

ALONG WITH TIME

#4.5



International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia.

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The date of May 17th was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization’s decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.

Now – decades later many states of the world have improved their mechanisms of fighting homophobia, biphobia and transphobia creating a safe space for LGBTI people free from hatred and violence.

Each year on this day New Generation Humanitarian NGO organizes different events: flash mobs, meeting-discussions, press releases and conferences to mark this special day of fighting discrimination against LGBTI people and bring the public attention to the issues and problems of these people.

This year’s IDAHOBIT event was held in the form of a meeting-discussion under the...

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On May 17, 2021 campaign under the slogan Chase the Virus, Protect People was implemented. Representatives of Diplomatic Missions in Armenia, international organizations, state agencies, local NGOs, community-based NGOs and LGBTI community, journalists, human rights defenders, activists and other stakeholders participated in the event expressing their solidarity.



TRAINING FOR MEDICAL WORKERS WAS HELD

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MONTHLY MAGAZINE "ALONG WITH TIME" CONTAINS COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTION OF "NEW GENERATION" HUMANITARIAN NGO'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE GIVEN MONTH.



ANOTHER STRATEGIC CASE OF NGNGO WAS COMMUNICATED BY THE ECHR. THE COURT PROPOSED A FRIENDLY SETTLEMENT THROUGH COMPENSATION

On March 9 2021 the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) communicated the application of Arman Sahakyan and Others v. Armenia, lodged on 09

August 2016 by Ara Ghazaryan, the attorney of New Generation Humanitarian NGO.

According to the Application violation of the Article 6 § 1 of the European Convention

on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms had occurred. In view of the Court's case-law and practice, the ECHR considered a friendly settlement of the case possible in case the parties admit the terms of settlement, and in particular, if the Government pays to the applicants to cover any and all pecuniary and non-pecuniary damage as well as costs and expenses, plus any tax that may be chargeable to the applicants. The ECHR has not made a reference to the part related to discrimination as the domestic investigation of the case is still in progress.

Case description:

On 17.05.2014 an article titled "They serve the interests of the international homo-addicted lobbying: the blacklist of the enemies of the nation and state" was published on www.iravunk.com news website. The author of the article was journalist Hovhannes Galajyan. The article contained insulting and defamatory information causing damage to the honor and dignity of Grigor Gevorgyan, Arman Sahakyan and Hovhannes Mkrtchyan.

Grigor Gevorgyan, Arman Sahakyan and Hovhannes Mkrtchyan "blacklisted" by the Iravunk website lodged a claim to the court against Hayk Babukhanyan, editor-in-chief of Iravunk Media LLC, and Hovhannes Galajyan with a demand to refute the article titled "They serve the interests of the international homo-addicted lobbying: the blacklist of the enemies of the nation and state" published on the iravunk.com news website and make a public apology, and to oblige compensation of the caused damage in the amount of AMD 3,000,000.00 to each plaintiff, to confirm the fact of discrimination and instigation of hatred manifested by Hovhannes Galajyan towards the plaintiffs, and to oblige publication of the confirmation of the fact of discrimination and instigation of hatred in the concluding part of the court ruling on the iravunk.com website.

By the decision of the court of general jurisdiction of Kentron and Nork-Marash administrative districts of Yerevan city of the Republic of Armenia, made on 24.06.2014, the complaint was accepted for hearing.

By the decision of May 14 2015 the court partly granted the claim obliging the respondents to refute defamatory, insulting expressions of the article through a publication and publicly apologize to the plaintiffs. Also a compensation for the defamation in a considerable sum

was established by the court in favor of the plaintiffs. The application on the part of discrimination (hate speech) was rejected on the basis of absence of a material-legal grounds in the Civil Code.

Hayk Babukhanyan submitted an appeal claim by which the Civil Court of Appeal of the Republic of Armenia made a decision on 26.05.2016 about quashing the decision of 14.05.2015 and the case was sent for new examination.

Ara Ghazaryan, the attorney of New Generation Humanitarian NGO lodged a complaint to the ECHR under Article 6 § 1 of the Convention that the decision of the Civil Court of Appeal dated 26 May 2016, which set aside the final judgment in their favour, was in breach of the principle of legal certainty.

On February 13 2020 the first instance court of Yerevan city made a decision by which the claim was partly granted. The plaintiff and respondent parties appealed the decision which was accepted for hearing on May 5, 2020.

The civil court of appeal made a decision of quashing the decision of the court of general jurisdiction of 13 February 2020 and the case was sent to the same court for new examination.

NGNGO will continue to make updates on the progress of the case.

THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE ON A GROUP ATTACK AGAINST A PERSON ENDED

Pre-history of the case:

On June 3, 2020 A.A. (name is changed) reported to the police about having been beaten by a group of people. The Shengavit Investigative Division of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia made a decision about initiating proceedings in the case, on July 6 2020. Ara Gharagozyan, attorney of New Generation Humanitarian NGO was involved in the case. On April 6, 2021 the preliminary investigation of the case ended and the case was sent to court. On April 15, 2021 V.L. Grigoryan, the judge of the Court of General Jurisdiction of First Instance of Yerevan city, Republic of Armenia, made a decision about setting the case for hearing. The court hearing of the case has not been scheduled yet. New Generation Humanitarian NGO will publish further information on the progress of the case when available.

On July 15, 2020, RA citizen A.A. applied to New Generation Humanitarian NGO. The latter informed that on June 3, 2020, he and his friends were in their country house in Yerevan. A group of people attacked A.A.'s house, demanding with bad language that A.A, and his friends left the house, in connection with the latter's alleged sexual orientation and gender identity. An argument started, after which those people hit on different parts of A.A.'s body with their hands, feet and stones, causing bodily injuries around the head. On the same day, A.A. submitted a report on the incident to the Police of the Republic of Armenia.

On June 29, 2020, by the decision of the senior investigator of Shengavit division of the RA police, a criminal case was launched based on the materials prepared by A.A.'s report, under the 117 Article of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia, and the case was sent to the Shengavit Investigative Division of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia for preliminary investigation. On July 6, 2020 a decision about initiating proceedings in the case was made by the Shengavit Investigative Division of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia. Ա.Ա.-ն ճանաչվել է զործով տուժող: Ara Gharagozyan, attorney of New Generation Humanitarian NGO was involved in the case. A.A. was recognized as victim of the case. On October 14, 2020 a forensic psychological examination was assigned to one of the accused – G.S. According to the forensic medical report received on March 3, 2021 the accused is considered partially sane and is subject to criminal liability.

CRIMINAL COURT OF APPEAL OF ARMENIA SATISFIED PROSECUTOR'S COMPLAINT: THE DECISION OF THE COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE OF THE CITY OF YEREVAN WAS QUASHED

On November 26, 2020, the First Instance Court of General Jurisdiction of the City of Yerevan (Court) satisfied the complaint submitted by by Ara Gharagozyan, attorney of New Generation Humanitarian NGO (NGNGO), regarding the quashing of the decision made by investigator A.Asatryan on dismissing the criminal case and not conducting prosecution of A.M. (the name is changed), and obliged the body conducting the proceedings to eliminate the violation of the rights and freedoms of the person caused by the decision. Muradyan, the Supreme Prosecutor of the Department for Supervision of the Legality of Pre-Trial Proceedings of the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Armenia filed an appeal petitioning to overturn the Court decision and to hold into force the investigator's decision on dismissing the criminal case and not conducting prosecution. On May 7, 2021, the Criminal Court of Appeal of the Republic of Armenia examined the appeal submitted by the prosecutor. On May 10, 2021, the Criminal Court of Appeal of the Republic of Armenia published the decision, by which it satisfied the appeal submitted by the prosecutor, the decision of the Court of First Instance of the city of Yerevan was quashed. The decision of the Criminal Court of Appeal has not been received by the Organization yet.

Ara Gharagozyan, attorney of New Generation Humanitarian NGO says: "It is sad that the effective investigation of torture cases is constantly being delayed in such ways. Nevertheless, we will be consistent for a fair investigation of the case."

ARMENIAN TRANS* PEOPLE WORKING GROUP REGULAR MEETING

On May 6, 2021, regular meeting of the members of Armenian Trans* People Working Group (ATPWG) took place at New Generation Humanitarian NGO office. 5 organizations dealing with trans* issues in Armenia (New Generation Humanitarian NGO, For Strong Future Youth NGO, Colorful House Social-Cultural and Human Rights Defender NGO, Fearless Human Rights Defender NGO, Equality for All Human Rights Defender NGO) as well as 2 individual trans* activists joined the Group.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the results of the first meeting of the newly-elected Country Coordinating Mechanism against HIV/AIDs, Tuberculosis and Malaria of the Republic of Armenia (CCM) as well as the details of the advocacy working meeting with health decision-makers ahead IBBS-2021.

The meeting took place in a very active and enthusiastic atmosphere. The members of the group expressed readiness to continue the work in the same spirit, to contribute to the solution of the trans* issues in Armenia, to the protection of their rights, to the increase of the visibility.



AN OFFSITE ADVOCACY WORKING MEETING WAS HELD ON IBBS-2021 IMPLEMENTATION

On May 20-21, 2021, a two-day offsite working meeting was held in Aghveran to discuss the implementation of



IBBS-2021 among trans* people.

The meeting was attended by Naira Sergeeva, the representative of the RA Ministry of Health, Hrachya Kyureghyan and Marietta Mirzoyan, employees of the National Center for Infectious Diseases of the RA Ministry of Health, employees of New Generation Humanitarian NGO and members of the Armenian Trans* People Working Group (ATPWG).

On the first day of the advocacy working meeting, participants discussed the needs of trans* people in the context of conducting the Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance (IBBS). Hmayak Avetisyan, co-author of the post-IBBS-2018 results evaluation report, presented the package of recommendations developed as a result of the focus

group discussions among the survey staff, trans* community, the timeliness and implementation of those recommendations. As a result of the discussions and group work, a package of recommendations addressed to the needs of trans* people was developed, which should be the basis for the implementation of IBBS-2021 among trans* people.

On the second day of the meeting, the specialists of the National Center for Infectious Diseases of the RA Ministry of Health presented the IBBS-2021 implementation format. As a result of active discussions, recommendations for trans*-need-based implementation of IBBS-2021 were added to the developed package. The developed recommendations package will be presented to all stakeholders immediately after the working meeting.

The advocacy working meeting was aimed at identifying the needs and issues of trans* people and trans*-need-based IBBS-2021 implementation. It was held in an environment of very active discussions and effective dialogue.



TRAINING FOR MEDICAL WORKERS WAS HELD

On April 26-27, 2021, two-day offsite training course for medical workers on International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision of World Health Organization (WHO) was held in Aghveran. The training was attended by medical workers – endocrinologists and therapists of medical institutions of city Yerevan and different regions of Armenia.

On the first day of the training, sexuality expert Hmayak Avetisyan introduced the main terms of sexuality: “sex”,

“gender”, “sexual behavior”, “sexual orientation”, “gender identity”, “gender incongruence”. The expert spoke about the problems of trans* people, the importance of depathologisation of transsexualism, the process of gender affirmation, the changes that trans* people apply for: social (name change, change of clothes, haircut), legal (change of name and photo in the passport, change of gender mark), healthcare (plastic surgeries, hormone therapy, gender reassignment surgery). The participants discussed the issues that transgender people face in applying for gender affirming procedures in Armenia and the importance of addressing those issues.

The second day of the training was conducted by lawyer, expert Lusine Gasparyan. She presented the domestic and international legislation of the Republic of Armenia in the context of ICD-11, the World Health Organization and the mission of that structure, the WHO International Classification of Diseases, spoke about the depathologisation of transsexualism and Sexual Identity Disorder by the review of ICD-11 and moving these diagnoses out of the chapter on mental disorders and inclusion of that terms in Gender Incongruence chapter.

The specialist also spoke about the RA draft law on Legal Gender Recognition, including the procedure for changing the gender mark, as well as the powers of the bodies responsible for state registration in the process of legal gender recognition of gender identity.

The training was aimed at introducing the depathologisation of transsexualism and the International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision of World Health Organization. It took place in an environment of very active discussions and effective dialogue.

COURT OF APPEAL REJECTED THE COMPLAINT OF NNGO ATTORNEY ON THE CASE OF MURDER ATTEMPT AGAINST TRANSGENDER WOMAN

The examination of the appeal on the murder attempt against transgender person E.A. submitted by Ara Gharagozyan, attorney of New Generation Humanitarian NGO, was held on May 26, 2021, in the Criminal Court of Appeal (Court) of the Republic of Armenia with the participation of judges Andranik Mnatsakanyan, Mher Arghamanyan and Mkhitar Papoyan. The attorney had appealed to the Court to overturn, change the judgment of February 3, 2021 of the Court of First Instance of the city of Yerevan, and send the case to the lower court for fresh investigation. The prosecutor of the case did not appear at the examination of the appeal. On the same day, the decision was published, according to which the Court rejected the appeal submitted by Ara Gharagozyan.



Pre-history of the case:

After having used trans person E. A. 's services, a visitor, learning about the person's gender identity, burned the latter's apartment and left. The aggrieved person received severe body injuries and burns. E.A. refused to use the services of her former lawyer and applied to New Generation Humanitarian NGO who provided the victim with attorney's services represented by Ara Gharagozyan.

Until present day the judges presiding the trial have changed 3 times, as a result of which the case trial has started from the beginning every time and has not come to its end.

The defendant made a petition for speedy trial of the case. The accuser made no objections to the presented petition. Despite the objections and grounds presented by the victim's attorney, on January 21, 2021, the Court made a decision to conduct a speedy trial.

According to the court decision, the defendant was found guilty of the crime under part 1 of Article 112 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia on February 3, 2021 and was sentenced to imprisonment. The final punishment was imprisonment for 3 years, 5 months, 28 days. However, by application of the law of the Republic of Armenia on "Announcing criminal cases' amnesty on the occasion of the 2800th anniversary of the founding of Erebuni-Yerevan and the 100th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the First Republic of Armenia", the defendant was freed from serving the sentence imposed for the crime. The preventive measure of signature about not leaving the country imposed on the defendant was also removed.

On March 17, 2021 Ara Gharagozyan, the attorney of New Generation Humanitarian NGO, filed an appeal against the decision of the First Instance Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan city with a request to overturn and change the decision of the Court of General Justification of Yerevan city and send the case to lower court for fresh examination.

The appeal filled by the lawyer on March 26, 2021 was accepted into proceeding by the Criminal Court of Appeal.



IDAHOBIT-2021: ISSUES, PROGRESS AND OPPORTUNITIES

May 17th is celebrated annually around the world as the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia.

The date of May 17th was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.

Now – decades later many states of the world have improved their mechanisms of fighting homophobia, biphobia and transphobia creating a safe space for LGBTI people free from hatred and violence. Each year on this day New Generation Humanitarian NGO organizes different events: flash mobs, meeting-discussions, press releases and conferences to mark this special day of fighting discrimination against LGBTI people and bring the public attention to the issues and problems of these people. This year's IDAHOBIT event was held in the form of a meeting-discussion under the title "LGBTI community in Armenia. Issues, progress and opportunities". Representatives of Diplomatic Missions in Armenia, international organizations, state agencies, local NGOs, community-based NGOs and LGBTI community, journalists, human rights defenders activists and other stakeholders participated in the event.



Sergey Gabrielyan, President of New Generation Humanitarian NGO opened the meeting expressing his gratitude to the guests for their participation in the event and highlighted the importance of dialogue among all stakeholders.

Next, the representatives of the diplomatic missions attending at the meeting – Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator for Armenia, John Gallagher, Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Armenia, Elizabeth Kuhse, US Deputy Head of Mission, Jan Plesinger,

Deputy Head of EU Delegation to Armenia, George Monsanta, Deputy Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Armenia, Werner Thut, Deputy Ambassador of Switzerland to Armenia, Izabella Eriksson, Deputy Ambassador of Sweden to Armenia, Laura Fracassa, representative of the Embassy of Argentine Republic to Armenia – made welcoming speeches and confirmed the commitment of their missions to help and support at their best the elimination of stigma and discrimination. They also talked about the opportunities and projects that their institutions implement or envisage for LGBTI people and solution of their issues.

The guests of the meeting, including the representatives of the community had the opportunity to ask their questions to the representatives of the diplomatic missions and receive answers.

After the welcoming speeches, the floor was given to those people who had their pride stories to share with the audience. The participants of the discussion mentioned that they were proud with their identity and activity.

True, there had been times when different pressures had deprived them of their feeling of

pride but they have overcome those difficulties. Proud human rights defender Arman Sahakyan mentioned that he attaches great importance to the human rights protection of the most vulnerable groups of the Armenian society.

Proud transgender woman Seda Ghazaryan stated that trans* people are not accepted even by their families meanwhile the support of the family is highly important. She had passed through a lot of difficulties until she reached the point when she could accept herself and tell her story before everyone.

Nora Aghazaryan who proudly raises the awareness on LGBTI issues, mentioned that she uses all real life and online platforms to sensitize the society. Indeed, her free speech leads to hate speech and calls for violence towards her person, but that would not stop her.

Hmayak Avetisyan, the other participant of the discussion proudly advocates for the human rights protection of LGBTI people.

True, it requires a courage to speak about LGBTI issues in Armenia but the fight against injustice and for equality has made him brave and unbreakable.

At the end of the discussion the participants shared their advice to all those who are desperate, depressed and don't accept their sexuality and identity.

The event was continued by the NGO representatives dealing with the protection and advocacy of the human rights of LGBTI people who spoke about the activity of their organization, implemented projects and services provided to LGBTI people.

Sergey Gabrielyan, president of New Generation Humanitarian NGO, Lilit Martirosyan, president of Right Side human rights defender NGO, Nora Aghazaryan, president of Fearless human rights NGO, and Hmayak Avetisyan, Projects Coordinator of New Generation Humanitarian NGO made presentations of their NGO's activity.

[At the end of the event premiere screening of the Path to Equal Rights took place.](#)



**TOGETHER RESISTING,
SUPPORTING, HEALING**

I don't like the likes of you, but what about the Constitution?

33-year-old Ashot had health issues. He had a sore throat, and the home treatment wouldn't help him. He applied to the district polyclinic. To his great amazement the doctor said: "I won't diagnose you!" "She looked at me, at my appearance and said if I examine you, I will no longer have any patients. They'll say I'm serving faggots. So, they'll be disgusted to come to me, and besides I don't like the likes of you." Ashot tried to argue stating that the person who's taken the Hippocratic oath shall not have a discriminatory attitude and besides, what made her assume that he was homosexual. "The doctor said – Boy, from the way you're dressed, your tattoos, go, go away from here! And don't use your throat for other things so much, so it won't hurt," Ashot recalls and tells that he went out of the doctor's room hardly holding his emotions. "I was normally dressed, sure, I hadn't gone there naked.

"I just like dressing freestyle, I use different color combinations," Ashot says and adds that one's clothes and tattoos cannot determine the person's character or identity. Offended Ashot called his journalist friend and the latter informed the Ministry of Health about the case. "In result, I was examined by the best doctors of the Republic. But can you imagine how many people like me may not have any acquaintances that would help them and their rights may be violated," Ashot states.

He says that many people from circle of acquaintances don't know about his orientation and he thinks that even if they learnt about it, nothing would change in his life. "I am like that. Maybe that's a disease, maybe a lifestyle. But those stereotypes, disgust must gradually change. Do I bother the heterosexuals like that? Friends, I am like this." Ashot says.

There are many articles beautifully established in the supreme law of Armenia – the Constitution. According to the 1st clause of Article 3 the human being shall be the highest value in the Republic of Armenia. The inalienable dignity of the human being shall constitute the integral basis of his or her rights and freedoms. According to the Article 23 Human dignity is inviolable. According to Article 29, Discrimination based on sex, race, skin colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion, world view, political or other views, belonging to a national minority, property status, birth, disability, age, or other personal or social circumstances shall be prohibited. However, the human rights established by the Constitution are often violated, which leaves Ashot and many-many others in a desperate situation. New Generation Humanitarian NGO tries to support and ensure the protection of the members of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities.

May 17th is celebrated annually around the world as the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia. The international community celebrates this day since 2004 to bring the public attention to the violence and discrimination lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people face all over the world.

The date of May 17th was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.

This year New Generation Humanitarian NGO organized a meeting-discussion titled "LGBTI community in Armenia. Issues, progress and opportunities" to mark this special day. Representatives of Diplomatic Missions in Armenia, international organizations, state

agencies, local NGOs, community-based NGOs and LGBTI community, journalists, human rights defenders activists and other stakeholders participated in the event.

NOTE-1: What do the terms homophobia, transphobia, biphobia mean?

Homophobia – fear, hatred and disgust towards homosexual people or people perceived as homosexuals and towards homosexuality. Negative stereotypes and prejudices lay at the roots of homophobia.

Transphobia– fear, hatred and disgust towards transsexual, transgender people or people perceived as such. Negative stereotypes and prejudices lay at the roots of transphobia.

Biphobia- fear, hatred and disgust towards bisexual people. Negative stereotypes and prejudices lay at the roots of biphobia.



Let's celebrate the power of love

Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator for Armenia, John Gallagher, Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Armenia, Elizabeth Kuhse, US Deputy Head of Mission, Jan Plesinger, Deputy Head of EU Delegation to Armenia, George Monsanto, Deputy Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Armenia, Werner Thut, Deputy Ambassador of Switzerland to Armenia, Izabella Eriksson, Deputy



Ambassador of Sweden to Armenia, Laura Fracassa, representative of the Embassy of Argentine Republic to Armenia congratulated the members of the Armenian LGBTI community on the occasion of May 17. They said that this was the day of celebration together with speaking up about rights and fighting for their protection and the brave people shall be congratulated. Though discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender inequality are prohibited by UN Conventions, however stigma, violence and hate speech still prevail in the world, including Armenia. Jan Plesinger mentioned that according to the 6 criteria

in Europe, Armenia is 47th out of 49 countries with discriminatory attitude towards the LGBTI community, which is not a good result. It is commendable that Armenia has adopted the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Violence (Lanzarote Convention), but much remains to be done. The representatives of diplomatic missions expressed a conviction that the new government formed after the early parliamentary elections in Armenia in June will adopt the necessary legislative packages that will eliminate discrimination.

Prerevolutionary and postrevolutionary Armenia

According to the current authorities the Velvet Revolution of 2018 changed a lot of things. Did the LGBTI community members feel any revolutionary, i.e. radical change. According to New Generation Humanitarian NGO Sergey Gabrielyan “the revolution has not had much impact on the public opinion. Moreover, not much has changed on the institutional level. Extremely homophobic, transphobic moods continue to prevail in Armenia. Surveys made among different layers of the society have shown that many people still make calls for burning, killing, annihilating LGBTI people, hate crimes continue to be conducted and remain unpunished,” Sergey Gabrielyan said.



According to him one of the reasons of this is the legislative gap that the state has not passed the Law on Ensuring Equality Before the Law, which would enable the LGBTI people to apply to court and establish that a violation had occurred. At the same time he also mentioned that the adoption of the law in the format developed by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia would not make any significant changes if the judicial system was not changed.

Every year New Generation Humanitarian NGO publishes a report which records the human rights violations and manifestations of discrimination of the current year or/and the previous years. “We have an analysis which draws a comparison between the hate speech prevalence on the online platform of 2018 and 2019. Simultaneously, every year we submit the hate crimes registered by our NGO to the OCSE ODIHR. The documented cases are also regularly reported to a number of international structures,” Sergey Gabrielyan notes.

The interviewee also states, “the state apparatus tries to refrain from creation of an intolerant environment trying to take the minimum the discriminatory attitude and calls for violence against LGBTI people in their institutions. The community will be speaking, will be fighting, the community is strained and we must reach to the point when each of us has equal rights,” Sergey Gabrielyan says.

NOTE-2: From January 2020 to April 30 2021 New Generation Humanitarian NGO provided 648 legal consultations. 165 cases of discrimination and human rights violations were registered.

14 of these cases are examined at the domestic court instances of the Republic of Armenia. 3 cases are lodged at the ECHR.

The organization provides the beneficiaries with legal consultation, attorney's services in case of necessity and court representation.

I am proud and brave . . .

Transgender woman Seda Ghazaryan is proud with her identity and is not ashamed of it. She found the strength to tell the members of her family about her identity when she was 17 years old. "I realized I couldn't live in falsehood and double life. I wanted to look in the mirror and see my real image, as I imagine myself," Seda says. She has passed through a lot of difficulties, has been living apart from her family. Seda says that other people and the very members of her family thought that she'd be cured of her illness with the passing of the years. "They used to say that it's curable, you'll forget about it. I lived separate from them and didn't speak with anybody for two years. But in the 3rd year my mother told me that she wanted me

to achieve my dream – to reassign my sex. And I wish all the members of our community to have such good relations with their relatives as I and my Mom do." Seda concluded.

Nora Aghazaryan uses real and online platforms to raise the awareness of the society. Of course, her open speech leads to hate speech and calls for violence against her but it won't stop her. "We must fight proudly, break the stereotypes and we must realize that we too can become good doctors, cooks, pedagogues and people of other specialties. We must be proud and not afraid to speak up about our gender identity so that they treat us the same way as the heterosexual people," Nora is convinced.

Hmayak Avetisyan stated that he had been fighting against discrimination and violence still from childhood. According to him it is very dangerous and requires courage to protect the human rights of LGBTI people in Armenia. "Let alone openly living



such life, coming out to one's relatives, friends," Hmayak says. He is convinced that no change is made in an hour or a day just with one movement. "If we are advocating, then we must be brave and ready to the fact that our path is going to be full of

many dangers. But we must reach to the point when one's sexuality doesn't change an attitude because it is only one component of our identity, we have other merits as well." Hmayak is convinced.

Continuous and constant . . .

According to the words of New Generation Humanitarian NGO projects coordinator Alina Mirzoyan, the work of the Organization is not limited to only public events. It is continuous and pretty much around the clock. The activity of the organization aimed at the fight against discrimination and violence, human rights protection and legislative reforms includes strategic litigations, legislative initiatives,

advocacy interventions in order to achieve the adoption of an anti-discrimination legislation that will directly include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected grounds from discrimination.

In particular, the adoption of the law draft on Legal Recognition of Gender Identity and additions to the N 276-Ն Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of March 27, 2008 is advocated, the Draft for

amendments and additions to № 06-Ն Decree by the Minister of Health of Armenia of February 7, 2003 is also on the agenda which envisages the removal of permanent restriction for blood donation of homosexual men established by subclause a) of Clause 15 of Article 1 of the Appendix 2 of the Decree. “The interventions of awareness raising and fight against the anti-LGBTI rhetoric also include media-campaigns, social videos, information-educational materials,” Alina Mirzoyan mentions.

God loves everyone



Human rights defender Arman Sahakyan does not avoid defending the interests of LGBTI community members. Many human rights defenders are of course afraid of stigma and discrimination.

“I cannot understand those human rights defenders. You can not approach human rights selectively, you must protect everyone without distinctions”, Arman says. He admits that his work and activism resulted in “loss” of friends and relatives. “I raise the issues of LGBTI people also on Mass Media, that’s why my relatives tell me not to speak openly but if not we, then who, and if not now, then when? This is also a struggle”, the human rights

defender is convinced. Arman Sahakyan says he was considered an enemy of the nation by “Iravunk” newspaper because of his work, and the case is now examined at the ECHR. All of this does not break the human rights defender and he will go on in the same spirit. He reminds the community members of the words of a European speaker, “When you feel abandoned and rejected, stand in front of a mirror and tell yourself that you are beautiful”. “Yes, everyone is beautiful in their own way. It is not about our physicals or appearance. We have inner beauty. Stand up and tell yourself that you are beautiful, strong and you have equal rights to life”, the human rights defender states. And as the self-rejection comes from religion as well in Armenia, he also reminds, “God loves everyone...”.

Armen Davtyan

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CHASE THE VIRUS, PROTECT PEOPLE

On May 17, 2021 campaign under the slogan Chase the Virus, Protect People was implemented. Representatives of Diplomatic Missions in Armenia, international organizations, state agencies, local NGOs, community-based NGOs and LGBTI community, journalists, human rights defenders, activists and other stakeholders participated in the event expressing their solidarity to the values of the campaign. The campaign was aimed to ensure active participation of KPs in the advocacy actions and draw the attention of decision makers to the high-level stigma and discrimination towards the communities in Armenia. Informative papers and booklets on HIV and COVID-19 as well as COVID-19



preventive measures – facemasks and alco gels – were given to the participants of the event to raise their awareness.

The attendees took part in active discussions, questions and answers and interviews which will be summed up in a small film and highlighted the importance of such awareness raising events.





HIV testing services provided within the framework of HIV prevention programs implemented by NEW GENERATION Humanitarian NGO.

TESTED BENEFICIARIES


 **MSM**
Men who have sex with men **965**

 **FCSW**
Female commercial sex workers **437**

 **TRANS**
people **11**

 **FORMER PRISONERS** **25**

 **YOUNG PEOPLE** **20**

 **NEW HIV POSITIVE**
CASES **16**



INFORMATION CENTER FOR SEXUAL HEALTH AND TESTING FOR HIV

- CONFIDENTIAL, ANONYMOUS AND FREE
- NO APPOINTMENT
- TEST RESULTS IN 20 MINUTES

+374 60 37 89 89

LEGAL AND ATTORNEY'S SERVICES

LEGAL CONSULTATIONS **26**

REGISTERED CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS **9**

COURT CASES **14**



You can contact for free legal consultation by phone number:

+374 60 47 89 89

or visit NGNGO office at apt. 7, 10 Tumanyan st.