



RIGHT SIDE

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER NGO

NEWSLETTER JUNE-JULY 2019

№ 9



“Right Side” human rights defender NGO organized the 3rd Trans Camp

“Right Side” human rights defender NGO organized the 3rd Trans Camp on June 17-19, 2019 in Tsaghkadzor. Founder and president of the organization Lilit Martirosyan officially opened the Trans camp. She introduced the history and achievements of the “Right Side” human rights defender NGO. The participants were introduced and got acquainted with each other. They set the rules of three days and shared their expectations for the camp. “Right Side” human rights defender NGO invited an international expert on gender issues to deliver the training.

According to one of the participants, “Training was very interesting, so much information in this short period of time and losing the sense of time was just fantastic, and even the school schedules are not so full, and I hope these camps will be continuous.” Another participant expressed gratitude by saying: “This is the third time the “Right Side” NGO is holding Trans Camp, raising issues and problems in Armenia, consolidating LGBTIQ people and activists under one roof, it is very big responsibility” Another participant said: “It is also a great support for all sex workers in Armenia, we learned a lot during the training, we were also able to get out of our everyday troubles and problems.”

At the end of the camp, Lilit Martirosyan gave certificates on attending to participants Lilit Martirosyan noted that the trans camp will be continuous because it supports community members to know each other, unites LGBTIQ people and activists and helps to have a stronger LGBTIQ community in the whole Caucasus region. The camp was organized by “Right Side” human rights defender NGO and with the financial support of the European Endowment of Democracy.

7 Latin-Americans transgender people have applied for the asylum in the Republic of Armenia.

In June, a group of 7 Latin-Americans transgender people informed “Right Side” human rights defender NGO that they have applied for the asylum in the Republic of Armenia. In the framework of one of “Right Side” NGO strategy human rights protection strategy our staff provided trans asylum seekers with the necessary legal, social psychological and other and other assistance. “Right Side” human rights defender NGO, in collaboration with the KASA Swiss office in Armenia, organized for transgender asylum seekers Armenian language courses. The organization has also contacted with number of organizations working with asylum-seekers and referred them people to receive social support. “Right Side” Healthcare Program Officer organized a series of health-related training sessions for transgender people, during which she provided educational materials on sexual health, HIV/ AIDS and STI. The organization referred transgender asylum seekers to the National Center for AIDS Prevention HIV testing. According to transgender asylum seekers, they were targeted to various violence, discrimination, transphobia, xenophobia and racism since the first day of their arrival into Armenia. “Right Side” human rights defender is preparing the necessary materials to apply to the police. “Right Side” human rights defender NGO monitor the work of Migration service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration to ensure that the process of asylum is in line with the international standards. It should be reminded that Armenia has an international commitment and responsibility to provide protection to those in need regardless of their gender identity, sexual orientation, color, race, and a number of other characteristics.

4 unknown young men tried to attack on a group of 11 LGBT people and activists in the “English” park.

On June 20th of 2019, at 21: 00-21: 30, 4 unknown young men tried to attack on a group of 11 LGBT people and activists in the “English” park. One of the activists, M.S, when noticed that one of the young men approaches them, she pulled off an electric shocker from the bag, used the electroshock to make noises and scare the group. Then the group aggressively talked with LGBT activists, and during the conversation with the group one of them tried to have a private talk with one of the activists. In order to prevent a possible conflict between the two groups, Lilit Martirosyan immediately called the police, and within a few minutes the police team arrived at the mentioned place. After the arrival of the police, police officers recommended LGBT activists to leave the park. Two of the activists, M.S. and Lilit Martirosyan accompanied by the police, approached the group and tried to understand the situation. The police decided to take them to the police station. Right Side human rights defender NGO has provided legal support to the LGBT activists. Both M.S. and Lilit Martirosyan filled a report at the Police Department. LGBT activists stated that the group bullied them because of their gender identity, and expression and assumed sexual orientation. the Police is e carrying out an investigation. Right Side human rights defender NGO calls for the transparent, fair and impartial investigation. “Right Side” human rights defender NGO will monitor police work and will frequently update about the situation.

Armenia failed to protect transgender woman human rights defender Lilit Martirosyan

UN Joint Special procedures of the Human Rights Council addressed on 18 April 2019 addressed the Permanent Mission of The Republic of Armenia questions regarding the safety, security and death threats against Lilit Martirosyan after her speech made in the Parliament of the Republic of Armenia the Permanent Mission of The Republic of Armenia responded on the joint communication responding that “Armenia achieved unprecedented freedom of speech and considered a free country”. Armenia also mentioned in the communication that there are draft laws about equal opportunities and hate speech, but we need to highlight that these draft bills do not include gender identity and expression as aggravating circumstances and do not specifically protect human rights defenders at risk. For detailed communication please follow the links below. We would like to remind that Armenian authorities failed to protect transgender human rights defenders after Lilit’s speech in the Parliament and the staff of “Right Side” Human Rights Defender NGO with their family members have been evacuated from the country. Trans rights defenders received death threats from militaristic, ultra-right wing conservative groups. The police has refused to initiate a criminal case because the threats were not “real”. The decision is appealed to the Prosecutor and the Ombudsmen

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In June-July 2019 "Right Side" Human Rights Defender NGO had 155 beneficiaries

18 referred medical services



58 participated in community events



25 received HIV prevention packages



28 participated in "Trans Camp"



18 participated in "Prevention of HIV/AIDS among trans community in Public Health context in Armenia"



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In June-July 2019 "Right Side"

Human Rights Defender NGO

had 41 beneficiaries who

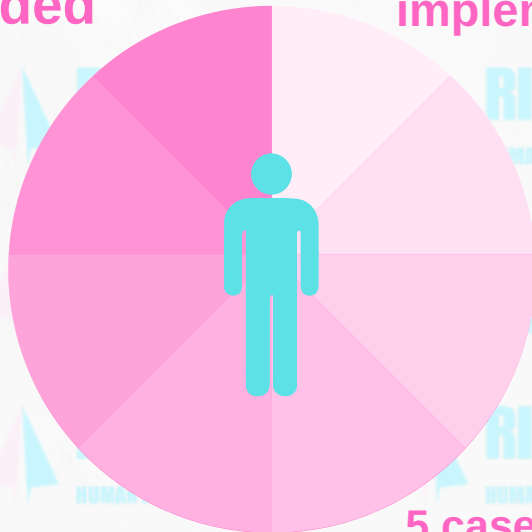
received legal services

8 legal consultations were provided

12 cases of protection of victims' interests were implemented in the RA Police

12 inquiries submitted to various state bodies

In 6 cases there are claims for general Yerevan jurisdiction's court of first instance, the Administrative Court of the Republic of Armenia



In 5 cases there are complaints and appeals to the RA Ombudsman

5 cases of hate speech, threats are filed with the Prosecutor's Office regarding dismissal of cases and inaction of investigative bodies



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