**THE EXPERT COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ARMED FORCES ADJUNCT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

The Expert Council for the Protection of Human Rights in the Armed Forces adjunct to the Human Rights Defender was established on April 11th, 2019. The Council's purpose is to provide advisory assistance to the Defender in the protection of the rights of military servicemen. It supports the identification of issues relating to the protection of human rights in the armed forces and other troops, including the protection of the rights of servicemen and other conscripts, as well as members of their families, and submitting recommendations to the competent authority for their resolution.

The Council is formed by the Defender's decision. It consists of representatives of non-governmental organizations and independent specialists having the necessary experience and knowledge in the field of the protection of the rights of military servicemen. Among them are lawyers, pedagogues, physicians, psychologists, social workers, or those with relevant work experience in the field of protection of the rights of military servicemen. The Defender may also include military personnel or military servicemen registered in reserve, or their family members in the Council.

The Council adjunct to the Defender discusses the Defender's reports on the rights of persons keeping in the places of deprivation of liberty, the necessity of legislative amendments and relevant recommendations, reports from international and non-governmental organizations, as well as issues of systemic and public interest in the field. Providing socio-psychological and legal assistance to military servicemen and their family members are also being subject of discussion.