



Human Rights Violations Against PLHIV in Armenia, 2025

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Short About Real World Real People NGO

- Real World Real People NGO (RWRP) is a community-based organization founded in 2003 in Armenia
- It is operating all over the Armenia
- The main beneficiaries of RWRP are PLHIV, PUDs, TB patients
- RWRP provides care and support services to about 3000 PLHIV and 400 TB patients annually
- RWRP provides harm reduction and HIV prevention services to about 6000 PLHIV annually



Since 2021, the Real World Real People NGO has been documenting and preparing annual reports on human rights violations against people living with HIV, which have served as a basis for evidence-based advocacy.



In 2025, the organization recorded 14 human rights violations against people living with HIV within the healthcare system.

- Denial or restriction of medical care
- Abusive or degrading treatment by healthcare workers
- Illegal disclosure of HIV status
- Unjustified isolation or delays in service provision
- Referral for treatment exclusively to infectious disease centers
- Discriminatory treatment of pregnant women



In 2025, the organisation recorded 5 human rights violations against people living with HIV in family and intimate partner relationships.

- Domestic violence (physical, psychological, economic)
- Blackmail through disclosure of HIV status
- Illegal disclosure of medical confidentiality
- Denial of medical treatment to a pregnant woman



In 2025, the organisation recorded 4 human rights violations against people living with HIV in the labour field.

- Refusal of employment
- Threat of dismissal from work
- Illegal requirement of medical certificates
- Tolerance of a discriminatory environment by the employer



In 2025, the organisation recorded 4 human rights violations against people living with HIV in in the law enforcement and penitentiary systems.

- Illegal searches
- Physical and psychological violence
- Disclosure of medical information
- Degrading treatment



Thus, in 2025, the organisation documented 26 cases of human rights violations. In all instances, people living with HIV received appropriate counselling and support. Beneficiaries were informed that they could file a report with the police; however, in every case, they chose not to do so due to fears of further disclosure, stigma, and discrimination. This decision was largely driven by a lack of trust and fear.



Consequences of stigma and discrimination

- Delayed HIV testing and diagnosis
- Reduced access to treatment and care, including late initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART)
- Poor treatment adherence
- Negative mental health effects (as anxiety, depression, shame, and isolation)
- Social exclusion and rejection from family, community, workplace, etc
- Increased vulnerability to abuse and rights violations



Thank you