



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Westbrook, ME, USA – February 8, 2022 - ANNA ASTVATSATURIAN FOUNDATION is pleased to announce the completion of the Artsakh Republic countrywide census, an initiative to research and document empirical data on the financial, personal, and property losses of the Armenian population, incurred during the Artsakh War of 2020.

The initiative to determine the impact of Azerbaijani aggression on the Artsakh population was the first project of the Foundation after the Artsakh War. The goal of the initiative was to document the emotional and physical damages suffered by the affected victims in the aftermath of the war. Information collected is being or will be utilized in three ways:

- To establish a knowledge base to assess need and to provide socio-economic and humanitarian assistance to those affected families
- To establish the legal framework for restitution to Armenians who suffered financial and personal loss during the 2020 Artsakh War
- To utilize the information collected for future preventative measures against genocide, war crimes, crimes of aggression and crimes against humanity

The initiative was launched in December 2020 and finalized by December 2021. It was implemented by the Association of Armenia's Social Workers (AASW) to benefit the work of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Housing and Social Affairs of the Republic of Artsakh and the Offices of Armenia's and Artsakh's Human Rights Ombudsmen. Anna Astvatsaturian Foundation funded the project and in certain aspects of the initiative were assisted by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and ACTED.

The interviews of the impacted Artsakhtsis were conducted in person by staff trained by the AASW and employed by the Foundation for the duration of the census. Surveys were conducted in four (4) areas of Artsakh: Stepanakert, Martakert, Martuni, Askeran together with the four (4) villages of Shushi. In Armenia, surveys were conducted for a portion of Artsakhtsi population that fled there during and after the war. A total of 20,297 households were surveyed. 2,982 households did not want to participate in the survey. An unknown number of families were unaccounted for due to relocation or death. Several communities in certain geographic areas of Artsakh were not surveyed due to the security concerns for the interviewers. As part of the census, images of properties and documentation were collected.

Any individuals or organizations representing these victims may contact the Foundation if they require access to specific information collected.

Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte is an author, lecturer, human rights advocate and humanitarian. She is a refugee from Baku, Azerbaijan. Anna launched the "Anna Astvatsaturian Foundation," a Nonprofit Corporation based in United States that focuses its efforts on community initiatives in Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh and the Armenian Diaspora. The "Anna Astvatsaturian Foundation" is organized as a public benefit corporation under the Maine Nonprofit Corporation Act, Title 13-B M.R.S., as amended, and is intended exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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