



# **PUBLIC STATEMENT**

**Standing Against Misinformation and Hate Targeting Trans  
People in Armenia**

Yerevan, Armenia  
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# 1. INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT



Recently, Armenia has witnessed an alarming rise in misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech directed at trans and gender-diverse people. According to the NTC latest shadow report submitted to the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls, hate speech is especially widespread on social media and in the press, often closely following stories involving trans and gender diverse individuals.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lznsiVtyC1gyP-yqKyB2cA8KKhoNQ3vf/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lznsiVtyC1gyP-yqKyB2cA8KKhoNQ3vf/view?usp=drive_link)

While some progress has been made in recent years, there remains no specific system to tackle discrimination and bullying, especially for trans youth and other further marginalized groups, nor clear mechanisms to counter online hate speech.

These facts underline that misinformation and hate directed at trans people are not only social or cultural issues — they are structural and rights-based. As the National Trans Coalition of Armenia, we raise our collective voice to affirm that trans people are part of Armenian society — our families, workplaces, communities. Attempts to portray trans people as threats to national identity, morality or tradition are false and dangerous. Such narratives fuel division, legitimize discrimination, and distract from the real challenges our society faces.

## 2. CLARIFICATION OF FACTS & SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT



We provide the following clarifications to dispel key misleading or harmful narratives:

- Trans people are not a monolithic “threat” to Armenian culture or values. They are teachers, artists, parents, youth – part of the social fabric.
- The idea that trans people are inherently immoral or predatory is rooted in stigma and falsehood. The general public attitude towards the trans community is extremely hostile, and the word ‘trans’ itself is considered to be a profanity by general society.
- Misinformation often conflates sex work, illness, HIV, or “foreign agendas” with trans identity in Armenia, fueling fear and exclusion. The NTC shadow report in cooperation with ECOM to the UN UPR outlines that such narratives persist and remain unaddressed in legislation. [https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k16/k16cne4td1?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ--cxleHRuA2FlbQixMABicmlkETFlUG1NbXRszUVOZjNZcUdXAR4BbpJemGuy05cCdTXBkLqo0BgROfRRerLbY5QeWanNE\\_MsVg\\_HyGj\\_R71q6A\\_aem\\_7MyIJ23Uvu3m8fwAT158cQ](https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k16/k16cne4td1?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ--cxleHRuA2FlbQixMABicmlkETFlUG1NbXRszUVOZjNZcUdXAR4BbpJemGuy05cCdTXBkLqo0BgROfRRerLbY5QeWanNE_MsVg_HyGj_R71q6A_aem_7MyIJ23Uvu3m8fwAT158cQ)
- The media and online spheres have documented multiple cases of direct hate speech in comment threads and articles.
- The absence of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and of effective implementation in Armenia means that trans people remain particularly vulnerable to hate speech and its consequences – legally, socially and physically.

### 3. VALUES & PRINCIPLES



We stand firmly for:

- **Truth and accountability in public discourse** – only accurate information, not fear-based propaganda, should guide our conversations about gender, rights and inclusion.
- **Human dignity and equality** as guaranteed by Armenia’s Constitution, and by international human rights standards (incl. ECHR, CoE, UN instruments).
- **Solidarity and compassion** – rooted in Armenian culture and community life, we believe in supporting one another rather than scapegoating.
- **Freedom of expression and association**, but explicitly not freedom to incite hate, violence or misinformation. The rights of one should not be used to undermine the rights of another.

## 4. CALL TO ACTION



We call on:

### 1. **Media outlets, journalists and digital platforms**

- ✓ respect ethical standards,
- ✓ verify sources,
- ✓ moderate hateful comments,
- ✓ avoid unverified claims about trans people,
- ✓ highlight trans voices in informed ways.

## 2. State institutions, law enforcement and human rights bodies



- ④ implement robust mechanisms to monitor and prevent disinformation and hate speech. This includes
- ④ passing comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation covering sexual orientation, gender identity and expression,
- ④ establish unified hate crime/hate speech registers,
- ④ ensure victims' access to justice and protection (as recommended by the ECHR).




### **3.Civil society, educational institutions and digital communities**

- ④ collaborate on awareness, counter-speech initiatives, media literacy, and support networks for trans people and allies.


### **4.The Armenian public**

- ④ engage critical thinking: ask for facts, challenge stigmatizing language,
- ④ stand in solidarity with trans Armenians, and understand that the struggle for truth, dignity and safety is part of a stronger, more inclusive Armenia.

## **5. SOLIDARITY AND HOPE**



**The National Trans Coalition remains committed to building a future where every person in Armenia – regardless of gender identity or expression – can live in safety, truth and dignity. We will continue working with media, policymakers, and communities to advance understanding, ensure accountability, and strengthen our collective resilience against misinformation and hate. Together, we can shape an Armenia where truth unites us, not lies that divide us.**





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