

# IDAHOT 2017

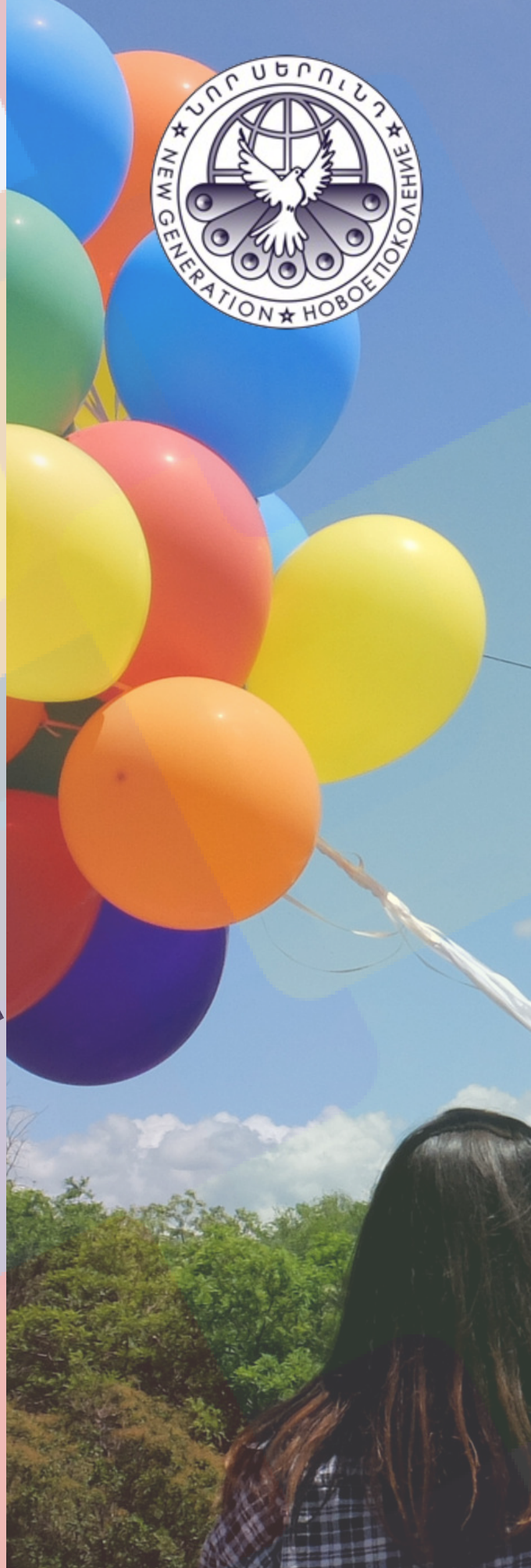
## ALONG WITH TIME

# 26

SPECIAL  
ISSUE



### INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA



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## ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA



The groundless violations and restrictions of LGBTQI rights and freedoms are widely spread in Armenia, and they create serious danger to the establishment of legal order, legal equality, rule of law and right in the Republic of Armenia.

Although the Republic of Armenia undertakes steps towards raising the threshold of trust in the activities implemented by different government branches of the country, however restrictions on the rights of people exposed to discrimination are still mainstream; the cases are not fully solved and the guilty are not punished.

Such cases definitely lead to the violation of law and order, including offence against the dignity of LGBTQI people, and to the development and spreading of climate of impunity.

Various non-governmental organizations take steps to improve the situation and inspire respect to the rights of people but their efforts very often meet with social stereotypes as well as obstacles set up by state bodies, and consequently they go for nothing.

“New Generation” Humanitarian NGO condemns any case of violence against LGBTQI people particularly based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and calls for tolerance and respectful attitude towards all the representatives of the society.

“New Generation” Humanitarian NGO turns to competent authorities, in particular to:

### *Call*

*On the occasion of the  
International day against  
homophobia and transphobia  
Republic of Armenia*

*May 17, 2017  
Yerevan*

### RA State Bodies

The Republic of Armenia is established as a democratic state governed by the rule of law where RA Constitution and all other laws must ensure the natural course of dignified and legally equal life of the citizens. And in order to make this idea a reality and be a democratic state not only on paper but also in real life, the state with all its government branches, excluding any manifestation of discriminatory attitude, must promote the development of a tolerant society with democratic values, as this is one of the cornerstones of the democratic state.

### RA National Assembly

To pass an Antidiscrimination law which will have a preventive role in all public spheres against any manifestation of discrimination and on any ground, not excluding and necessarily including sexual orientation and gender identity as protected grounds in the law.

To pass legislation against hate-speech, violence and intolerance propagation.

To include sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds for hate crimes in the RA Criminal Code as well.

### **RA Local Self-Government Authorities**

To exclude any manifestation of discrimination and on any ground during the implementation of RA policy in any field.

To ensure legally equal conditions for the RA citizens, including all vulnerable groups and among them – the LGBTQI people, during the implementation of activities in healthcare, education, cultural, social, employment and any other important public sector.

### **RA Ministry of Healthcare**

To control manifestation of discriminatory attitude based on sexual orientation towards the citizens when providing healthcare services in the institutions under the ministry.

### **Mass Media**

To refrain from disseminating hate speech, becoming part of intolerance and discrimination propagation against minority groups of the society, including LGBTQI communities.

To comply with the code of ethics when publishing information.

To raise awareness among mass media representatives on LGBTQI issues in order that they present impartial and true-to-facts information.

Not to promote the spreading of public, discriminatory gender stereotypes.

To influence the development of tolerant public opinion contributing to the development of civil society and establishment of democracy in the Republic of Armenia.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA / SERGEY GABRIELYAN

Every year, on May 17, the democratic world celebrates the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. We also celebrate that day trying to put in action all the mechanisms aimed at protecting the rights of LGBTQI people. "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO has been engaged in human rights protection process for 20 years. We are determined in our strategic direction which is based on the implementation of not only local laws but also international legal documents which are the cornerstone of democracy.

In this regard, the primary responsibilities of our state are:

- Protect people from homophobia and transphobia,
- Prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment,
- Ensure people's right to freedom of expression and assembly,
- Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

## ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA "NEW GENERATION" HUMANITARIAN NGO APPLIED TO THE MAYOR OF YEREVAN

Dear Mr. Margaryan,

On the occasion of the International Day against homophobia and transphobia (IDAHOT) on May 17, 2017 "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO is planning to paint one of the central public places of the city with rainbow colors.

With this letter we kindly ask you to issue an order of permission to provide a central public place for the event.

Meanwhile we ask you to raise the diversity rainbow flag on a visible part of the municipality on May 17 which will promote the strengthening and developing of diversity and equality in Armenia.

We would also like to inform that in case of your agreement "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO will provide the rainbow flag.

We hope that You will not refuse our request.

With respect,

NGO President Sergey Gabrielyan

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA, "NEW GENERATION" HUMANITARIAN NGO APPLIED TO THE INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTIONS ACCREDITED TO ARMENIA**

On the occasion of the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia, "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO applied to the embassies of the United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain, Federal Republic of Germany, French Republic, the Kingdom of Sweden, Switzerland, Canada calling to join the initiative and raise the diversity rainbow flag on the visible part of the embassies.



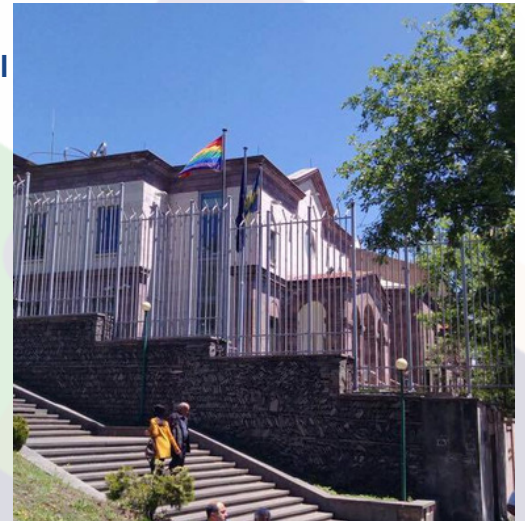
The Embassy of the United States of America to Armenia joined the initiative by putting the Diversity flag as a cover photo of the official Facebook page of the Embassy, as well as publicly sharing a post about the message of the day:



"May 17 is the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. The day aims to raise awareness of the need to protect the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex individuals and ensure that they are able to live free from discrimination and violence worldwide".

The Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also joined the initiative raising the Diversity flag on a visible part of the Embassy:

"British Embassy Yerevan promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. Human rights are universal and apply equally to all without distinction. #IDAHOBIT. #FCOHumanRights".



SERIES OF EVENTS DEDICATED TO IDAHOT 2017

ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA, NEW GENERATION HUMANITARIAN NGO IN COOPERATION WITH "RIGHT SIDE" HUMAN RIGHTS NGO LAUNCHED SERIES OF EVENTS.

## The list of the activities dedicated to the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia on May 17th , 2017 - #IDAHOT2017ngngo.

Press conference: "The meaning of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia: summarizing the 2016".

Media Center  
12:00

Traveling Flesh mob:  
"How we see life without homophobia"

To know the venue  
call +374(0)60478989  
12:00-16:00

Presentation of the "Right to Health" project

Article 3 Club 15:00

Celebrating diversity together

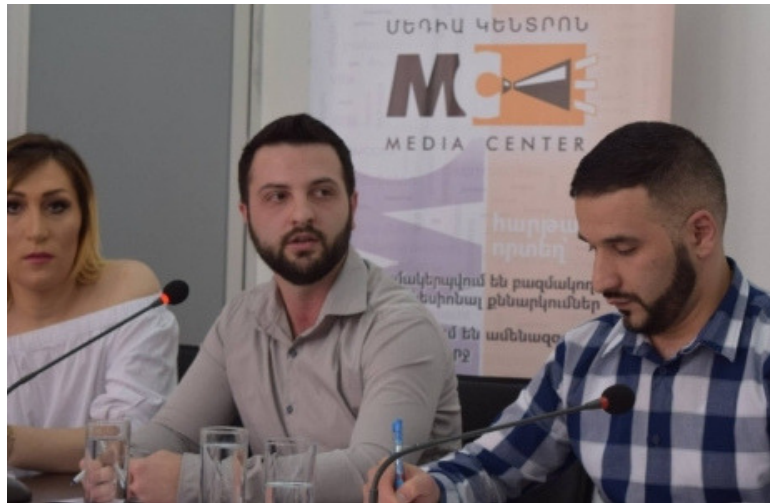
Right Side NGO  
20:00

## PRESS CONFERENCE ON "THE MEANING OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA: SUMMARIZING 2016"



A press conference entitled "The meaning of the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia: summarizing 2016" was held by "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO at Media Center on May 17, devoted to the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

Sergey Gabrielyan, President of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO, Arman Sahakyan, Equality and Diversity Programs' Coordinator of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO, Nare Hovhannisyan, Human Rights and Advocacy Programs' Coordinator of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO, Lilit Martirosyan, President of "Rights Side" NGO, were the speakers of the discussion.



Sahakyan said that 100 states in the world celebrate this holiday. He said that they planned to carry out a flash mob, the presentation of "Right to Health" project was planned and a closed event celebrating diversity.

Sergey Gabrielyan said that there NGO had been fighting for the protection of LGBTI rights in Armenia.

"We don't see the progress, the light at the end of the tunnel. Though Armenia ratified numerous international documents that condemn homophobia and transphobia, these documents are in the air, the aggression among the society rises," Gabrielyan said.

He highlights that it is the state obligation to protect people from homophobia, to prevent the hatred calls, which are spread among mass media, state and non-state organizations, social networks.



First, Arman Sahakyan introduced the types of homophobia.

"Homophobia, in general, is based on the lack of knowledge, prejudices and some traditions the fight against which is the raising of the legal awareness of the society and providing accurate information," he said.

According to the speaker, more than 300 organizations out of 6000 civil organizations are engaged in human rights protection but 86% of them do not want to talk about that issue at all.

“Moreover, there is deterioration both in terms of discriminative attitude and violations. People are in the same stereotyped atmosphere,” Gabrielyan said.

Nare Hovhannisyan presented the research results conducted by “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO. The security institutions of physical and sexual violence, the speech of intolerance and hatred towards LGBTIQ were displayed at 100 percent among the law enforcement structures, media and psychological pressures, speech manifestations of intolerance and hatred comprises 90%, physical pressures in LGBTIQ families - 60 percent, intolerance manifestations 72 percent, psychological pressure 74 percent.

“In state institutions, physical violence is 5%, intolerance manifestations 75%, sexual violence in the health sector is 10%, in the religious organizations it is 8%, and it is 55% in entertainment venues,” Hovhannisyan said.

Lilit Martirosyan, President of “Rights Side” NGO, said that their organization is engaged in the issues of trans people. During the last 1, 5 years, there were 6 renaming.

“There is no law in Armenia that would allow a person to perform sex change surgeries, thus trans people face discrimination in medical facilities or doctors,” he said, this year 30 cases of violence against trans people have been registered.

Hayk Hayrapetyan also underlined that there is a legislative gap.

“In one case, there are international treaties signed by the Republic of Armenia, on the other hand, there are no national regulations, legislation. The law prohibiting discrimination is a significant normative act, and the human rights defenders do not possess the tools to protect human rights,” Hayrapetyan said.



# "HOW WE SEE LIFE WITHOUT HOMOPHOBIA" FLASHMOB

On May 17, "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO organized a flashmob titled "How We see Life without Homophobia" dedicated to the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. The aim of the flashmob was to inform the society about the message and significance of the day.

Young people took photos with "Stop Sexism" and other slogans in several public places of Yerevan displaying how they see life without homophobia, violence, hatred, racism and any other discriminatory attitude. This was a public event and anybody could join and be photographed with the slogans and posters.

## "HOW WE SEE LIFE WITHOUT HOMOPHOBIA"



## “RIGHT TO HEALTH” PROJECT PRESENTATION



On May 17, 2017, within the framework of International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia events, the presentation of “Right to Health” project implemented by New Generation Humanitarian NGO, in partnership with “Right Side” NGO, took place at Article 3 club.

The project is aimed at promoting constant and continuous access to HIV services among MSM (Men who have sex with men) and Trans\* people.

Representatives of NGOs and healthcare sector attended the presentation. President of New Generation Humanitarian NGO and project manager Sergey Gabrielyan introduced the goal and regional participation, tasks and objectives, expectations and results of “Right to Health” project.

Then a discussion followed during which Sergey Gabrielyan answered to the participants/guests’ questions.



# ALONG WITH TIME #26

*Special Issue*

## INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA

**«NEW GENERATION»**  
Humanitarian Non-Governmental  
Organization



**«ՆՈՐ ՄԵՐՈՆԵՂ»**  
Մարդասիրական Հասարակական  
Կազմակերպություն



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