

Edict 3.

Concerning the Succession of the Armenians. (De Armeniorum successione.)

The same emperor (Justinian).

Preface. We also want the Armenians to be liberated from former injustice, and lead them into the ways of our laws in all things and have them partake of the proper justice.

c. 1. And since we have recently learned that a barbarous and audacious rule exists among them which is neither proper for Romans nor in consonance with justice in our republic, namely that males only and not females inherit from their parents, we therefore ordain right of succession shall be equal and that the Roman laws made for men and women shall also apply in Armenia. We have therefore transmitted our laws there, so that they (the people) may live in accordance with them. 1. Since, however, it would be most absurd to disturb everything that has gone by, we accordingly direct that this law shall apply as from the beginning of our pious reign, so that the successions of those who have died since that time, shall be treated in that manner, unless the parties have compromised or come to an agreement with each other. If anything of that kind has been done, it shall remain in force and be in no manner disturbed. 2. And we want them (the women) also to have a share, from the time mentioned, in the lands called *genearchica*.^a And if it is found that men have appointed their daughters as heirs, though they are not called to intestate succession, they and their children shall participate in such lands called *genearchica*.

Epilogue. Your Excellency will take care that this our will, declared in this imperial law, be observed and carried into effect, so that our laws be in force and have authority in all things, the present law applying, as has already been said, from the beginning of our reign, to be effective and to be observed in every respect throughout all time in the future.

Given August 1, 535.

^a Lands originating with the chief of the family-patrimonial land.