police academy.<sup>33</sup>
15. The judiciary also needs effective trainings. One expert observed that **judges lack sufficient knowledge on how to implement the Domestic Violence Law.**<sup>34</sup> Judges often fail to consult the Law when adjudicating cases, despite Justice Ministry trainings.<sup>35</sup> Overconcern for the offender hinders responses that protect victim safety. Authorities, when issuing

protective orders, may be reluctant to order offenders out of the home because of his property rights.<sup>36</sup>

### **Context, Statistics, Budget, Cooperation with Civil Society**

16. Section 8.0.13 of the Law obliges the state to establish a databank of statistical information concerning domestic violence.<sup>37</sup> Despite a presidential decree to create a national database, that database has not been established.<sup>38</sup> **No mechanisms measure the prevalence of domestic violence.** The government does not disaggregate routinely collected data into categories, such as sex or relationship between victim and perpetrator.<sup>39</sup> Plans are underway to create the database, where major institutions—including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Justice Ministry, and NGOs—can enter cases of domestic violence.<sup>40</sup> Yet these database plans omit the Ministry of Health—a major gap.<sup>41</sup>

### **Right to Life**

17. The Criminal Code prohibits bringing a person to suicide by “threats, cruel treatment or regular humiliation of [her] dignity.”<sup>42</sup> Anecdotal evidence suggests that domestic violence results in many murders and apparent suicides,<sup>43</sup> but statistical reporting on homicide and suicide is not disaggregated based on factors such as sex or whether the victim experienced domestic violence.<sup>44</sup> According to one expert, “no one investigates the reasons for the killings.”<sup>45</sup> For example, one woman laid on train tracks with her two children.<sup>46</sup> Their deaths were ruled a murder-suicide, but experts suggested that because she took her children with her, domestic violence was likely involved.<sup>47</sup>

### **Right to Liberty and Security of Person**

18. The Law provides for short-term (30 days) and long-term (30–180 days) protective orders.<sup>48</sup> However, a long-term order is predicated on the prior issuance and violation of a short-term order,<sup>49</sup> and authorities rarely issue short-term protective orders.<sup>50</sup> Even when issued, protective orders have little effect and are “basically a piece of paper.”<sup>51</sup> A researcher opined that implementation of these orders is poor due to resistance and lack of knowledge on the part of systems actors.<sup>52</sup> Further guidance, such as protocols and trainings, are needed.<sup>53</sup>
19. **The Law assigns executive authorities, rather than police, the primary role in responding to domestic violence complaints.** Executive authorities are local committees appointed to handle non-criminal matters.<sup>54</sup> Under the Law, they issue warnings, grant short-term protective orders, and apply to the court for long-term protective orders.<sup>55</sup> Short-term protective orders are rarely effective because the responsibility to issue them lies with the local executive authority, rather than law enforcement.<sup>56</sup> Domestic violence is a public safety issue, and law enforcement—rather than executive authorities—should be charged with responding to and investigating these cases. While law enforcement can work together with local executive authorities, primary responsibility should lie with police. One source regretted “the Law does not give much freedom to the police [to combat] domestic

violence.”<sup>57</sup> Also, executive authorities reportedly may be understaffed, rendering the system ineffective in responding to domestic violence.<sup>58</sup>

20. Executive authorities may receive information from advisory committees—elected civil society members who investigate domestic violence cases.<sup>59</sup> Yet authorities rarely seek such information.<sup>60</sup> This breakdown in responsibilities hinders effective responses to victims, according to one expert.<sup>61</sup>

### **Right to an Effective Remedy, Impunity**

21. Poor implementation renders protective orders ineffective.<sup>62</sup> The national action plan called for in the Law has yet to be promulgated.<sup>63</sup> Since adoption, important efforts to amend the Law have failed. For example, in 2013, OSCE consulted with experts to propose amendments, but the government did not adopt them. Moreover, the government has not provided first responders with tools and training. For example, when injured victims visit health institutions, practitioners lack checklists to identify victims, screen for domestic violence, and make referrals.<sup>64</sup>
22. **Azerbaijan’s laws do not expressly criminalize domestic violence.**<sup>65</sup> Officials must charge domestic violence under other provisions, such as assault or homicide,<sup>66</sup> yet investigators rarely connect these offenses to domestic violence.<sup>67</sup> Prosecution “can only be brought if there is evidence of physical violence. If there are only light injuries, [the case] will not be considered.”<sup>68</sup> The physical harm requirement denies a remedy to victims of lower-level violence or non-physical violence, such as threats. Prosecution also depends on the will of the victim’s family to proceed, as authorities see domestic violence first and foremost as a family issue.<sup>69</sup>
23. **Advocates resort to media campaigns to press the government to exercise due diligence in domestic violence cases.**<sup>70</sup> The government initially failed to respond when a pregnant mother of three was killed,<sup>71</sup> but the government eventually intervened under pressure from a social media campaign.<sup>72</sup> In another case, after a woman’s abuser continued to threaten her, a shelter sought help from the media instead of the justice system. A researcher suggested the fact that service providers seek enforcement through the media, rather than the courts or police, indicates a perception that the justice system does not work effectively in domestic violence cases.<sup>73</sup>

### **Gender-Based Violence against Women**

24. The State’s Development Concept recognizes that victims need access to centers and shelters,<sup>74</sup> but in practice, services are scarce. In the absence of government services for victims, civil society strives to fill this gap. NGOs face barriers, however. First, **NGOs must seek accreditation to operate. Registration is difficult and imposes onerous reporting obligations.**<sup>75</sup> Wide government discretion in approving accreditation makes the registration process unpredictable.<sup>76</sup> And the Justice Ministry retains expansive powers to monitor and

shutter NGOs.<sup>77</sup> In recent years, accreditation for NGOs, including those that provide services to domestic violence victims, has been suspended.<sup>78</sup> The European Court of Human Rights found Azerbaijan violated the right to freedom of association by denying registration to NGOs in five cases.<sup>79</sup>

25. **Second, NGOs that provide victim services do not receive adequate government funding;** they instead must rely on external donor funding.<sup>80</sup> While the state NGO Support Council reportedly provides financial support to NGOs, one source described this funding as inadequate.<sup>81</sup> Another expert estimated that the maximum funds the Council provides an NGO is \$10,000–\$15,000.<sup>82</sup> The number of NGOs accredited to provide services to domestic violence victims ranges from eight to fourteen.<sup>83</sup> Regardless, sources agreed that few can actually operate because of scarce financial resources.<sup>84</sup> Of eight accredited NGOs the Labor Ministry listed, one expert discovered that only two were functioning.<sup>85</sup>
26. **Victim services are severely limited, and there are only two domestic violence shelters in the entire country.**<sup>86</sup> There is no specific unit dedicated to domestic violence, nor is there a 24/7 helpline for victims.<sup>87</sup> A helpline for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking operated from 2011 to 2013 but was forced to close due to lack of funding.<sup>88</sup> Yet the demand for its services was high. In its first year of operation, the helpline received almost 1,000 calls, and by its third year, the number tripled.<sup>89</sup> Furthermore, information about resources available to victims is not widely disseminated. For example, “most women do not know about the possibility of going to a shelter.”<sup>90</sup>

#### IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

27. The authors of this stakeholder report suggest the following recommendations for the Government of Azerbaijan:
- Fully implement, without delay, the **2015 recommendations of the CEDAW Committee** concerning gender stereotypes and violence against women, including rural women.<sup>91</sup>
  - Undertake legal reform:
    - Amend the **Domestic Violence Law** in accordance with the appended Commentary.
    - Amend the **Criminal Code to criminalize domestic violence**, including assaults with low-level injuries, and ensure that penalties increase for repeated domestic violence offenses;
    - **Ratify the Istanbul Convention;**
  - **Ensure accessibility of services** to victims of domestic violence:
    - Allocate adequate **funding for NGOs that provide victim services**, including shelters, hotlines, support centers, as well as conduct public education;
    - Undertake **public awareness campaigns** about domestic violence, victims’ legal rights, and services;
    - Establish a **24/7 national, free hotline** for domestic violence victims.

- Direct and support **monitoring of the implementation of the Domestic Violence Law**, with the aim of promoting victim safety and offender accountability.
- Mandate the establishment of **local interagency cooperation**, led by NGOs that serve domestic violence victims, that complies with best practice standards. Such cooperation should include meetings with systems actors to identify problems in the government’s response to domestic violence and make recommendations to remedy those gaps.
- Mandate that executive authorities regularly seek and take into account consultation from advisory committees on domestic violence cases.
- Undertake measures to ensure that **all domestic violence murders are tracked** and incorporate indicators of “domestic violence” and “method of homicide” into existing crime data tracking and reporting systems.
- Track and ensure that **crime statistics are disaggregated** by victim's sex, relationship between the defendant and injured party, and whether domestic violence was involved.
- **Include the Ministry of Health in the national database** and swiftly finalize the database’s creation.
- Ensure and fund **regular and comprehensive training for systems actors**, led by or in consultation with NGOs that serve victims, based on best practices including the dynamics of domestic violence, relevant laws, promoting victim safety, and holding offenders accountable.
- **Prioritize victim safety** through other measures:
  - Directing executive authorities and judges to swiftly issue protective orders and ensuring their effective enforcement;
  - Prohibit laws and practices that promote reconciliation and normalization of family relations;
  - Resume accreditation of NGOs;
  - Redirect responsibility to respond to domestic violence complaints from executive authorities to police.
- Ensure **domestic violence offenders are held accountable**:
  - Ensure that prosecutors pursue all domestic violence cases, regardless of the level of injury or evidence;
  - Ensure that crimes involving domestic violence are not treated less seriously than other crimes.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund, *Country Programme Document: Azerbaijan*, (Dec. 4, 2015), U.N. Doc. E/ICEF/2016/P/L.1, ¶ 12. Also available online at <http://undocs.org/E/ICEF/2016/P/L.1>.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo: Mission to Azerbaijan*, (June 18, 2014), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/26/38/Add.3. Also available online at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53b51e4c4.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Parvana Bayramova, “Azerbaijan,” in *Barriers, Remedies and Good Practices for Women’s Access to Justice in Five Eastern Partnership Countries* (Council of Europe, 2016), 49. Also available online at <https://rm.coe.int/16806b0f41>.

<sup>4</sup> The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prevention of Domestic Violence (2010).

<sup>5</sup> Parvana Bayramova, “Azerbaijan,” in *Barriers, Remedies and Good Practices for Women’s Access to Justice in Five Eastern Partnership Countries* (Council of Europe, 2016), 47. Also available online at <https://rm.coe.int/16806b0f41>; Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.

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- <sup>6</sup> “Azerbaijan 2020: Look into the Future” Concept of Development, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2012. Also available online at [http://www.president.az/files/future\\_en.pdf](http://www.president.az/files/future_en.pdf).
- <sup>7</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Azerbaijan*, (July 5, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/24/13. Also available online at [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session24/Documents/A-HRC-24-13\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session24/Documents/A-HRC-24-13_en.pdf); *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Azerbaijan, Addendum*, (Sep. 19, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/24/13/Add.1. Also available online at [http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/\\_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session16/AZ/A\\_HRC\\_24\\_13\\_Add.1\\_Azerbaijan\\_E\\_iDrits.doc&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1](http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session16/AZ/A_HRC_24_13_Add.1_Azerbaijan_E_iDrits.doc&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1).
- <sup>8</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Azerbaijan*, (July 5, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/24/13. Also available online at [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session24/Documents/A-HRC-24-13\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session24/Documents/A-HRC-24-13_en.pdf).
- <sup>9</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Azerbaijan, Addendum*, (Sep. 19, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/24/13/Add.1. Also available online at [http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/\\_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session16/AZ/A\\_HRC\\_24\\_13\\_Add.1\\_Azerbaijan\\_E\\_iDrits.doc&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1](http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session16/AZ/A_HRC_24_13_Add.1_Azerbaijan_E_iDrits.doc&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1).
- <sup>10</sup> International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, “Civic Freedom Monitor: Azerbaijan,” <http://www.icnl.org/research/monitor/azerbaijan.html>.
- <sup>11</sup> Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.
- <sup>12</sup> The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prevention of Domestic Violence, Art. 7, 8 (2010).
- <sup>13</sup> Id. Art. 8.
- <sup>14</sup> Id. Art. 16.
- <sup>15</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017.
- <sup>16</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>17</sup> The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prevention of Domestic Violence, Art. 7 (2010).
- <sup>18</sup> Parvana Bayramova, “Azerbaijan,” in *Barriers, Remedies and Good Practices for Women’s Access to Justice in Five Eastern Partnership Countries* (Council of Europe, 2016), 47. Also available online at <https://rm.coe.int/16806b0f41>.
- <sup>19</sup> Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.
- <sup>20</sup> The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prevention of Domestic Violence, Art. 11 (2010).
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>22</sup> Council of Europe, “Chart of signers and ratifications of Treaty 210,” accessed Aug. 9, 2017, [https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210/signatures?p\\_auth=ehkFZO7j](https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210/signatures?p_auth=ehkFZO7j).
- <sup>23</sup> Skype Interview with Source, July 26, 2017; Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 21, 2017; Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017.
- <sup>24</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 21, 2017.
- <sup>25</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>26</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017.
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>28</sup> Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.
- <sup>29</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>30</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>31</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017.
- <sup>32</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>33</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>34</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 21, 2017.
- <sup>35</sup> *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo: Mission to Azerbaijan*, (June 18, 2014), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/26/38/Add.3. Also available online at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53b51e4c4.html>.
- <sup>36</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017.
- <sup>37</sup> The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prevention of Domestic Violence, Art. 8 (2010). (“8.0.13: establish a databank and organize collection of statistic information related to domestic violence...”)
- <sup>38</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017.



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- <sup>39</sup> *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo: Mission to Azerbaijan*, (June 18, 2014), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/26/38/Add.3. Also available online at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53b51e4c4.html>.
- <sup>40</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017.
- <sup>41</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>42</sup> Criminal Code, Art. 125 (Azerbaijan).
- <sup>43</sup> Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.
- <sup>44</sup> *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo: Mission to Azerbaijan*, (June 18, 2014), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/26/38/Add.3. Also available online at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53b51e4c4.html>.
- <sup>45</sup> Oral interview with Source, July 26, 2017.
- <sup>46</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>47</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>48</sup> The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prevention of Domestic Violence, Art. 10, 11, 12 (2010).
- <sup>49</sup> Rule of Law and Human Rights Unit, *Domestic Violence Cases in the Justice System of Azerbaijan*, (Baku: OSCE Office, December 2013), 16; *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo: Mission to Azerbaijan*, (June 18, 2014), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/26/38/Add.3.
- <sup>50</sup> *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo: Mission to Azerbaijan*, (June 18, 2014), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/26/38/Add.3. Also available online at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53b51e4c4.html>.
- <sup>51</sup> Skype Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.
- <sup>52</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 21, 2017.
- <sup>53</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>54</sup> Azerbaijan.az, "Baku City Executive Power," accessed Aug. 9, 2017, [http://www.azerbaijan.az/portal/General/Capital/capital\\_02\\_e.html](http://www.azerbaijan.az/portal/General/Capital/capital_02_e.html).
- <sup>55</sup> The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prevention of Domestic Violence, Art. 11 and 12 (2010).
- <sup>56</sup> The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prevention of Domestic Violence, Art. 11 (2010); Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.
- <sup>57</sup> Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.
- <sup>58</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017.
- <sup>59</sup> Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.
- <sup>60</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>61</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>62</sup> Ibid.; Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017.
- <sup>63</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 21, 2017.
- <sup>64</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017.
- <sup>65</sup> Ibid.; Parvana Bayramova, "Azerbaijan," in *Barriers, Remedies and Good Practices for Women's Access to Justice in Five Eastern Partnership Countries* (Council of Europe, 2016), 44. Also available online at <https://rm.coe.int/16806b0f41>.
- <sup>66</sup> Criminal Code, Art. 120, 132, 149 (Azerbaijan).
- <sup>67</sup> Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.
- <sup>68</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>69</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017.
- <sup>70</sup> Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.
- <sup>71</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>72</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>73</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 21, 2017.
- <sup>74</sup> "Azerbaijan 2020: Look into the Future" Concept of Development, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2012.
- <sup>75</sup> International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, "Civic Freedom Monitor: Azerbaijan," <http://www.icnl.org/research/monitor/azerbaijan.html>.
- <sup>76</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>77</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>78</sup> Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.
- <sup>79</sup> International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, "Civic Freedom Monitor: Azerbaijan," <http://www.icnl.org/research/monitor/azerbaijan.html>.

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<sup>80</sup> Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.; Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.

<sup>84</sup> Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017; Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017; *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo: Mission to Azerbaijan*, (June 18, 2014), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/26/38/Add.3, ¶ 67. (One NGO operated a 24/7 domestic violence helpline that received almost 3000 calls in one year, but it stopped working after less than three years due to a lack of funding.) Also available online at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53b51e4c4.html>.

<sup>85</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017.

<sup>86</sup> Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.

<sup>87</sup> Skype Interview with Expert, Sept. 26, 2017.

<sup>88</sup> *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo: Mission to Azerbaijan*, (June 18, 2014), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/26/38/Add.3, ¶ 67. (One NGO operated a 24/7 domestic violence helpline that received almost 3000 calls in one year, but it stopped working after less than three years due to a lack of funding.) Also available online at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53b51e4c4.html>.

<sup>89</sup> *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo: Mission to Azerbaijan*, (June 18, 2014), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/26/38/Add.3. Also available online at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53b51e4c4.html>.

<sup>90</sup> Oral Interview with Source, July 26, 2017.

<sup>91</sup> Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, *Concluding Observations on the Fifth Periodic Report of Azerbaijan*, (Mar. 12, 2015), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/AZE/CO/5, ¶¶ 21, 23, and 37.