



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC)

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On December 3, at 2pm, the opening of an inclusive swing for disabled children will take place at the Yerevan Zoo, with attendance by British Ambassador to Armenia Katherine Leach and Director of Yerevan Zoo Ruben Khachatryan. This day, which is also the International Day of People with Disability, will mark the start of the “Playground for All Children” campaign.

The inclusive swing has been donated to the Yerevan Zoo by the Armenian British Business Chamber and Rotary Club of Yerevan International.

As the first gift for children with special needs to be placed in the zoo, this event marks the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Asset's (FPWC) crowdfunding campaign to open the first inclusive playground in Armenia. Placed inside the Yerevan Zoo itself, the “Playground for All Children” will be a tangible step towards more respect for the 8000 registered disabled children in the country. The campaign will be facilitated through the U.S. based Global Giving online platform through which anyone, anywhere in the world can contribute.

The lack of awareness for their special needs has left many disabled children and their families at the margins of society. A recent study by UNICEF reveals that the segregation of disabled children in Armenia is in many ways linked to the problem the general public still perceives it as impossible to integrate mentally as well as physically handicapped persons in normal life. This playground aims to provide a space for integration. It will promote an inclusive approach on all levels of the society by dismantling societal barriers that have kept these children segregated for years.

About FPWC

Established in 2002, FPWC is Armenia's leading foundation for the protection and conservation of the country's unique natural heritage. Working at the crossroads of wildlife protection, environmental education, as well as community and infrastructure development, the foundation emphasizes the involvement of rural populations in the sustainable development of Armenia. In all its projects, FPWC advocates for mutual respect between human beings, the natural environment, and cultural heritage, as these are indispensable conditions for the positive development of Armenia.



3 December
**International Day of
People with Disability**