



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on the Status of Women

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

### Statement submitted by Nor Luyce Mentoring Center for Youth, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

Nor Luyce Mentoring Center for Youth NGO is the first mentoring organization in Gyumri, Armenia focused on working with adolescent girls from orphanages and socially vulnerable families. Nor Luyce provides a safe and innovative platform for adolescent girls from vulnerable backgrounds to boost self-esteem and resilience as well as to empower the girls to live self-sufficient lives, dream big, and achieve their career and personal goals.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Nor Luyce has provided the girls with support for the transitions both to isolation during the pandemic and back to normal life. The pandemic caused the organization to quickly reorganize their program, helping hundreds of our staff, mentors, and mentees open Zoom accounts to allow for full participation in our program as well as their online studies. Nor Luyce continued to provide counselling assistance, organize meetings with coaches and successful people outside of Armenia, and other aspects of our program to ensure that we continue to foster the promotion of gender equality and youth empowerment. Nor Luyce has been one of the few organizations in Armenia that actively continued providing not only one-on-one online meetings, but also group meetings providing the girls with a space to express what worried them or made them feel anxious.

Nor Luyce has taken a leadership role with their mentees and mentors during COVID-19, encouraging safe and continued conversation to work through the difficulties of the pandemic and ensuring mentees continue to move forward with self-efficacy development. To do so the girls within the program were also encouraged taking a leadership role while tackling COVID-19 within their communities. Mentees took the initiative to educate their peers on COVID-19 further by extending their knowledge to other children not enrolled in the program, but in their school districts, utilizing and expanding on communication skills and resilience. When the mentees took an active role in their training, it provided the girls with an opportunity to strengthen their self-efficacy and be empowered by educating themselves and others about crisis response utilizing the skills they have continuously strengthened throughout the Nor Luyce program.

As Armenia begins to re-engage with participants in-person, we also see the tremendous value in providing virtual spaces for engagement. The access to mentors and experts from around the world was a way to introduce Nor Luyce participants to opportunities and experiences that would not be possible in Gyumri. Moving forward it is critical to continue to engage with participants through multiple platforms that help establish connectivity, both locally and internationally, in ways that promote learning and exposure to the nuances of the world of work, global issues related to climate change and disaster risk, and the impact of local and global issues on the future for our community.

Nor Luyce utilizes education as a tool to empower adolescents economically in the changing world of work by providing an opportunity for young girls to obtain and strengthen a skill set necessary for success in the workforce as well as providing financial help to attend universities, further enabling the girls to follow their career goals.

Through Nor Luyce programming, participants are exposed to the mission of the UN and the changes it is seeking to bring. Instilling an understanding of global interconnectedness and global opportunity within the program participants as they are exposed to the wider impact they and their program creates individuals aware of global issues and able to navigate those issues. A more empowered population has a greater ability to encourage change regarding potential climate actions and disaster risk prevention. To further the empowerment of girls in Nor Luyce programs, we

integrate opportunities for participants to engage with the Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform, an organization that provides education and support to ensure that the girls are equipped with the skills needed to remain safe and secure in all aspects of their lives.

As an organization, Nor Luyce strongly believes that the following advocacy efforts will contribute greatly to Agenda 2030 and progress toward the SDGs. Specifically, Nor Luyce focuses on the following broad goals:

- Educate more people about the opportunities to make their voices heard and about the steps they can take locally to meet the SDGs.
- Motivate more people to take actions towards realization of SDGs through mapping out the roads to achieving their national SDGs.
- Provide support and education for women to feel empowered to speak up for themselves and each other knowing there is an entity that promotes continuous self-efficacy development and growth they can lean on that actively strives to hinder any type of violations towards women.
- Support people in obtaining crisis response proficiency, especially in the wake of the transition from the pandemic to normal life since COVID-19 could have been the hardest and most traumatic experience one has encountered.

Nor Luyce's mission and vision align with 3 sustainable development goals, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities. Under those goals, Nor Luyce embodies the principle aims of specific targets aligned with quality education and gender equality. For example, target 4.5 addresses gender disparities within education and children from vulnerable situations. Nor Luyce strives to provide informal learning opportunities for girls from vulnerable backgrounds in Armenia empowering them to realize their potential in education, careers, and life to become self-sufficient and independent young women. As self-sufficient, independent and self-confident young women, they will have a clear understanding of global citizenship, and their rights and responsibilities as global citizens. This also allows the girls to imagine the huge impact their actions can have on the development, changes and challenges of this world, producing a generation of youth ready to emerge into this new world of work with the disaster prevention skills to combat any issue the world may face.

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