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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."


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 violating their cultural rights. Global institutions should develop a strict mechanism to force all stakeholders to obtain from using such opportunities to distort the cultural history and violate rights.