



**Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the UN Office and other  
International Organizations**

**GENEVA**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the request of Ms. Karima Bennouna, the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, has the honour to transmit the reply by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the questionnaire on cultural rights and public spaces.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: 1 page



Geneva, 20 June 2019

**Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
GENEVA**

- 1) "Public spaces" or "civic spaces" are almost not defined in Azerbaijani legislation as specific terms. However, factually there are public spaces that everybody could enjoy from. Generally, according to Article 40 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, "Everyone has the right to take part in cultural life, to enjoy cultural institutions and cultural resources."
- 2) Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Culture" contains the principles of equality, democracy and other relevant principles that provides necessary rights to benefit from public spaces. The law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", the law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Gender Equality " and other legislative acts are considered full and equal enjoyment of cultural resource.

Cultural public spaces in Azerbaijan exists in form of Cultural Clubs, Culture Centers, Culture Houses that are open for public and there is not any form of restriction to benefit from them. Libraries in Azerbaijan also funded by the State budget and are open for everyone. Different events are organized to encourage local communities to benefit from these cultural resources. Minorities in Azerbaijan has a variety of ways for cultural self-expression. There folk theaters, ethnic dance groups, music ensembles that enjoy state support and develop their language and culture.

- 6) There is an impact of privatization to the enjoyment of cultural rights. Especially in post-socialist countries where the centralized cultural management have recently switched and transformed into market oriented de-centralized cultural management, privatization plays an important role. Being income dependent, a private organization rapidly organize its activities according to the demand oriented strategies that attract more people to enjoy from cultural rights.
- 7) Possibly the most important recommendation to be made to States and other stakeholders is to respect cultural rights of the aboriginal communities, even if these communities were displaced due to any circumstance. The international community in its turn, should monitor the cases in which the public places and cultural objects of a community which was forced to leave its place of origin, are destroyed or falsified, thus violoting their cultural rights. Global institutions should develop a strict mechanism to force all stakeholders to abstain from using such opportunities to distort the cultural history and violate rights.