

## **Young Women's Leadership Institute**

*The Center for the Development of Civil Society* is pleased to announce that it has recently opened a **Young Women's Leadership Institute** in Yerevan. In it, young women will be trained in many of the necessary professional and leadership skills required to have successful careers. They will be given language and computer classes, training in civic education and leadership, business management, etc. They will also have meetings with prominent speakers. Excursions will also be arranged for them, and they will visit important and historical places in the country. This project is a follow-up to the **Support Center for Young Women**, which has also been a part of the CDCS since 1998

In addition to gaining professional skills, the girls at the Institute will benefit from the bonds they form with one another and with the CDCS staff. They will motivate one another and grow together through their shared experiences

The CDCS has also opened Support Centers for Young Women in three regions of Armenia (*Ararat, Aragatsotn and Armavir*). The Support Centers will offer similar programs to that of the Leadership Institute, but on a more basic level. In the future, the remaining seven regions will have Centers, as well

### **Goals**

#### ***Long-term:***

- To help young women become active citizens
- To reduce trafficking rates in young women through integrating them in society

#### ***Short-term:***

- To improve young women's opportunities for successful employment
- To assist them in finding their own places in a changing social environment

The Institute and its three regional centers will teach the young women job skills to ensure their successful employment and involvement in civic activities. They will improve young women's self esteem and provide the essential skill development necessary to find jobs. The Support Center for Young

Women in Yerevan has already completed three course sessions

***Certificates will be offered in the following fields:***

- Computer Instruction
- Office Management
- NGO Management

### **Background**

There are several reasons for the creation of the YWLI. A lot has changed in Armenia since the downfall of the Soviet Union. As a consequence of the transition to a market economy, education has become costly. It is no longer as readily available and the state quota of free education is decreasing every year. Girls from vulnerable backgrounds are in the worst possible situation as even if families have money that can be used towards education, it will almost certainly go to educating boys. The majority of young women (17-22 years of age) from socially vulnerable backgrounds in Armenia do not have the opportunity to continue their education nor to acquire professional skills that would help them find suitable employment

As a result, most of them are unemployed and often have to resort to prostitution. Their isolation from society and eventual social regression in most cases leads to their non-involvement in any kind of civic activity in their future lives. Therefore, the CDCS believes it very important to devote as much attention as possible to young women, as their participation is vital to the future development of society

# Young Women's Leadership Institute and Regional Support Centers



*The CDCS is looking forward to  
establishing contacts  
and to collaborating with both local  
and international organizations*

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