



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
29 November 2022

Original: English

---

### Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-seventh session

6–17 March 2023

**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.

---

\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

Nor Luyce Mentoring Center for Youth is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in Gyumri, Armenia focused on working with adolescent girls from orphanages and socially vulnerable families. The first of its kind in Gyumri, Nor Luyce provides an innovative and safe 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.

Nor Luyce is located in a region with high unemployment: 24.3%. These rates are highest among youth ages 18-34. High unemployment rates for youth are, in part, due to a lack of necessary skills and knowledge due to an absence of education and educational resources. The reality of high demands for employment and low educational attainment, compounded by few job openings, makes finding employment very difficult for young people. Unemployment as well as the fact that we are in a geographical location where young people face war, natural hazards (e.g., earthquakes), as well as other life adversaries make life stressful. Due to unemployment, not all families can afford to have computers or other digital equipment. Also, the technology families do have is limited and is therefore used predominantly by the males in the family, thus limiting girls' opportunities to use technology and gain technological skills.

There is tremendous value in providing virtual spaces for engagement. Access to mentors and experts from around the world is a way to introduce Nor Luyce participants to opportunities and experiences that would not be possible in Gyumri. Nor Luyce highlights the importance of promoting engagement through multiple platforms that help establish connectivity, both locally and internationally, in ways that encourage learning and exposure to the nuances of the world of work, global issues, and the impact of local and global issues on the future of 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. The girls are provided with not only digital skills, which allow them to learn how to utilize computers and tablets, but they also acquire soft skills such as how to navigate the internet safely, how to use Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, how to access important educational programs and participate in workshops, how to apply for scholarships, how to research valid information on the internet, and more.

To further enhance these skills Nor Luyce provides adolescent girls with monthly online group meetings that allow them to become comfortable with using digital devices and applications, such as Zoom. Nor Luyce also created online evaluation forms for each group meeting, which helps the girls feel comfortable using online tools and builds responsibility for sharing their feedback on each event provided both in-person and online. The feedback received from the girls is integrated into future programming to ensure that the curriculum, content, and pacing of the program meet their needs.

Nor Luyce also strives to provide adolescent girls with knowledge on how to be safe on the internet and how to protect themselves from cyberbullying. Research indicates that bullying and cyberbullying are common in schools. Due to cyberbullying, many youth face significant challenges and psychological issues. Taking this into consideration, Nor Luyce seeks to provide adolescent girls with tools and techniques to stay safe on the internet and to fight against cyberbullying. The girls have actively engaged in workshops on how to recognize bullying and cyberbullying and what to do not to be affected by it.

As an organization Nor Luyce 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 well as feel empowered to step into the work market. Nor Luyce's mission and vision align with three Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), 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 4.4 addresses growth in the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship. Also, target 5.B addresses the enhancement of information and communication technology to promote the empowerment of women. Taking this into account, 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. Nor Luyce allows girls in the programme to enhance their skills and abilities and grow networks by exposing them to international opportunities and a promising future.

---