

ALONG WITH TIME

Monthly magazine "Along with Time" contains comprehensive description of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO's activities during the given month.

DECEMBER

#22



NEWS



EVENTS



TRAININGS



NGO EMPLOYEES NEW YEAR WISHES

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WE FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION ALSO IN THE REGIONS



“New Generation” humanitarian NGO’s Human rights and advocacy program coordinator Nare Hovhannisyan participated in the conference of Non-discrimination and Equality Coalition (NDEC), named “Discrimination in Armenia: a year passed”. The conference was attended by the public authorities, the representatives of diplomatic missions and international organizations and NGOs.

In the first part of conference participants introduced the problems of this issue in Armenia, and ways of solutions. They also introduced the Coalition’s activities in the field of anti-discrimination, discussed the issues of legislation, and the importance of creating safe spaces, as well as the causes of discrimination and the negative effects of stereotypes.

“New Generation” representative Nare Hovhannisyan also spoke at the conference. Hereby we introduce her speech.

“Let me thank you for this initiative, I would like to note that it’s very important for me to introduce the work which was done by “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO for the most discriminated people.

First of all very important to raise level of awareness. Very often NGOs in Armenia focus on Yerevan, and the regions remains out of our attention. For fulfilling this gap we pay attention to regions too.

Specifically, we are providing courses on human rights, discrimination, hate speech and freedom of expression issues. Also we provide trainings such as “HIV and Human Rights”.

Such courses are intended by specific groups. Therefore to discuss and speak for LGBTI people problems we provide various discussions and conferences. We also discuss issues of LGBTI people and MSMs with representatives of international and diplomatic delegations. LGBTI persons are invited to discuss their problems face to face in this kind of meetings.

Also we are providing assessment of access to medical services. During this meetings LGBTI people introduce their problems by themselves.

We provide legal advice and the results of it are promising. We are happy to see that community’s members are ready to fight for their violated rights and turn to judicial authorities. It is very important that LGBTI people apply to our NGO not only for discrimination cases, but also with problems related to their work, family and so on. This is a very important indicator for us and hope that our efforts to empower LGBTI community were not in vain.

We also provide grants to other NGOs. These grants helped to create 3 organizations: “United way”, “United Colors” and “Rights Side” NGOs. Note that “Rights Side” NGO is the first NGO who deals with transgender issues.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ANSWERED THE APPLICATION OF "NEW GENERATION"



"New Generation" Humanitarian NGO members Arman Sahakyan and Grigor Gevorgyan applied to Minister of Justice RA Arpine Hovhannisyan, asking her to initiate disciplinary proceedings against judges of the Court of Appeals Narine Barseghyan, Levon Grigoryan and Margarita Hartenyan.

The reason is unlawful behaviour towards PM Hayk Babukyan, representative of ruling Republican Fraction

Recently the response letter was received from the Ministry of Justice. "Study has shown that the application does not contain any basis for gross violation of the Judicial Code Article 153, part 2, paragraph 2, of the Republic of Armenia", noted in a letter sent from the chief of staff of the Ministry. Note that the same application has been sent to the Ombudsman of RA. In response, it was noted that the application of Arman Sahakyan and Grigor Gevorgyan was re-directed to the General Assembly's Ethics and Disciplinary Committee of the RA.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM



In December 13 of 2016 "United Way" Charitable NGO organized a seminar-training on "The importance of the prohibition of

discrimination in the field of tourism", with the aim to increase participants' awareness and knowledge on discrimination, tourism and tourism development of the importance of the prohibition of discrimination by theoretical and practical classes, as well as through games and discussions.

The seminar were attended by 10 participants who have experience not only in tourism but also in various fields.

The seminar provided an opportunity to learn about the tourism, its types and directions. "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO Human Rights and Advocacy Program Coordinator Nare Hovhannisyan and lawyer Hayarpi Noreyan were invited as trainers of the seminar. They presented the topic "Types of discrimination."

THE CITIZEN APPEALED TO THE COURT FOR THE VIOALATION OF HIS PRIVACY



A.S. has applied to "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO's legal department requesting legal assistance as the Military Commissariat violated his right to privacy. The citizen's driver's license was revoked by the Traffic Police based on the information transferred from the Military Commissariat.

The military commissariat has provided the Traffic Police the list of those individuals who were exempt form compulsory military service in 2010-2012 because of their mental illnesses. A.S. is also in the list with his private data.

Citizen, arguing that his right to privacy has been violated, with the support of “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO’s Legal Department has appealed to the Administrative Court. A.S. asked the Administrative Court to recognize the unlawfulness of the decision to revoke his driving license by the Traffic Police.

He also asked to recognized that he has been discriminated by the Traffic Police. A.S. has also applied to the Head of Personal Data Protection Department of staff of Ministry of Justice of RA, Shushan Doydoyan asking to recognize the fact of violation of his privacy by the Military Commissariat.

ARMAN SAHAKYAN INTRODUCED THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV IN ARMENIA

On December 15 Eurasia Partnership Foundation with the support of the French Embassy in Yerevan and the Council of Europe organized a debate “Equal Rights for each opportunity. Fight against Discrimination”. The opening of the event are announced by:

Jean-Francois Charpentier, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France to Armenia

Natalia Vutova, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Yerevan,

Gevorg Ter-Gabrielyan, Eurasia Partnership Foundation,

Hrach Palian, Deputy Ombudsman.

During the event “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO Office Director Arman Sahakyan also had a speech referring to the discriminatory attitude towards people living with HIV positive status.

Below is the full speech of Arman Sahakyan.



Hi everyone, Let me thank you for this invitation. Representatives of different kind of organizations here, even that organizations which are not represented here have different kind goals, but one problem, which is the discrimination of special group of people from society. These organizations are united by one common goal: the elimination of discrimination in Armenia. A few years ago the elimination of discrimination was only just a vision for organizations. But it is time now to

turn it into a strategic goal and work towards it. I am Arman Sahakyan, I represent “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO. It was founded in 1998, a human rights organization that deals with the protection of human rights implementing HIV prevention programs among vulnerable groups in the society. It is important that we raise the issues of human rights and try to look together for ways of combating discrimination. A little bit of statistics on HIV and AIDS in Armenia:

According to National AIDS Prevention Centre, from 1988 up to 2016 November 30, in the Republic of Armenia registered 2482 cases of HIV infection among citizens. HIV majority are of male patients: 1714 people (69%), females recorded 768 cases (31%). 45 cases of HIV infection (1.8%) are children. 52% of people with HIV were 25-39 years old at the time of diagnosis. In Armenia the main channels of HIV transmission are through heterosexual sex (66%) and injecting drug use (25%). Besides, there are homosexual and mother-to-child HIV transmission through blood modes.

All HIV positive citizens has the same rights as other citizens, while the rights of persons with HIV positive status are violated in almost all areas.

Often the employer refuses to employ persons with HIV-positive status, or if knowing HIV positive status of employee, dismisses him/her.

Even medical Staff, knowing the person who has HIV positive status, refuse to help him.

Often people living with HIV positive status fear the prospect of being expelled from the community or from home, hiding their disease and do not apply to hospitals, which could improve their quality of life and prolong life expectancy. I can tell 2 short examples of how discrimination was manifested against one woman and one child living with HIV positive status.

In one of the cities in Armenia, employer knowing about employees HIV-positive status, dismissed the person from workplace and informed about it to all people who knew her. That woman was forced to quit her job and after a while she left the country with his family.

In other case, all dentists refused to help child for toothache, because of which the child was suffering from tooth pain for about 5 days. Only after our intervention, the problem was solved.

What leads to stigma and discrimination fear?

The fear being subjected and discriminated doesn't let them test HIV status. It leads to a number of negative consequences of not receiving timely treatment, AIDS prevention, etc. This problem concerns not only to a man/woman living with HIV positive, but also his/her family.

All of this ultimately hinders their integration into society preventing their access to healthcare and treatment. What are the reasons for

imposing discrimination of people living with HIV positive status?

Mainly the lack of knowledge. When a person does not know, for example, the transmission ways, they can think that even transmission may from sitting near one table, using same silverware etc. Because of it we see isolation of people living with HIV Positive status.

Lack of knowledge leads to the formation of stereotypes. For example, HIV is transmitted through everyday contact, insect bites, by kissing, air, etc.

Another stereotype is that HIV infection is a disease peculiar to only a specific group of people, homosexuals, drug users, prostitutes, etc. Also people believe that a person living with HIV positive status will look different from the others, but it is not true.

Segregated vulnerable groups in the Republic of Armenia's national strategic plan for AIDS response are especially at risk for HIV, CSW-s, s MSM, IDU and young people.

These groups are vulnerable not only because of infection, but also because of existing stereotypes in the society.

Gender-based discrimination

Common misconceptions is that sexually infected men is considered normal, while women are very often being labeled, due to existing gender stereotypes in the society.

The HIV-positive person in society is associated with undesirable person. The most important step to eliminate the fear of the spread of HIV transmission and HIV-sided information.

For this process it is necessary to mobilize all segments of the society and provide the population with accurate information on HIV/AIDS.

NO PROCEEDINGS WILL BE INITIATED AGAINST JUDGES THAT PATRONIZE HATE SPEECH

These judges patronize hate speech



“New Generation” Humanitarian NGO members Arman Sahakyan and Grigor Gevorgyan applied to Minister of Justice RA Arpine Hovhannisyan, asking her to initiate disciplinary proceedings against judges of the Court of Appeals Narine Barseghyan, Levon Grigoryan and Margarita Hartenyan.

The reason was unlawful behaviour towards PM Hayk Babukyan, representative of ruling Republican Fraction The same application has been sent to the Ombudsman of RA. In response, it was noted that the application of Arman Sahakyan and Grigor Gevorgyan was re-directed to the General Assembly’s Ethics and Disciplinary Committee of the RA. The Committee has made a decision not to initiate a disciplinary proceedings against judges that patronize hate speech.

The decision (in Armenian) is available [here](#).

SEMINAR IN VANADZOR



On 16 December “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO in the scope of the program “HIV and AIDS prevention and awareness raising among men who have sex with men in Shirak, Lori regions and Yerevan city”, held a seminar in Vanadzor city on “HIV and AIDS prevention and the importance of HIV testing”, “Human rights in the law enforcement bodies” and “Human rights and HIV”.

A NATIONAL REPORT ON HIV-RELATED HEALTH SERVICES WILL BE CONDUCTED



Since October 2016 “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO conducts “Support and reinforcement of the Armenian organization in response to HIV through advocacy” program with the financial support of the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Netherlands in Georgia

Within the project needs assessment of target communities will be carried out to support the implementation of the National

Program of Armenia on Response to HIV through capacity building, lobby and advocacy.

On 17-18 December a seminar was organized in Gyumri in order to develop a manual for access to health services related to HIV/AIDS. The seminar was attended by representatives of NGOs across Armenia that promote rights of men having sex with men (MSM), transgender people (TG), injecting drug users and female commercial sex workers.

After get getting acquainted with each other the participant disucess in more details HIV prevention programs and services that their organizations provide the beneficiary groups, as well as addressing

aspects of the provision of services, peculiarities and difficulties of working with stakeholder groups and implementation of programs in targeted areas.

The discussion was followed by screening of the documentary movie "United Response to HIV" made by "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO. Participants discussed the issues that were raised in the film, particularly the issues related to the national AIDS program.

The project expert Mihran Sevumyan presented the manual on assessment of the quality and accessibility of health services related to HIV prevention which have been conducted in the scope of the project "Support and reinforcement of the Armenian organization in response to HIV through advocacy".

The manual presents methods and tools for assessment of HIV-related services/products availability, as well as principles of formation of focus groups, organization of meetings, etc.

After making their recommendations about the manual the participants conducted an assessment of services according to methods and tools indicated in the manual.

As a result of this program a national report will be conducted. The report will be based on the assessment of HIV-related health services provided to MSM, transgender people, HIV-positive people, injecting drug users and female commercial sex workers. Based on this report state budgeting of health services related to HIV will be reviewed

SEMINAR IN GYUMRI



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"NEW GENERATION" HOSTED ITS RUSSIAN-SPEAKING PARTNERS FROM GERMANY



In 2016 "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO recorded numerous successes, among them is the establishment of profound cooperation with partners from Germany. This year "New

Generation" hosted the Russian-speaking human rights defenders from Germany who visited Armenian to get familiarized with the activities of the organization and to develop new projects for cooperation.

Representatives of the "Junost" – the Union of Russian-speaking youth in Germany and "Quarteera" Russian-speaking LGBT NGO in Germany during the week of their visit together with "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO developed projects scheduled for 2017. Next year members of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO will visit Germany to strengthen cooperation.

“This year together with “New Generation” we were involved in a program which took place in Germany and Ukraine. We very quickly made friends with Armenian delegation and realized that we can implement joint projects”, says Svetlana Prokhorova, representative of “Junost” office in Bavaria.

Svetlana says that they were able to design two projects for future implementation. “There are already concrete plans and ideas and they relate not only to the rights of LGBT persons. We want to implement a project on migrants’ rights as well. Migrants’ issue is very actual nowadays in Germany”, says Svetlana Prokhorova. Yulia Grineva, representative of “Quarteera” NGO told us that they are helping activists from

former Soviet Union countries to meet and interact with each other. “I am very pleased that *“Churches are so different here...”*”



Julia and Svetlana also shared their impressions of the country. “We liked the entire visit, as we were treated very warmly and friendly without any pathos. Everything was taken care by our Armenian partners. We enjoyed our stay in Armenia, we people living in this country. For



we are joined this program. Often neighboring countries establish easier communication among themselves and start working together due to our support. “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO implements projects aimed at protecting the rights of LGBT people, so there should be many great opportunities for our cooperation

example, when we go to a market, people represent their products to us very kindly, but do not force us to buy it, or do not say bad things if you do not buy anything. We have eaten here many delicious dishes”, Julia smiles.

“We had a good cultural program. We visited Khor Virap, Echmiadzin, Geghard. The churches are so different here. When I go inside, I feel that this is a place where you can be yourself with you, no matter which religion you belong to. People here are very generous. All are ready to speak with you, in a cafe, in a taxi”, says Svetlana. Russian-speaking human rights defenders say they look forward to their Armenian colleagues’ visit to Germany.

LIFE WITHOUT TUBERCULOSIS



On December 23 of 2016 in “New Generation” humanitarian NGO office provided a seminar to raise awareness about early detection and prevention of tuberculosis. Statistics of tuberculosis in Armenia was introduced as well as preventive measures. There was an active discussion between participants.

The course participants were “HIV and AIDS prevention and awareness raising among MSM in Shirak, Lori marzes and Yerevan” program beneficiaries.

IN 2016 "NEW GENERATION" HUMANITARIAN NGO RECORDED NUMEROUS SUCCESSES



Dear Friend,

In a few days, we will say goodbye to 2016. For us it was a year full of activities, struggle and achievements.

In 2016, our organization has carried out numerous projects to protect human rights, strengthen civil society, establish cooperation with state institutions, continue HIV and AIDS prevention and youth exchange programs.

I regret to say that there are still some issues that need to be changed, it is the presence of stigma and discrimination, judges' biased approach to litigations of strategic importance, the treatment of vulnerable groups in criminal-executive institutions, etc. This year, we provided legal and psychological consultations to hundreds of citizens and the provision of HIV related services reached 1500. We also managed to support few families in need.

It is worth mentioning that "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO provided sub-grants to civil society institutions and assisted the creation of the first NGO dealing with transgenders' rights in Armenia. Our team recruited new staff members and experts, have found new partners both in Armenia and abroad.

This is our modest contribution to the protection of human rights and civil society in Armenia. So let me congratulate all of us on upcoming New Year and Christmas holidays.

Let 2017 be a year of love, respect and peace.

With best wishes,

Sergey Gabrielyan



"Dears I congratulate you on Christmas and New Year. Let the new year be for all of us year of achievements, successes and triumphs".

Hayarpi Noreyan



"In the New Year I wish everybody to be healthy and take care of their relatives and loved ones. Love and respect to everyone".

Artyom Movsesyan



"Dear colleagues and friends, this time of year brings to mind those things in life that are most important. It reminds us to focus on all the good things around us. May you enjoy all the best now and throughout the coming year. Wishing warm greetings for you and your family during this holiday!"

Tiruhi Nazaretyan



"I wish that 2017 embedding only good and positive developments in history. Increase in people's optimism and spiritual harmony"

David Shahbazyan



"Dear reader, I sincerely congratulate you with upcoming Christmas and New Year. Let 2017 be a year of personal happiness and protection of rights. With love and respect".

Nare Hovhannisyan



"Dear reader, I congratulate us all, and wish 2017 to be less disturbing and more successful year. Let your inner light never fade away".

Arman Gharibyan



"Dear people, I cordially congratulate you on this wonderful holiday. I wish you health, mutual respect, love and equality. Let 2017 bring us opportunity to eliminate discrimination completely in our society".

Arman Sahakyan



"Dear Friend, the New Year and especially Christmas are exceptional holidays that unites us all, no matter what. These holidays are the occasion to sum up the past year, make new plans, think about the future. Eventually, these are feasts of hope radiating humanity, tolerance and love. So, the New Year and Christmas are sacred for us. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year".

Levon Chilingaryan