

## ALONG WITH TIME

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### Social Survey



**INSTANCES OF DISCRIMINATORY  
TREATMENT (I.E., HATE SPEECH, GENDER  
STEREOTYPES AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
VIOLATIONS) WITH REGARD TO LGBTI  
PEOPLE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

***Social Survey***

Intolerance, discriminatory attitudes, and multiple instances of hate speech and human rights violations towards the LGBTI people continue to be a problem in Armenia. The vicious cycle of intolerance has taken deep roots in the various layers of the society from TV channels to family values and power structures, from political, civil, and social initiatives to interpersonal relationships.

Along with the various public processes, this phenomenon has ensured all-round presence in all levels of society. The lack of information about the problems faced by the LGBTI people, the publicity of the amateurish views of incompetent people hyped by the mass media, and the exploitation of people's sexual orientation within civil and political processes, create multifaceted stereotypes which contribute to the formation and publicizing of the ungrounded and unreal perceptions about the LGBTI people.

This atmosphere causes interpersonal difficulties and leads to human rights violations, including

encroachment on human dignity and sexual harassment, subsequently creating an undemocratic path where the chances of achieving (or at least approaching) an equitable and democratic state is next to zero. Achieving this kind of state can help Armenia to become a part of civilized world in the future.

In every country the LGBTI people are an integral part of the society, reflecting the peculiarities, stereotypes, and traditions of that very society. LGBTI people are also worried about the same socio-political, cultural, sports, religious, legal, and military issues as other members of society.

The more intolerant the society grows, the more intolerant can be the members of the LGBTI groups towards their own selves. Therefore, public tolerance is very important and can have a positive impact on the formation of a healthy attitude in each person and citizen.

Increasing the voice of LGBTI citizens in our society can induce qualitative changes in the public, building a society that is tolerant, respectful of human rights, educated, non-discriminatory, non-violent, and democratic.

Nevertheless, intolerance towards the LGBTI people in Armenia sweeps over various spheres of public life and finds expression in human rights violations, discriminatory attitudes, and other wrongful manifestations.

“Promoting healthy debate contributed to the effectiveness of the seminar”

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On January 13-15 “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO in Gyumri organized a seminar for representatives of regional CSOs on “Empowerment of capacities for protection of human rights and elimination of discrimination” in Gyumri.

“The seminar was very well organized. I learnt new things, especially for “Safe spaces” topic was entirely new. The participants were chosen correctly, there was an exchange of experience among us”, seminar participant Lilit Khachatryan, Yeghegnadzor Civil Youth Center Program Coordinator, shares her impressions.

The seminar was on the topics of Human Rights, Discrimination and tools for documentation of human rights violation and discrimination cases and action plan development to make the workplaces more inclusive.

“The most positive aspect of the seminar was the right sequence of provided information which helped the audience to understand topics quite well. Practical work, freedom of action, the promotion of healthy debate also contributed to the effectiveness of the seminar. Overall, especially considering that there were no absent participants in every session, the seminar went very well” says Bayandur Poghosyan, a representative of Artashat Civil Youth Center.



*The training was organized by “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO in the scope of the project “More Awareness, less Discrimination” implemented by “Non-discrimination and Equality” Coalition with financial support from the Open Society Foundations – Armenia.*

“We try to encourage conscientious and professional journalists”

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“New Generation” Humanitarian NGO’s Human Rights and Advocacy programs coordinator Nare Hovhannisyan, and journalist-researcher Nane Bagratuni in Media Center presented two researches conducted by the organization: “Instances of Discriminatory Treatment with regard to LGBTI People in Armenia” and “Intolerance and discriminatory attitudes in mass media towards LGBT people 2016”.

Nane Bagratuni said the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex) people are mostly exposed to discrimination and violence in their families and in law enforcement agencies – police, prisons, the army.

Survey was conducted in 10 regions of Armenia and in Yerevan city. The researcher conducted in-depth interviews with 111 people. Most of them were members of the LGBTI community. Nan Bagratuni noted that in power structures discrimination against LGBTI people is accompanied by psychological and physical violence. LGBTI persons are subjected to discrimination by health and religious institutions too.

Nane Bagratuni emphasized that LGBTI community is an integral part of our society and they have the same stereotypes that exist in Armenian society. “There is discrimination within the LGBTI community. For example, homosexuals have transfobia, they do not accept transgender persons” said Nane Bagratuni. Nane Bagratuni and Nare Hovhannisyan noted that mass media also contributes to the spread of hatred against LGBTI persons. “Our specialists examined over 30 articles, in 10 of them calls for violence and hatred were evident from the title.”

Nare Hovhannisyan said that journalists often use abusive terminology because of their lack of information. “Sometimes written material is neutral, does not offend anyone, but there is incorrect terminology which is also offensive for the community.”

Nare Hovhannisyan noted that “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO organizes “Diversity” Journalistic Award since 2015 to help to improve the quality of information on LGBTI in the media. “Last year we were received 10 articles, high-quality materials are not so much yet. We try to encourage journalists to enable them to perform their job conscientiously and professionally, said Human rights and Advocacy program coordinator.

*“Diversity 2016” award ceremony will take place in April 6, 2017.*

#### HIV and LGBTQI activism workshop in Brussels



On February 9-10, 2017 «New Generation’ Humanitarian NGO’s representative Arman Sahakyan participated in «Capacity building: the role of LGBTI organizations to address HIV and STIs» workshop organized by ILGA-Europe in Brussels, Belgium. During the 2 days of the workshop the following topics were discussed: Concept of Key populations HIV

pathology, treatment, transmission routes and prevention (new approaches) Other STI’s LGBTI and HIV activism Barriers to LGBTI activism on HIV and STIs and how to overcome them

Advocacy for promotion of PrEP in countries

One of the most important parts of the meeting were: discussion of PrEP as a new approach for HIV prevention in the world and drafting strategies for the cause.

In the end of the meeting the participants developed cooperation projects’ implementation plans for upcoming years.

NOTE: Pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP is the use of an antiretroviral medication to prevent the acquisition of HIV infection (source: World Health Organization)

## Training for representatives of municipalities in Gyumri



On February 8-10, 2017 representatives of municipalities from Yerevan and regions of Armenia participated in a training-course on the topic of "Prohibition of discrimination for a democratic society" for which was held in Gyumri.

The goal of the training was to increase the sensitivity of the representatives of municipalities towards LGBT issues through educating them on human rights violations of LGBT people and creation of protection

mechanisms, as well as the importance of prevention of torture and discrimination against them.

During the three days remarkable issues concerning the above-mentioned topics were discussed and comprehensive explanations were given by the trainers, Artak Zeynalyan and Ara Ghazaryan.

In the scope of the training the representatives of the municipalities were particularly introduced the concept of human rights, creation of protection mechanisms of human rights violations of LGBTI people, the spheres where discrimination and hate speech towards LGBTI people are mostly demonstrated, the distinctions among hate speech and freedom of speech, as well as defamation and insult was discussed.

The training was conducted in the scope of the "Promoting the Human Rights of LGBTI People in the Armenian Society" project which is implemented with the financial support of the US Agency for International Development / USAID/.

### How to avoid hate speech? Interactive seminar for journalists



Special performances, role-play, "Rights State" plan, active discussions: all of this took place in Gyumri, from 10-12 February when "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO organized a special seminar for journalists from regions and the capital.

During the three-day course journalists were presented "Freedom of expression and hate speech", "Stigma, discrimination and torture" and "International and local conventions and legislation

on human rights" topics. The information was not provided to journalists

Seminar-training was very intensive, highly interactive and practical. Journalists were presented basic knowledge on given topics and encouraged to participate in discussions, games and performances that led them to discover discriminatory attitudes themselves and respond to it.

Journalists were asked to cover a story performed by a trainer and NGO's member in order to check whether the hate speech used by one of the role-players will appear in journalists' text. Many

participants quoted directly role-player's words full of hate speech. Journalists were explained on the given example how to avoid reproducing hate speech in their texts and reportages.



ILGA-Europe.



*The seminar was organized in the scope of the project “Empowerment of the CSOs and Mass Media for elimination of discrimination against LGBTI people in Armenia” that enjoys the support of Allies in Action program by COC Netherlands and*

#### Discussion on the readiness of transition HIV programs and services to public funding



On February 10, 2017 a meeting was held in the office of the “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO with representatives of “Positive People Armenian Network”, “AIDs Prevention Union”, “Potential of Awakening”, “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO and Yelena Nechesina, expert from Eurasian Coalition on Male Health. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the report of the HIV-related programmes and services, which should have been financed by the Government after the implementation of the projects of the Global Fund. Participants of the meeting discussed key issues of transition based on the

document prepared by the results of the national consultation of civil society organizations and community organizations of Armenia.

According to civil society, the key causes of this problem are the lack of communication with non-governmental organizations in context of providing HIV-related services to vulnerable groups and people living with HIV from the state budget; high level of stigma and discrimination against target groups of the community, including LGBTI people, IDUs, CSWs and people living with HIV; the absence of anti-discrimination legal mechanisms for combating these issues, barriers in access of the target group and people living with HIV to services related to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support; as well as as well as insufficient level of quality of services.



Portfolio Manager of the Global Fund Valeria Grishechkina in the office of “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO

On February 14, 2017 “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO hosted a Global Fund representative office Valeria Grishechkina.

At first Humanitarian NGO’s president Sergey Gabrielyan introduced all the programs that are

currently carried out by the organization.

Then “HIV and AIDS prevention and raising awareness among MSM and transgender people in Lori and Shirak regions and Yerevan” project coordinator Artyom Movsisyan presented the results of the program from 2016 till now. Then outreach workers of program presented their proposals for the further implementation of the program to Grishechkina.

Also discussed the importance of HIV testing room, and officers said that during non-working hours and days HIV testing will be useful for more MSM and transgender individuals and groups of commercial sex service providers.

They also talked about the another projects financed by Global Fund -“Health Right”, organized by Eurasian Coalition on Male Health and “HIV and AIDS prevention and raising awareness among MSM and transgender people in Lori, Shirak regions and Yerevan city” .

Then Outreach Workers, NGO staff and beneficiaries introduced organization’s future activities and promotions.

#### “Civil society organizations are on the front line for Equal Rights”



On February 15-17 of 2017 in frames of project “Empowerment of the CSOs and Mass Media for elimination of discrimination against LGBTI people in Armenia” provided “Civil society organizations are on front line for Equal Rights” seminars in Gyumri. Participants were the CSOs representatives from different regions of Armenia and from Yerevan.

On the first day the expert Arayik Zalian introduced the Human Rights issues, detailing the concept of universal Human rights and history. He discussed local legislation and international documents, creation of the Constitution of Armenia, the European

Convention on Human Rights and the European Court.

Then through team work participants learned about ways of making a written application by the plaintiff and the defendant in courts.

The second day began with a review of the previous day. The participants were very interested about the actual topic. Expert Araik Zalian introduced types of discrimination, prohibition of discrimination based on protection and some of their specific features. Then participants watch a video, which was directed to discrimination.



In third day expert of training was Anahit Simonyan who acquainted with participants and introduced what is discrimination as a legal problem, talked about international and national documents regarding discrimination.

Participants recalled previous last days acquired knowledge and used them in team work tasks. Anahit Simonian also spoke about need of the "anti-discrimination" Adoption Law, and then presented several legal arguments.

After the three-day seminar, participants formed a common belief that discrimination should have legal mechanisms to protect every member of our society. Also discussed cases

of discrimination against LGBT persons, and followed by a discussion was shown a video.

The training was implemented by "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO in frames of "Empowerment of the CSOs and Mass Media for elimination of discrimination against LGBTI people in Armenia".



*The training was implemented by "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO in frames of "Empowerment of the CSOs and Mass Media for elimination of discrimination against LGBTI people in Armenia".*

### Needs assessment of MSM and trans\* persons at "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO



On February 19 and 21 a meeting was organized with GBTQ and MSM people in "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO's office.

The aims of the meeting were the discussion of activities for mobilization of community and resource center's upcoming activities. Assessment of needs of MSM and GBTQ people was done, focusing on existing problems, introduced new recommendations to prevent HIV and AIDS, as well as discussed new ideas that can

be implemented through a grant provided by the organization. In overall 50 MSM and trans\* persons attended the meetings during those 2 days.

"New Generation" Humanitarian NGO already has a resource center where people can participate to different meetings, debates, clubs, trainings and other event. To become an active participant in the Resource Center, as well as thoroughly acquainted with the activities carried out by the center, you can fill in the application form.

Looking forward to see you in our office.

### "Let's overcome the fears about HIV together" meeting



On February 22, 2017 «New Generation» Humanitarian NGO organized «Let's overcome the fears about HIV together» meeting.

The HIV topic is unique with the fact that it's full of diverse prejudices and formed myths which are widely spread by the society and mass media in Armenia. This results to formation of unjustified fears about HIV and people living with HIV which in its turn brings to double isolation; on one hand the society tries to be isolated from people living with HIV and on the

other hand people living with HIV isolate themselves from the society.

The meeting was attended by people who shared their thoughts and experiences concerning HIV and fears. The readiness of contribution for making the world a better place was packed in a very nice box with the red ribbon – the symbol of AIDS. The box will be opened during our solidarity dinner on February 28, 2017.

The facilitator of the meeting Elvira Meliksetyan says:

«I find such non-formal meetings and discussion very important because I believe that those are the best examples for sharing knowledge and experiences. It was a great pleasure to see so many people interested and participating in the meeting. This means that the topic is needed which motivates the organizers more to establish such spaces more often. For me it was very important to give the space to the participants for their self-expression and following their active

involvement was very exciting. It is important to mention that despite we speak about HIV and discuss the myths about it the unjustified fear about HIV still remains or reduces very slowly.



I think that there is a necessity to organize such meetings more often in order to discuss diverse questions related to the psychological aspect of the topic. We still have a lot to do in this field from the point of view of mental well-being and its recovery but of course this all requires time and resources».

### “Solidarity Dinner” for LGBTQI people



On February 28, 2017 “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO provided a “Solidarity Dinner” for LGBTQI people in office.

One of the key factors of well-being as individually as well as in community is the sense of solidarity.

Because of overloaded daily problems, we are often neglecting our relationships with ourselves, other people and the world.

Such an atmosphere sometimes becomes to cause of conflict situations, and instead of rapport and understanding we are aggravating the situation.

Solidarity dinner aimed to gather under one roof LGBTQ + people, to wake up atmosphere of solidarity within and among in a positive environment delicious dinner.

Guests shared their thoughts on what is solidarity for them, and is it important for all of us in our lives or in the community.

In the end of event the much-awaited box opened, which was full of “Overcoming fears over the HIV together” trainings participants wishes and willingness for the making the



world more prosperous and inclusive.

One of the meeting facilitator's benefits is that the group always in the center of Your attantion, and You can be involved in

everything what is happening in the room. From this point of view the meeting was very productive .

It was inspiring for me to listen people's opinions about solidarity, which were also tutorial, and very valuable being in touch with their personal stories. It was nice to occasionally notice that the room is being flooded with breath of empathy.

I believe that sometimes such meetings are necessary, because the direct and kindly environment contributes to the gradual relaxing from internal constraint, why not, also for pal and establishing an atmosphere of solidarity.

It was also noted, that there were people who came to organization for first time , I think our initiatives for such events makes community more united and forming healthy relationships.

*Facilitator of «Solidarity dinner» psychologyst  
Elvira Meliksetyan*

# RESOURCE CENTER

Երկուշաբթի	Երեքշաբթի	Չորեքշաբթի
		Մարտի 1
		Անգլերեն և տուրիզ
		18:00 - 19:30
Մարտի 6	Մարտի 7	Մարտի 8
Անգլերեն և տուրիզ	Ֆիլմի դիտում և քննարկում	Անգլերեն և տուրիզ
18:00 - 19:30	18:00 - 20:00	18:00 - 19:30
Մարտի 13	Մարտի 14	Մարտի 15
Անգլերեն և տուրիզ	Erasmus+	Անգլերեն և տուրիզ
18:00 - 19:30	18:00	18:00 - 19:30
Մարտի 20	Մարտի 21	Մարտի 22
Անգլերեն և տուրիզ	Մարդու իրավունքների ակումբ	Անգլերեն և տուրիզ
18:00 - 19:30	17:30	18:00 - 19:30
Մարտի 27	Մարտի 28	Մարտի 29
Անգլերեն և տուրիզ	Համակարգչային դասընթացներ	Անգլերեն և տուրիզ
18:00 - 19:30	18:00	18:00 - 19:30
Հինգշաբթի	Ուրբաթ	Շաբաթ
Մարտի 2	Մարտի 3	Մարտի 4
Առաջադրություն	Մեռականություն և տրանսգենդերություն	Ինչպես արձագանքել ատելության խտրին օնլայն տիրույթում
18:00 - 20:00	18:00 - 20:00	18:00 - 20:00
Մարտի 9	Մարտի 10	Մարտի 11
	Անգլերեն և տուրիզ	
	18:00 - 19:30	
Մարտի 16	Մարտի 17	Մարտի 18
	Անգլերեն և տուրիզ	ՄԻԱԿ-ի և ՁԻԱՀ-ի կանխարգելման սեմինար
	18:00 - 19:30	18:00 - 20:00
Մարտի 23	Մարտի 24	Մարտի 25
	Անգլերեն և տուրիզ	Erasmus +
	18:00 - 19:30	18:00 - 20:00
Մարտի 30	Մարտի 31	
	Անգլերեն և տուրիզ	
	18:00 - 19:30	

2017

Մարտ

Henceforth Resource center will be operated in the office of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO, where everyone can share his/her own knowledge and experience and get new skills.

Various meetings, trainings and discussions on a number of topics will be organized in the Resource center on a weekly basis.

Everyone can have his/her invest in the process of development of society.

Topics and suggestions are open for improvement and amendment.

If You think that You can share Your skills or learn in our Resource center, then fill the application on our official website <http://ngngo.net>

If You are looking for a free of charge venue for implementation of Your own initiative, then you are welcome contact us by calling 060-47-89-89.

## WE ON SOCIAL NETWORKS



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