

ALONG WITH TIME

35



IN THIS ISSUE



FROM NOW ON, EVERY YEAR YOUNG PEOPLE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS IN ARMENIA AND GERMANY.



MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR FOR AN ILE-DE-FRANCE WITHOUT HIV / AIDS

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LIVE LIFE POSITIVELY KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS

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The participants of the action had bright, positive and crazy photos that they downloaded from the organization's website.



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LIFE 7

OFFSITE INFORMATION PLATFORM

On October 29-30, 2018 LIFE-7 offsite Information Platform meeting was held within the framework of Right to Health project. This time the information platform was held for beginner MSM activists.

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



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New Generation Humanitarian NGO



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Thanks to the cooperation of the New Generation Humanitarian NGO (NGNGO) and the Bavarian Youth Council (BJR), youth from Armenia and Germany will have the opportunity to participate in exchange programs as a youth worker since 2019, says NGNGO President Sergey Gabrielyan, who headed the delegation, travelling to the Federal Republic of Germany to attend the annual meeting of the Bavarian Youth Council.

The main purpose of the visit was signing of a Memorandum by the Presidents of the NGNGO and the BJR for Development of Youth and Youth CSOs.



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"Selected Young people will take part in relevant courses and get acquainted with the activities of youth organizations in Germany. All this will be accompanied by cultural-cognitive visits both in Armenia and Germany to create a complete picture," said Sergey Gabrielyan.

"Within the framework of the visit, we also visited the BJR Munich Office, as well as we had meetings with a number of youth organizations,"

Mkrtchyan, NGNGO lawyer, underlining that within the framework of the visit for New Generation Humanitarian NGO Several cultural and cognitive visits were also organized, including King Ludwig's 2nd Fortress (Noyshvanshteyn) and the Hitler Concentration Camp in Dachau, where people were held and killed, based on their national or religious affiliation, social status, sexual orientation, and other features

On October 17-24, the New Generation Humanitarian NGO representatives visited the Federal Republic of Germany with the financial support of the Bavarian Youth Council.



LIFE-7 offsite Information Platform meeting

On October 29-30, 2018 LIFE-7 offsite Information Platform meeting was held within the framework of Right to Health project. This time the information platform was held for beginner MSM activists.

The goal of LIFE-7 offsite Information Platform is the awareness-raising and capacity building of Trans community representatives on the topics of Sexuality and Right to Health,

enhancing their legal consciousness, acquainting them with the domestic and international human rights protection mechanisms as well as promoting the involvement of the community in the bodies of National Response to HIV.

On the first day of the Information Platform, Sexuality expert Alik Ustyan presented the 'Sexuality' topic. The participants welcomed the topic with great excitement, lots of questions were asked, which got their precise answer from the Expert.

On the second day of the Information Platform, NNGO lawyer, legal barriers overcoming specialist of the Right to Health project, Anahit Mkrtchyan introduced the topic of the Right to Health to the participants: she spoke about the state-guaranteed free medical care and service, also the RA healthcare workers' low level of legal consciousness and of medical knowledge on LGBT+ related issues, their discriminatory attitude and prevention mechanisms of such manifestations of discrimination were discussed within the framework of the topic.

The entire meeting included interesting video-screenings and practical activities, exchange of thoughts, questions and answers, due to which the training reached its practical goals.

At the end of LIFE-7 Information Platform the participants were awarded with certificates of attendance.

"Right to Health" project is implemented by New Generation Humanitarian NGO with the financial support of the Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM) from the funds of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.



THREE-DAY TRAINING FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE MSMIT TOOL HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED

In 2018, for the first time in the Republic of Armenia, three-day training for the promotion of the MSMIT tool has been implemented in the framework of the "Right to Health" program funded by the Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM).

The purpose of the training is to use the MSMIT tool as a guide for the service package for MSM. This tool is intended for healthcare organizations' staff,

HIV and STI project leaders, non-governmental organizations, community and civil society representatives. The first meeting took place from October 31 to November 2, 2018 with the participation of representatives of the RA HIV and AIDS Prevention Sphere NGOs, during which international expert Svyatoslav Sheremed

presented to participants the essence of the MSMIT instrument and the importance of its application. Then, in conjunction with the Participants, the exchange of opinions was made through a "Basic and Extended Service Package", which includes all possible MSM services available for effective HIV prevention.



During the second meeting, on November 5, 2018, at the New Generation Humanitarian NGO (NGNGO) Sheremed and NGNGO employees reviewed and finalized the "Basic and Advanced Services" package. On the third day, November 6, 2018, the meeting took place among RA Ministry of Health, the AIDS Prevention National Center and RA CCM representatives took place. Sheremet also presented to the representatives the essence and application of the MSMIT tool. Then, Alik Ustyan, Coordinator of 'Right to Health' Program, presented the "Basic and Extended Service Developed Package" when some suggestions raised which were included in the above package.

The "Basic and Extended Service Package" is envisaged as a tool of advocacy for the national HIV response program.

This training is implemented by New Generation Humanitarian NGO in the framework of "Right to Health" project with the financial and technical support of the Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM) from the funds of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.



THERE WERE NO LOSING OR WINNING SIDES BUT THE DEMOCRACY AND TOLERANCE LOST.

11th one was planned to be held in Armenia. Since public events were not planned during the forum, there was no specific intention to inform the society about the event, and the event was discussed only during the mentioned interview.

We thought that the Armenians who proclaim themselves to be the first Christian nation, would host Christians from other

LGBTnews.am has interviewed Arman Sahakyan, office manager of New Generation Humanitarian NGO, about the LGBT Christian Forum which was cancelled today, and about the general situation with LGBTI people's rights in Armenia.

After yesterday's statement by Chief of Police Osipyan, the organization reported to the public that it had to cancel the LGBT Christian Forum which was to be held in Armenia in November. Do I remember correctly that you had expressed your intention to hold the forum still before the change of government power?

Still, before the revolution, there had been given an interview on which one of the Russian sites prepared an article. It was about the LGBT Christian Forum which is held every year, and this year the countries with love and solidarity and the latter would see Armenia, the country would become more recognizable, why not in terms of tourism as well. These people are ordinary Christians trying to spread love and tolerance towards all people understanding the Bible as it is - not as a book of hatred but of love and solidarity. The event had absolutely nothing to do with Bible editing or interfering in domestic politics, public events, as it was later distorted and propagandized by different specially guided groups and media.

The forum, which had been announced before the change of power suddenly turned into an active target. Why do you think it happened?

If we look into the chronology, we will see that the specially guided groups began their attack in the politically tense period when the idea of dissolving the parliament was actively debated, which rapidly transformed into conflict between the revolutionary government and the old members of the National Assembly.

It was obvious to see from this organized campaign that in this heated political situation the motivation of these specially guided groups was inner-political, so once again an attempt was made to use the LGBT human rights issues for speculative actions and provocations as before. Public figures, current and former MPs, some organizations, individuals who spread hatred and misinformation through social networks, as well as fake faces and pages, media, press conferences, and even leaflets, were on the frontlines of this campaign of hatred.

They wrote that a gay parade was to be organized, disinformation was spread about the number of the participants, instead of the real 50 they first told it was going to be 1500, then 2000 and then 3000 people. They said that we were going to edit the Bible, to destroy the Armenian family, the church, the state and other false things. Then they started demonstrations, dozens of people gathered, propagandized hatred, and when they saw they were getting away with it, they passed on to threats. Gevorg Petrosyan, MP from Prosperous Armenia party, called on to expel Armenian citizens from the country. Former MP Aragats Akhoyan talked about "slaughtering" at a press conference, and at another interview, he threatened to use violence. Law enforcers did not react adequately to any of these issues, even though we turned to the police.

- I want to mention that the context of the issue was even wider. After the change of power, the topic of LGBT human rights was discussed not only in the framework of the LGBT Christian Forum. Shurnukh's provocation when people affiliated with the Republican Party poisoned the peasants' minds against activists having a rest in the village and other disturbances they tried to organize to turn people against the LGBT people, finally the LGBT Christians Forum. Moreover, MPs Sharmazanov and Urikhanyan introduced homophobic bills to the parliament.

- Yes, and the result of all the provocative campaigns was that some part of society started to believe that LGBT people are the greatest evil for the society and the state, forgetting about corruption, the previous authorities' crimes and many other things that are really harmful to the government and the society. This was done to distract the people from the real political agenda. **The government, in the person of Nikol Pashinyan responded to this in the National Assembly and in the government speech the next day...**

Nikol Pashinyan did not consider LGBT people as full-fledged citizens with inalienable rights and freedoms but as a mass that is a headache, a problem with which something should be done, and asking questions in the logic of Hitler-Nazi philosophy, he suggested to think of ways of dealing with this issue: either to burn those people, to throw them into prison in the logic of Soviet legislation, to run them over by tanks, or to tolerate them somehow.

In the New independent Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan is the first of the high-ranking officials who publicly addressed the issue of LGBT people and this is what he said, forgetting that every human being is of supreme value. He did not consider LGBT people as vested with equal rights that the rest of the society has and did not care to reflect on the fact that these people have acute problems

which need solutions but rather stopped on the point what could be done with this mass that has become a headache for all. In other words, “several people” should sit and decide what to do with a group of other people, and the versions of the solutions they have made are just stunning.

So what actually turns out? Some groups, pursuing some interests, organize homophobic campaigns consistently, and the LGBT community being well aware of their intentions does not respond to all this provocation, while the law enforcement system stubbornly ignores the anti-legal calls and actions. And the response of the top public figure of the country was just as you described. So weren't the inactivity of law enforcement and Pashinyan's speech actually a green light for provocateurs? After Pashinyan's speech they began driving around your organization and you had to announce that the organization temporarily suspended its activities...

We have sent numerous letters to the Government of the Republic of Armenia, personally to Nikol Pashinyan, informing them that we are planning to hold a forum for LGBT Christians in Armenia and that the forum is going to be a closed, non-public event during which no public actions are planned but all our letters have remained unanswered. And today, Chief of Police Osipyan's made this outrageous statement that it is not convenient to hold the forum in Armenia, so it will not take place, and the security risks were presented by him as an additional not the main argument.

Love and solidarity are thus selective and discriminatory...

- That's how it turns out. And do you know what's interesting? An attempt is made to present as if those homophobic groups won and we were defeated. In fact, the Republic of Armenia was defeated, the rule of law, democracy lost and the country fell a huge step back on its way to democracy. But I want to emphasize that this regress is temporary; love, tolerance, freedom, equality have no alternative, and sooner or later they will win. Analyzing the recent events, registering the facts, we come to the conclusion that there are still many things to do to establish a real democracy and ensure equality for all.

- By the way let's talk about these things to do. What long-term actions you are you planning to take in this direction?

- First of all, it's the work with the society, raising their legal awareness, providing them with information, acquainting them with the constitutional rights, secondly, it is the documentation of anti-legal actions and cases and submitting the revealed cases to the judicial system and international partners, work towards court cases, strategic litigation thirdly, it's the discussion of LGBTI people's rights agenda with different authorities; fourthly, it is the work with mass media and many other plans and actions.

- Your organization had temporarily suspended its activities. Have you already resumed the working process?

- We will continue our activity in its regular and normal course of work, in all the mentioned directions and we are confident that we will achieve a truly free, democratic, equal, fair state and society.



HIV is controllable when diagnosed on time. However many people still identify HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) with AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) and so they often think of it as of a death sentence. In fact, AIDS is the final, most severe stage of HIV. Regular testing for HIV will help to detect and control the virus on time.

On 3-4 October 2018 the National Center for AIDS Prevention (NCAP) hosted workshop on “Practical issues of Oral Rapid HIV Test implementation among key populations”

TESTING FOR HIV WILL BE MORE ACCESSIBLE THAN EVER

for the outreach working staff of “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO. The workshop provided the participants with information on HIV and AIDS situation in the Republic of Armenia, modes of HIV transmission, approaches to HIV prevention, importance and particularities of rapid testing, possible difficulties related to it, as well taught practical skills on Oral Rapid HIV Testing.

On the first day of the training-seminar NCAP specialists presented the trainees information on HIV/AIDS situation in the Republic of Armenia, modes of HIV transmission, approaches to HIV prevention, pre- and post-HIV test counselling, principles of laboratory diagnostics. Importance of HIV testing was also addressed. “Very soon testing for HIV will be more accessible than ever”, mentioned NGNGO representative Arman Sahakyan who took part in the workshop on HIV testing and Prevention at the National Center for AIDS Prevention. “Since August 2017 NGNGO beneficiaries have access to NGO-based free of charge testing for HIV, and now due to the training of outreach workers, the testing for HIV will also become possible at any location convenient for the beneficiaries. This implies that the outreach workers trained on voluntary consulting and testing services will be able to provide testing services both at the house of the beneficiary and at other places where necessary conditions will be ensured such as the appropriate temperature, lighting, confidentiality etc.” The two-day workshop is also important because people directly working with the project beneficiaries and target groups, i.e. outreach workers in this case, reinforced their knowledge on HIV and AIDS, acquired relevant skills on testing for HIV among the beneficiaries. The workshop also provides the opportunity to make the HIV-related services more accessible to the beneficiaries and target groups the NGO works with.

The workshop was organized at the initiative of New Generation Humanitarian NGO, at the National Center for AIDS Prevention for outreach workers of projects on HIV Prevention funded by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.



TRAINING ON PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION WAS HELD FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF RA

On November 22-24, 2018 three-day training on Prohibition of Discrimination for a Democratic Society was held for representatives of RA municipalities and state employment agencies. The topics of Human Rights, Prevention of Stigma and Discrimination, Freedom of Speech vs Hate Speech were covered during the three days of the training.

The topic of the first training day was Prevention of Stigma and Discrimination. Prohibition of Discrimination in International and In-state Legal Documents, Categories of Discrimination, Certain Characteristics, Evidence-based Issues Against Discrimination in Rights, Manifestation of

Discrimination through Violence were introduced by legal expert Anahit Mkrtchyan within the framework of this topic. The topic of the second day of the training was Freedom of Speech vs Hate Speech. Within the framework of this topic, trainer Anahit Mkrtchyan introduced the following: What is Freedom of Speech? What is Hate Speech? How to differentiate Freedom of Speech from Hate Speech? Existing Liability Mechanisms for Hate Speech, Human Dignity as an inseparable basis of their freedoms and rights, Insult and Slander, Hate Speech on the Online Platform. The third day of the training was dedicated to the topic of Human Rights. Trainer Anahit Chilingaryan introduced the following subjects within this topic: the Concept of Human Rights, Origin and Generations, Local and International Mechanisms of Human Rights Protection, the Role of Local Self-Governing Bodies in the Protection of Human Rights. All the topics presented during the three days of the training included both theoretical and practical parts, video screenings, various interactive games, group and individual activities, were accompanied with lively discussions, which made the material easier to understand and perceive for the participants. At the end of the training the participants were awarded the certificates of participation.

MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR FOR AN ILE-DE-FRANCE WITHOUT HIV / AIDS

On November 19, 2018 "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO hosted Mr. Jean-Luc Romero- Michel, Ambassador for an "Ile de France" without HIV/AIDS.

During the meeting we discussed our organizations' activity, HIV and AIDS situation in Armenia, access of HIV services for vulnerable groups, as well recent growth of hatred and intolerance towards LGBT people and Human Rights organizations dealing with their issues, also causes and possible solutions to this situation. At the end of the meeting both parties came to a mutually beneficial cooperation.



SITUATION ANALYSIS OF DISCRIMINATION CASES

On June 28, 2018, a two-day workshop on "Situation Analysis of Discrimination Cases" took place in Armenia within the framework of which representatives of the Czech Republic's Poradna pro občánství, občanská a lidská práva Organization presented the "Situation Analysis of Discrimination Cases" and its application forms. During the meeting, the role and functions of the Ombudsman in the Czech Republic were also touched upon in the context of LGBT community rights protection. The representatives of CSOs and mass media, advocates, human rights defenders and lawyers participated in the meeting. As a result, 5 participants of the meeting went to the Czech Republic on September 23, 2018 to study the work of CSOs and the

Ombudsman involved in the fight against human rights, discrimination and hatred in the Czech Republic, as well as to carry out practical work on documenting cases of discrimination. Based on the observation of the Czech experience, the NGNGO has undertaken the process of bringing the method of situation testing into Armenian reality within the framework of the "How to Find the way" program. New Generation Humanitarian NGO implemented documentation of discrimination cases among LGBT People in Armenia and on 28 November, 2018 presented the report on "Discrimination Cases Documentation", which reflects a high level of discrimination in the Republic of Armenia related to person's sexual orientation and gender identity.



Roundtable discussion was attended by NGOs, human rights defenders, lawyers and attorneys, Ombudsman office representative, as well as our Czech partners.

All of them highlighted the application of new methods in our reality. The Ombudsman representative noted that they value the importance of close cooperation with civil society and expressed hope for similar new discussions and meetings.

The meeting took place in a way of free discussions and questions and answers.

Following the discussion, NGNGO advocate Anahit Mkrtychyan, project coordinator and human rights activist Hmayak Avetisyan, president of Poradna organization Miroslav Dvorak and lawyer Frantisek Vales gave a press conference during which the reporters talked about the aim of situational testing and the results of the report.

DISCUSSION ON PRESENTATION OF REPORTS ON IMPROVEMENT OF HIV PREVENTION AMONG MSM AND TRANS PEOPLE

On December 11, a round-table discussion organized by New Generation Humanitarian NGO in the framework of the "Right to Health" project was held in Yerevan on the reports on the Improvement of HIV-related services and HIV Prevention among MSM and Trans people in Armenia. Arman Sahakyan acting President of the "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO made the opening speech and in his speech he congratulated all the participants on the occasion of Human Rights Day. Next, Somer Bessire-Briers, Foreign Service Officer at Department of State, the US Embassy also made a speech.





Representatives of international organizations, diplomatic missions, RA ministries, local organizations, the National Center for AIDS Prevention and many others were also present at the discussion.

On the agenda of the roundtable discussion were the summary reports on the works and researches done in the field of healthcare and human rights in 2018.

Anahit Mkrtchyan, attorney, lawyer at New Generation Humanitarian NGO launched the reports presentation. She presented the national report on "Human rights violations of

Gay, MSM and Trans people ", "National Legislation Analysis on the Rights of LGBT and People Living with HIV ". She spoke about discrimination, contradictory terminology in the constitution and related legislative acts, future and current plans of changes, and improvements of them.

Hmayak Avetisyan, Project Coordinator of the New Generation Humanitarian NGO presented the report on "2018 Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance (IBBS) report on HIV. After the report presentation different opinions and suggestions were made on changes, improvements and preparation for the next s IBBS survey planned to be held in 2020. Budgeting expert Aharon Barseghyan presented the National Assessment of Financial Gaps, he spoke about the finances allocated to HIV-related services for MSM and Trans people in Armenia, its consumption and demand.

Each topic was accompanied by a storm of questions s from the participants, all of which got their exhaustive answers.

The last report was introduced by Alik Ustyan, "Right to Health" Project coordinator, on "MSMIT as an Instrument for HIV-Related Services in Armenia."

At the end of the report, a question and answer session took place with intense discussions and recommendations.

"New Generation" Humanitarian NGO expresses its gratitude to all those who attended the meeting and for their active participation.

LIVE LIFE POSITIVELY Know your HIV status

On December 1, New Generation Humanitarian NGO joined the series of events dedicated to the World AIDS Day.

Throughout the day, a poster on prevention of AIDS was posted on North Avenue on the slogan of this year's slogan: "Live your life positively, know your HIV status". All those who wanted to express solidarity with the fight against AIDS were photographed at the poster. As a result, the action participants had bright, positive, and crazy photos that they were able to download from the organization's website.

Several photos of the flashmob participants!

