

THE LEGAL STATUS OF FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Recommendations by Peace Dialogue NGO

- Define the concept of "Former prisoner of war" by law, as well as the status, rights and responsibilities of former prisoners of war.
- Establish by law the right to receive free and quality medical care for life, regardless of whether the former prisoner of war was a serviceman or not, whether he/she was a contract or mandatory conscript soldier.
- Establish by law that after returning from captivity, servicemen must undergo a health condition expertise and medical checkup.
- In order to carry out the health condition expertise and medical checkup of former prisoners of war in accordance with the standards established by the Istanbul Protocol, adopt the necessary legal acts or amend and make additions to the already existing legal acts.
- By making changes and additions to legal acts, ensure that when determining the causation of an injury or illness, it can be noted that it was received during captivity.
- By making amendments and additions to the legal acts, to ensure that the conclusions of forensic medical and forensic military-

medical examinations are taken into account in the conclusions given regarding the health condition of war veterans (including former prisoners of war).

- Organize trainings of relevant specialists in order to carry out health conditions expertise and medical checkup of former prisoners of war in accordance with the standards set by the Istanbul Protocol.
- Establish by legal acts the restrictions that will apply in the case of re-enlistment of former prisoners of war into military service (including the prohibition of inclusion in combat duty and military operations).
- Establish by law that former prisoners of war cannot be included in combat duty in military training camps.
- Establish by law that former prisoners of war, after returning to the Republic of Armenia, are obliged to provide detailed information to the competent authorities within a short period of time about the information they gave to the representatives of the captor state during captivity, as well as about the existing arrangements (including cooperation). Establish that former prisoners of war are released from criminal liability for disclosing information of any nature (including state, service or military secrets) to the representatives of the captor state during their captivity, if they report this to the representatives of the RA law enforcement agencies in a short period of time, immediately after their return, and if as a result, Republic of Armenia had no human and/or territorial losses.