WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE EMERGING SOCIAL MOVEMENT IN ARMENIA

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Category: Opinions

Power Point presentation by Khatoune Temisjian Bedrossian PhD
At the Public Roundtable Discussion: Policy Directions in Post Election Armenia, Montreal, 20 June 2008

"History of 19th and 20th centuries was very illuminating: There is no future for a society without justice, without equality, without brotherhood, in short, without solidarity"

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Women's Role in the Emerging Social Movement in Armenia

Khatoune Temisjian Bedrossian, Ph.D.

(A Powerpoint Presentation)
Montreal, June 20, 2008

Plan

- The context in Armenia
- Participation of women in politics
- Women's role in the emerging social movement
- Definition of a social movement
- Conclusion

The context in Armenia

- High level of poverty
- High income inequality and unemployment
- Various advocacy groups
  - More than 3500 NGOS
  - Women, workers, ecological, health, education
  - Significant proportion of women are active in those advocacy groups
- These NGOs can be part of a social movement

Participation of women in politics

- 60% of people with high education
- Excluded from decision-making process in Post Soviet Armenia
  - Legislative (National Assembly of Armenia): 3.1%
  - Executive

- Ministers: 5.55%

- 51,8% of the population
  - Deputy ministers: 5.55%
  - Female officers ministries: 44.4%
  - Female officers in the presidency: 46.3%
  - Female bureaucrats: 53.9%

Participation of women in politics

Judiciary

- Constitutional court: 0%
- Judges: 20%
- Lawyers: 36%
- Court clerks: 24%
- Other : 8%
- Justice ministry officers: 46%

Regional elections: 2% of women elected

Women's role in the emerging social movement in Armenia (I)

- No study about the participation of women in the gatherings or movements
- During gatherings, members of opposition included 50 – 60% of women
- Hundreds of women have been taken to police station because of their participation
- Some women who, during elections, were performing roles on behalf of the opposition, were subject to violence

Women's role in the emerging social movement in Armenia (II)

- Many women are on hunger strike, demanding freedom for political prisoners

- Women have formed an organization in defense of political prisoners. This organization includes also wives of political prisoners

Definition of a social movement

3 principles to identify a social movement (A. Touraine):

- Principle of identity: Who claims the movement?
- Principle of opposition: Against whom is it opposed?
- Principle of globality: What are the values?

Conclusion

"History of 19th and 20th centuries was very illuminating: There is no future for a society without justice, without equality, without brotherhood, in short, without solidarity" Ricardo Petrella (Emeritus Professor of Social Sciences, Belgium)