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ALONG WITH TIME

#20/21

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

 EVENTS

 NEWS

 TRAININGS

#ngngo



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"New Generation" Humanitarian NGO
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Members of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO Arman Sahakyan and Grigor Gevorgyan have applied to Arpine Hovhannisyanyan, Minister of Justice asking to initiate disciplinary proceedings against judges of the Civil Court of Appeal Narine Barseghyan, Levon Grigoryan and Margarita Hartenyan. The reason is unlawful behaviour towards PM Hayk Babukyan, representative of ruling Republican Fraction. The latter, being the general director of "Irvunk Media" Ltd., appealed the decision ruled against "Irvunk" newspaper, a judgment which had already entered into legal force. In his appeal Hayk Babukyan mentioned that he had been a party in this legal dispute and he had not been notified about the trial. This is a complete fabrication, as no complaint was brought against Babukyan, there was no judicial act against him and he was not subjected to any liability so that he could appeal the decision in the future. "Babukyan has no legal interest in appealing the judicial act, which has no adverse effect on him. I gave explanation about his participation in the First Instance Court indicating that the complaint had not been filed against him, but against the company", says lawyer Maro Khachaturyan who represents Arman Sahakyan's and Grigor Gevorgyan's interests in the court.

She notes that the Civil Court of Appeal could and had to state that Babukyan had not had the right to appeal the decision at the stage of discussing the admissibility of the appeal, but on the contrary, it recognized Babukyan as a respondent. "I submitted a motion for the withdrawal of the presiding judges, as they were biased from the very beginning. My motion was rejected. They uphold Babukyan's appeal instead, which was expected decision", says Maro Khachaturyan. Arman Sahakyan and Grigor Gevorgyan have already appealed the decision of the Civil Court of Appeal, but have no hope that the Court of Cassation will uphold their appeal taking into account recent developments concerning this case. Let us remind that on 17th of May, 2014, the editor-in-chief of "Irvunk" newspaper Hovhannes Galajyan published an article on the newspaper's website titled "They serve the interests of international homosexual lobbying: the blacklist of country's and nation's enemies." In the article, the author presents a "blacklist" containing Facebook hyperlinks of 60 people, makes offensive statements addressed to those persons and calls for "Ordinary people to stop communicating with the lobbyist on the internet, as well as in real life, not to greet them, not to help them with any issues, not to engage in any business relations with them; state officials not to hire those lobbyists for public service jobs, and if they already work there, to fire them under any convenient pretext." For employers to do the same and for the co-owners of media companies, so those lobbyists won't be given any chance to make an influence on public opinion and also for "the heads of educational institutions, so they won't let the lobbyists to participate in the upbringing of younger generations." Blacklisted members of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO Arman Sahakyan and Grigor Gevorgyan sued "Irvunk Media" Ltd. and author of the article Hovhannes Galajyan. They claim that above mentioned article contains discrimination calls, offend their honor and dignity and spatter their business reputation.

On May 14, 2015, judge Melkumyan ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, however he did not grant all of their demands. For instance, the representatives of New Generation requested that they each receive 3 million AMD (\$7,000), as well as have the verdict published on their website. Instead, the Judge ordered that the representatives each be compensated 250,000 AMD (\$526) and

that the newspaper was not required to publish the verdict. The judgment had already entered into legal force, but Hayk Babukhanyan managed to appeal it and the judgment was overturned. "The violation is obvious, the examination of the final part of the decision is sufficient to prove that. Even without a detailed examination of the case, it is evident that Hayk Babukhanyan has no connection with the case. This fact is so obvious that even none-lawyers will have no doubt about it", Arman Sahakyan and Grigor Gevorgyan wrote in the letter addressed to the Minister of Justice. "I hope that the judged who patronize hate speech will be brought to responsibility, otherwise it turns out that the State itself patronize those people", says Grigor Gevorgyan, member of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO.

"THE MOST IMPORTANT THING, POLITICAL WILL IS NECESSARY"



President of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO Sergey Gabrielyan delivered a speech during the regional consultation on expansion of support to people living with HIV which took place in Kiev, Ukraine, 11-12 October, 2016. "We spoke about obstacles, discrimination and stigmatization. In our opinion, the best way to overcome these obstacles is advocacy", Sergey Gabrielyan started his speech with these words. He presented what advocacy is and what step should be taken to succeed. "Advocacy is a range of actions directed to those possessing political and economic power so that society would benefit of the policy they conduct". Sergey Gabrielyan enumerated range of actions – human rights defense, State budgeting,

legislative amendmens, awareness raising as well as gender sensitivity while delivering services to people in need. "And for realization of all of these the most important thing, political will is necessary", stated Gabrielyan. Regional consultation hosted human rights defenders from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Estonia, Khazakhstan, Kirgisztan, Lithuania, Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Switzerland, Vietnam, Uzbekistan and Ukraine. The consultation was organized by ECUO – East Europe & Central Asia Union of People Living with HIV

"WE SHOULD CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERYONE IS EQUAL"



"New Generation" Humanitarian NGO's member, lawyer Arthur Makaryan participated in press conference organized by the Coalition against Discrimination on struggle against discrimination and the necessity to adopt an antidiscrimination law in Armenia. Arthur Makaryan first of all emphasized that everyone can be subjected to discrimination in his life becoming its direct or indirect victim. He reminded that in 2015 11 NGOs

and 2 journalistic organizations reached agreement to establish a Coalition against Discrimination aiming to create united platform for grouping related issues and finding solutions. "Members of the Coalition agreed to act jointly and support the Armenian Government to implement the Strategic Action Plan on Human Rights which also includes a fight against discrimination", Arthur Makaryan said. In 2016, the Coalition developed its strategy plan and values shared by member organizations. Coalition's goal is to reduce discrimination in stat policy, legislation, social norms and in practice advocating for comprehensive and effective antidiscrimination law. It tries to challenge

the public discourse of inequality and institutionalized discrimination practices, as well as empower discriminated groups. Two main directions have been developed for coming 2 years.

Encourage the culture of equality challenging stereotypes and factors of exclusion

Enhance the visibility of discriminated groups. Arthur Makaryan said that the Coalition against Discrimination endeavors create safe environment for all those who are subjected to discrimination in their daily life and cannot enjoy their rights ensured by law and by international human rightst treaties.

SEMINAR ON HIV PREVENTION



"New Generation" Humanitarian NGO conducted a seminar on "HIV/AIDS Prevention and the Importance of HIV Testing" and "Human Rights and HIV". The seminar took place in "Article 3" club, Yerevan, 14 October 2016.

NEW SONG AND VIDEO ABOUT DISCRIMINATION



We present a new song and video made by "Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities" NGO. It was created in the frame of the project subgranted by "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO with the financial support of "Open Society Foundations – Armenia".The video aims to draw ublicattention to the issue of dicrimination in various spheres.

HOW TO REDUCE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST TRANSGENDER PEOPLE



"Rights Side" NGO organized two-day seminar "Support to reducing discrimination against transgender people" in the frame of the project supported by the "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO. The seminar took place in "Article 3" club, Yerevan, 11-12 October, 2016.Members, volunteers and beneficiaries of "Rights Side" NGO knowledge and skills that should be used in order to reduce discrimination against transgender people. Arthur Makaryan, the lawyer of "New Generation"

Humanitarian NGO, presented general concept of human rights and discrimination, its causes and consequences. Project coordinator Nare Hovhannisyana analyzed

issues of transgender community and talked about strategic planning for reducing discrimination against transgender people.

PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE LAUNCH EVENT OF ENDHIVAIDS.ORG PLATFORM



"New Generation" Humanitarian NGO representative Nare Hovhannisyana mentioned that the establishment of the platform helps the South Caucasus NGOs working on the HIV and AIDS-related issues to strengthen their network and cooperation within and across the involved countries, thus to enhance the positive impact on the lives of affected and reinforce the prevention of HIV/AIDS among the most at-risk populations.

PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE LAUNCH EVENT OF ENDHIVAIDS.ORG PLATFORM



A meeting of a working group was held in the office of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO in the scope of "Health is possible to buy if resources are invested" project. Representatives of "Real World, Real People", "Potential Awakening", "Rights Sight" and "New Generation" NGOs were summarizing the results of the first part of the project and scheduling future plans. Other partners from Armenia, Estonia and Kyrgyzstan joined the discussion via Skype call

SEMINAR ON HIV PREVENTION



On 28 October "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO conducted a seminar on "HIV/AIDS Prevention and "The Importance of HIV Testing" and "Human Rights and HIV". The seminar took place in the office of the NGO located in Yerevan.

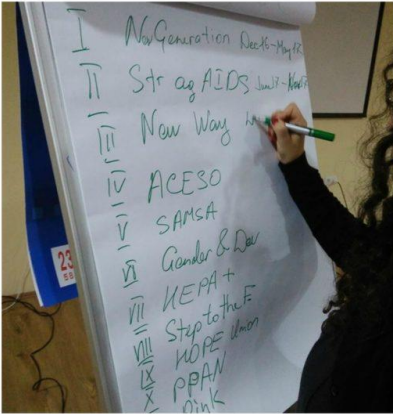
PARTICIPATION IN ILGA-EUROPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Arman Sahakyan represents "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO at ILGA-Europe's annual conference in Cyprus. #IENicosia2016

This year "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO became a member of ILGA-Europe



“NEW GENERATION” HAS BEEN SELECTED AS A BOARD MEMBER OF A REGIONAL PLATFORM



Representatives of the “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO Nare Hovhannisyan, Grigor Gevorgyan and Arman Gharibyan are participating in the regional meeting in the scope of the project Health Finance and Governance: Strengthening HIV/AIDS NGOs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. After careful observations and studies “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO has been selected as it provides HIV and AIDS care and treatment and otherwise serve the at-risk IDU and MSM populations.

From November 10-11, 2016 a Close out event of the project is organized in Lopota, Kakheti region, Georgia. The Close out event of the project is aimed at:

Finalizing the Term of Reference/ User Manual of the Online Platform Content Management

Finalizing the Constitution for Platform Management and Governance

Equipping IT specialists from the participating NGOs to act as chief admin with a purpose to ensure long-term sustainability of the online platform by ongoing maintenance and performance

Develop and agree on a rotating schedule both for doing the chief admin work on the platform and for forming a Management Committee to serve on rotating principle.

Organize post assessments of the organizations’ capacity across the five key capacity areas where the Project had interventions throughout these months

Working by carrying out practical exercises with a purpose to make the Online Platform more populated (<http://endhivaids.org/>).

The Project is implemented by Abt Associates (USA), BSC Business Support Center (Armenia) and United Nations Association of Georgia (Georgia) with the financial support of the United States Agency International Development.

“New Generation” Humanitarian NGO has been selected as a board member of a regional platform for the first year. It will also conduct web administration of the platform (<http://endhivaids.org/>) for the first 6 months.

ECOM REPRESENTATIVES VISITED “NEW GENERATION” HUMANITARIAN NGO



14.11.2016 in “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO hosted in its office representatives of the Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM) Vitaly Dyuma (Executive Director) and Maxim Kasianczuk (Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator).

Sergey Gabrielyan, the head of “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO presented the projects implemented by the organization. Members of “New Generation” discussed with their international partners issues concerning

LGBT+ community and the programs that aim to eliminate the problems of the community. Arman Sahakyan, Office manager of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO described the obstacles that representatives of LGBT+ community face during the compulsory military service. Sergey Gabrielyan added that because of the widespread discrimination members of the community avoid the military service. Lilit Martirosyan, the president of "Rights Sight" NGO

was also present. She spoke about transgenders' issues in Armenia and about the projects that aim to eliminate discrimination against them.

Vitaly Dyuma and Maxim Kasianczuk presented those projects that are implemented in the region. They are going to meet other NGOs and individuals who advocate for rights of LGBT+ community.

CANDLE LIGHTING TO COMMEMORATE VICTIMS OF TRANSOPHOBIA



November 20 is Transgender Day of Remembrance. It is a day to memorialize those who have been murdered as a result [transphobia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transphobia)(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transphobia>) and to bring attention to the continued violence endured by the [transgender](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender) community. On that day for the first time in Armenia "Rights Sight" Human Rights NGO organized candle lighting in the center of Yerevan. Lilit Martirosyan, the head of "Rights Sight" NGO says that high number of death cases are registered mainly in such countries where there is no anti-discrimination law. Armenia also does not have anti-discrimination law, but there is no data on transgenders' death cases in the country.

Members of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO also participated in the candle lighting event keeping the memory of all transgender persons, who were killed in the patriarchal heteronormative world.

"NEW GENERATION' LAUNCHES A NEW PROJECT"



On November 15, 2016 the presentation of the "Support and reinforcement of the Armenian civil society organizations in response to HIV through advocacy" took place in "Article 3" club. The event was attended by different NGO presidents and representatives. The project will be implemented by "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO during the forthcoming 1 year to support the implementation of the National Program of Armenia on Response to HIV through capacity building, lobby and advocacy.

NGO President Sergey Gabrielyan informed that target groups of the project are men who have sex with men (MSM), people living with HIV (PLHIV), injection drug users (IDUs), commercial sex workers (CSWs), Armenian CSOs dealing with HIV and human rights. Within the scope of the project capacity building trainings will be organized for the target civil society organizations. Also, the state health budget will be examined and the relevant findings and gaps will be presented regarding the health care services related to HIV prevention, care and treatment for MSM, TG, PLHIV, IDUs and CSWs."At the end of the project we plan to prepare a national report on access to health care services related to HIV prevention, care and treatment for MSM, TG, PLHIV, IDUs and CSWs and to target in the National Program of Armenia on Response to HIV", added S. Gabrielyan. At the end of the presentation NGO president and coordinator announced the launch of the project.

“HIV AND HUMAN RIGHTS” TRAINING



On November 22 in the frames of the project “Human Rights for Diversity and Equality» “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO organised a training named “HIV and Human Rights” in the club “Article 3”. It was organised for beneficiary of the project and for interested people. This training was distinguished, as except of “HIV and Human Rights”, there were introduced also “A person’s legal status in law enforcement bodies”. In this part participants were introduced the regularities of law enforcement bodies. Participants used the received theoretical knowledge in team debates, games and during exchange of ideas and discussions.

“HIV AND HUMAN RIGHTS” TRAINING



The Group of Public Monitors implementing supervision over the criminal-executive institutions and bodies of the Ministry of Justice of RA presented its 2014-2015 report. It clearly outlines the problems and obstacles that arrested people face. The group members drew attention to the fact that their work have been obstructed during 2016.

Member of the group Robert Revazyan noted that since 2005, the group had not had problems of access and meeting with any convicted individual. “In 2016 a policy invested that if an injunction against any person assigned by the investigator, the monitoring group cannot communicate with that person. At the same time, members of the group were not allowed to enter the cell and monitor. The group was banned from entering detainees’ cells in general” Arayik Zalyan, the head of monitoring group said that the certain issues were registered related to the medical care, early release, storage conditions, overpopulation and people with special needs. He pointed out that problems related to individuals are solved but change of the system as a whole is very slow. Member of the monitoring group, representative of “New Generation” NGO Arman

Sahakyan informed that discrimination in the criminal-executive institutions and bodies of the Ministry of Justice of RA remains one of the main detected problems. Inmates who do not obey unwritten laws, homosexuals and people with mental disorders are targeted groups.

Arman Sahakyan explained that these people are often moved to separate cells according to their application. Inmates of separate cells are labeled by others.



There is a practice of discrimination against people who need methadone treatment. These people are subjected to double discrimination. “Inmates told us that the staff of the criminal-executive institutions demand some services in order to register these people for free-of-charge methadone treatment. But they have a right to this treatment and do not have to do an extra work for it”,- said Arman Sahakyan.

Deputy Justice Minister Suren Krmoyan noted that they are familiar with the report and have presented their objections, but nevertheless they will try to give solution to the problems raised.

"PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY": TRAINING IN GYUMRI



"New Generation" Humanitarian NGO organized a training-course on the topic of "Prohibition of discrimination for a democratic society" for 11 representatives of the Criminal-Executive Institutions which was held on November 23-26, 2016 in Gyumri.

In the scope of the training the representatives of the Criminal-Executive Institutions were introduced the concept of human rights, as well as the importance of prevention of discrimination and torture in the context of protection of rights of LGBTI people. During the three days remarkable issues concerning the above-mentioned topics were discussed and comprehensive explanations were given by the trainers, Robert Revazyan and Ara Ghazaryan.

Project Assistant Nare Hevhannisyan told that the goal of the training was to increase the sensitivity of the representatives of the Criminal-Executive Institutions 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. "Not only through the theoretical knowledge, but also interactive

games, participants were able to apply theoretical knowledge in practice," mentioned N. Hovhannisyan.

During the training the topics, such as manifestations of discrimination and torture as well as measures of prevention in Armenia and Europe, and hate crime cases were particularly emphasized. 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/

AT WHICH STAGE IS THE DRAFT OF ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW?

Nare Hovhannisyan, representative of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO, participated in a press conference dedicated to the International Day of Tolerance.

