


TRANS NEWSLETTER

February January March 2023



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lizakistauri

Liza Kistauri

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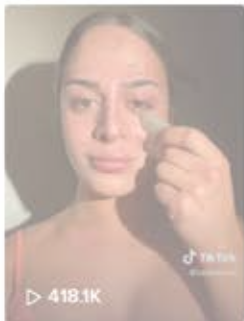
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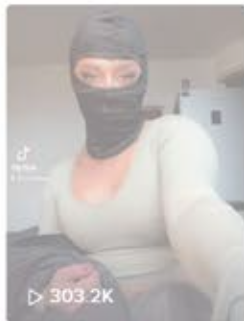
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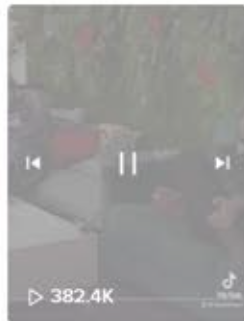
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#guesstheplayer ...



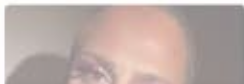
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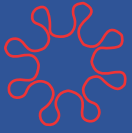
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A GEORGIAN TRANSGENDER WOMAN DIED IN BEGIUM

Georgian transgender woman Liza Kistauri died in Belgium.
Our condolences to Lisa's family, friends.



#AFEW International

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES



THE GOAL OF THIS NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROJECT IS TO PRODUCE A REPORT DETAILING THE NEEDS AND EFFECTS OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS RESULTING FROM THE PANDEMIC, AS WELL AS THE WARS OVER NAGORNO KARABAGH, ARMENIA AND UKRAINE, WITH REGARDS TO THE LIVES OF LGBTQI, SEX WORKER AND HIV AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN ARMENIA.

LILIT MARTIROSYAN
"RIGHT SIDE" HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER NGO
YEREVAN, ARMENIA

CORRESPONDING NUMBER WAS GIVEN TO K.A.'S APPLICATION VS THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



On October 30, 2018, K.A. submitted an application to the Kentron and Nork-Marash Department of the Civil Acts Registration Services of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia to make corrections in the birth certificate.

With the submitted application, K.A. asked to make a correction in the act No. 870 of birth, that is, to change the gender marker in the gender column from female to male.



The application was rejected by the conclusion drawn up by the Kentron and Nork-Marash Department of the Civil Acts Registration Services on 17 12 2018.

K.A. applied to the RA Administrative Court, demanding to declare invalid the administrative act adopted by the Kentron and Nork-Marash Department of the Civil Acts Registration Services of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia and to oblige to adopt a favorable administrative act.

K.A.'s lawsuit was rejected by the RA Administrative Court, after which K.A. applied to the RA Administrative Court of Appeal, then the RA Court of Cassation, which also rejected K.A.'s appeals.

Thus, after exhausting all the domestic courts, on August 12, 2022, the Right Side Human Rights Defender NGO appealed to the European Court of Human Rights to restore K.A.'s rights.

On 23.01.2023, the Right Side Human Rights Defender NGO received a notification from the European Court of Human Rights, according to which a corresponding number was given to K.A.'s application vs the Republic of Armenia.

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
ILGA-Europe
TGEU

THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY THE RIGHT SIDE NGO AND OTHER WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Right Side Human Rights Defender NGO took part in a meeting with the British ambassador and representatives of women's organizations in the run-up to International Women's Day to present our work within the frames of the UK government's Conflict, Stability, and Security Fund implemented by Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR). As a result of the support we received within the frames of this project, Right Side NGO has contributed to increased awareness among trans and LGBTQI community members on the Women, Peace & Security agenda in addition to advocacy efforts for inclusion of LGBTQI issues within the WPS agenda.



In the run-up to International Women's Day, UK Ambassador John Gallagher hosted a reception for female representatives of organizations supported by #UKCSSF as part of a project promoting the Women, Peace, and Security #WPS agenda in Armenia.

"Women's active involvement in all spheres of life is central to the UK Government's approach and is in line with the UK's new Women and Girls Strategy," said the Ambassador. "That is why I'm delighted that the UK is supporting this project which aims to strengthen civil society actors to promote women's participation in peace and security initiatives," he added.

This project is supported by the UK Government's Conflict, Stability, and Security Fund and implemented by the [Institute for War & Peace Reporting \(IWPR\)](#) in partnership with six civil society organizations in Armenia.

[British Embassy Yerevan](#)
[Institute for War & Peace Reporting \(IWPR\)](#)
[IWPR Armenia](#)

TRANS PERSON'S CELL PHONE WAS STOLEN

A.E., a trans person who applied to the organization, reported that her client, being at her home, on January 28, 2023 secretly stole her phone from the table in the living room, causing 800,000 AMD property damage. On the basis of A.E.'s report, criminal proceedings were initiated under Article 254, Part 4 of the RA Criminal Code.

Then the lawyer of the organization provided counseling to the trans person A.E., and also established contact with the investigator conducting the preliminary investigation in the criminal proceedings.

As a result of the work of the lawyers of the organization, the investigator made a decision to return the physical evidence – cell phone to A.E., which satisfied the request of the trans person A.E. The mobile phone stolen from her was returned to the owner.

THE RIGHT SIDE HRD NGO REPRESENTATIVES WERE ON A WORKING VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FROM FEBRUARY 20 TO MARCH 10, 2023

The Right Side Human Rights Defender NGO representatives were on a working visit to the United States of America from February 20 to March 10, 2023.

The employees had meetings with the representatives of partner organizations (National Endowment for Democracy, Urgent Action Fund | For Women's Human Rights, Human Rights Campaign, Global Fund for Women, Freedom House, Astraea Lesbian Foundation For Justice, National Democratic Institute, GALAS LGBTQ+ Armenian Society) who have been supporting human rights and democracy building processes in Armenia for years.

During the meetings, both the problems of LGBTIQ people in the RA, the ways of solving those problems, and the ways of effective cooperation were discussed.

Parallel to the meetings, Lilit Martirosyan had a meeting with Armenian-American LGBTIQ people and allies on March 5 in Glendale, Los Angeles County, which was made possible with the help of and cooperation with GALAS NGO.

During the meeting, we talked about the situation of LGBTIQ people in Armenia, discrimination and human rights violation cases, our victories and future steps, we discussed how supporters living in the USA could stand with the LGBTIQ people living in Armenia.

Right Side Human Rights Defender NGO gives high importance to such meetings with partner organizations and supporters, which contributes to the improvement of the quality of life of LGBTIQ people and the protection of their rights in RA.



THE RIGHT SIDE NGO WAS HONORED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PANEL CONVERSATION BY THE GALAS LGBTQ+ ARMENIAN SOCIETY

It was an honour and a privilege for us - Right Side HRD NGO team members to be invited to participate in the panel conversation organized by our partner NGO GALAS LGBTQ+ Armenian Society. We wish to thank GALAS team for the productive meeting and our cooperation, to all the honorable guests and participants for their endeavours to promote LGBTQ+ justice in the USA and beyond.

The meeting has provided us with an ideal opportunity to face our challenges and explore the complex causes that are impeding full access to universal human rights and freedoms, to assess our achievements and appraise our successes.

Through this meeting we have reaffirmed our steady commitment to work together, not only within our nations but also across our borders to effectively tackle the ongoing challenges so as to consider new ways and strategies for building an equal future for each of us.



MORE THAN TEN MASKED PERSONS WITH BATONS IN THEIR HANDS ATTACKED A TRANS WOMAN

On the night of March 13-14 of this year, at the intersection of Amiryan-Zakyan streets, more than ten masked persons with batons in their hands attacked a trans woman and brutally beat her, throwing her to the ground and hitting various parts of her body.

The trans woman managed to escape by hiding in the porch of one of the buildings, and then, noticing the patrols on duty in the area, approached them to ask for help, but before the patrols approached the scene, the perpetrators managed to flee.

The trans woman contacted the police regarding the incident.

During the conversation with the trans woman, we learned that she managed to see the faces of some of the young people and mentioned it in the program.

The trans woman underwent forensic examination.

The Right Side Human Rights Defender NGO condemns gender-based violence and will pursue the full disclosure of the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The Right Side Human Rights Defender NGO urges the RA police to conduct an investigation in order to find and prosecute the perpetrators.

The legal department of the organization is involved in this case and will do everything possible to bring the perpetrators to justice.

It should be noted that on the same day, half an hour after the incident, the above-mentioned young men brutally beat another trans woman in the area of Yerevan Municipality, causing various degrees of injuries and fled again. The trans woman turned to the police officers on duty in the area and registered an emergency medical call.

And before committing violence, these young men targeted two other trans women in Mashtots Avenue, but the trans people managed to escape.

We would like to emphasize that in recent times, a number of cases of beatings of Trans LGBTIQ people have been registered and, in our opinion, it has a directed, perhaps even organized nature.

In relation to these cases, the organization prepares applications to send to:

RA Police, RA Prosecutor's Office
RA Human Rights Defender
RA Investigative Committee
other RA bodies. RA Police
RA Prosecutor's Office
RA Human Rights Defender
RA Investigative Committee
other RA bodies

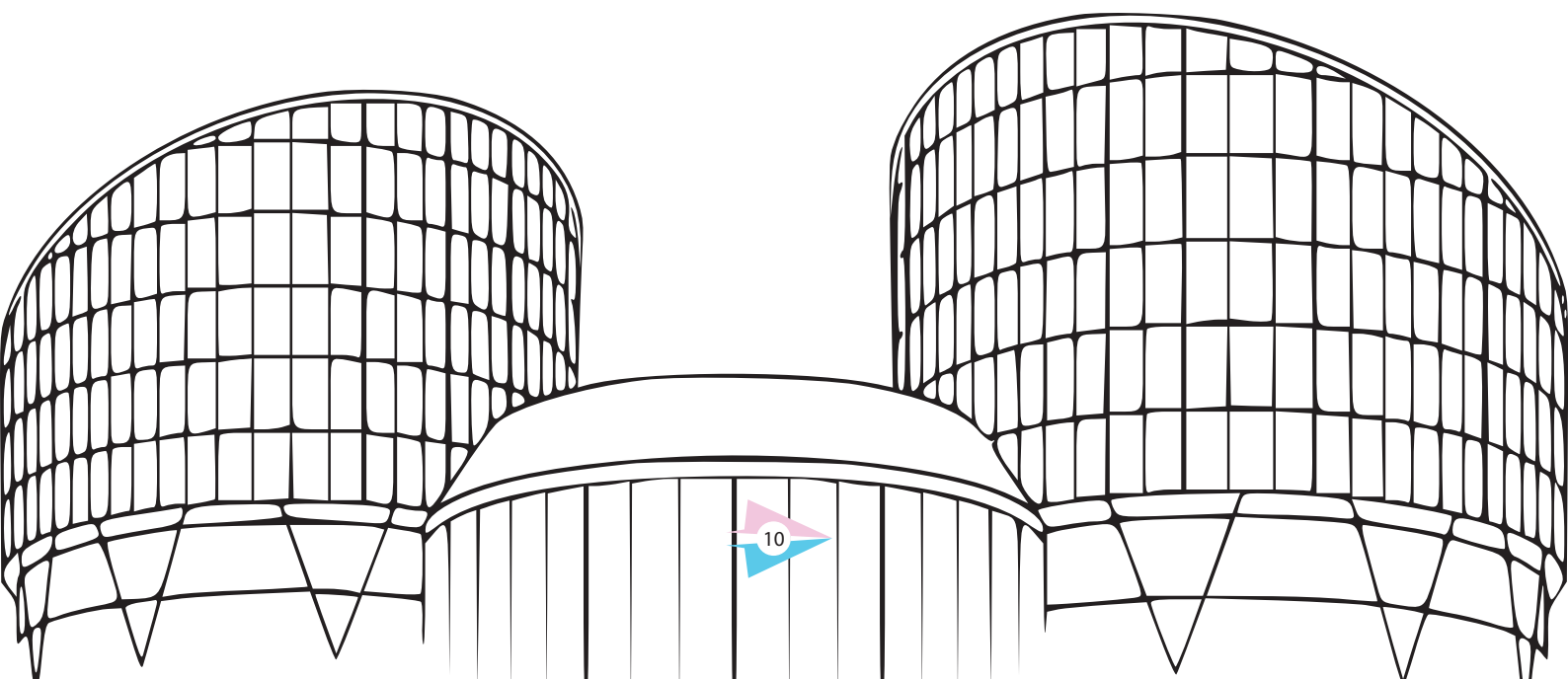


NOTIFICATION FROM THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

On April 5, 2019 Lilit Martirosyan, the president of the Right Side NGO, made a speech during the parliamentary hearings on the topic “Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations”, which was followed by insults and hate speech, according to which a transgender person does not have the right to speak in the RA National Assembly. Those statements were accompanied by threats of torture and murder, moreover, Lilit Martirosyan’s personal data and home address were revealed and published in social networks and mass media. This, in turn contributed to the persecution and other criminal activities towards her and other employees of the Right Side NGO, on the basis of discrimination and hate.

As we have mentioned previously, in response to those threats, in October 2019, Lilit Martirosyan applied to the court for a public apology and a demand for compensation in the amount of 1 million AMD for insulting her honor and dignity. However, RA law enforcement authorities refused to open a criminal case, and judicial authorities rejected all complaints, after which a complaint was submitted to the European Court of Human Rights.

On March 7 of this year, the “Right Side” NGO received a notification from the European Court of Human Rights, according to which a corresponding number was given to the application of Lilit Martirosyan against the Republic of Armenia.



ANOTHER CALL FOR VIOLENCE, THIS TIME ON TIKTOK

On March 26 of this year, the user registered under the name “Khachik Irina Grigoryanner” uttered blasphemous expressions and calls for violence against trans people during a live broadcast on the TikTok social platform. Particularly, the person in question offered to exchange phone numbers, form groups, and enter the apartments of several trans people a day and abuse/kill them, calling these actions “cleaning”. In the comments of the video, a number of people also made threats of violence and provided their phone numbers.

On the same day, more than 10 trans people, feeling threatened by these calls, submitted an application to the Central Police of RA. The police are preparing materials for the case.

Hate calls and incidents of violence against transgender people continue to go unaddressed by the law enforcement system, which has already led to an atmosphere of impunity: just 10 days ago, a new case of beating trans people was registered.

Once again, we are calling

- RA police, prosecutor’s office, Human Rights Defender, and relevant bodies to ensure the safety of trans-LGBTQ persons, and all the rights granted to them by the RA constitution,
- Diplomatic representatives, and international funders, who direct their resources and funds to the improvement of justice and establishing equality in RA, to take steps to prevent discrimination against community members and others..





MASKED MEN ATTACKED WOMEN IN YEREVAN (EPRESS.AM)

On the night of March 14, at the Amiryan-Zakyan intersection, more than ten men, with their faces covered, attacked a trans woman with batons, threw her to the ground and beat her, human rights activist Lilit Martirosyan told Epress.am.

At some point, the woman ran away and hid in the porch of one of the buildings, later she turned to the patrols on duty in the area. Before they reached the scene, the rapists managed to escape.

According to Martirosyan, the victim of violence turned to the police and underwent a forensic examination. He said that he managed to see the faces of some of the rapists.

Later, it became known that on the same day, about half an hour after the incident, allegedly this same group of men attacked another trans woman in the area of Yerevan Municipality. The woman was beaten and ran away.

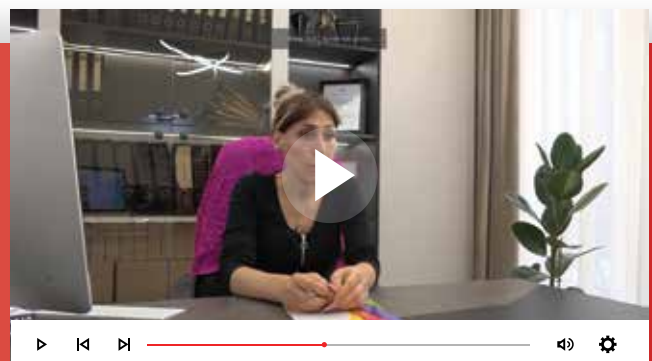
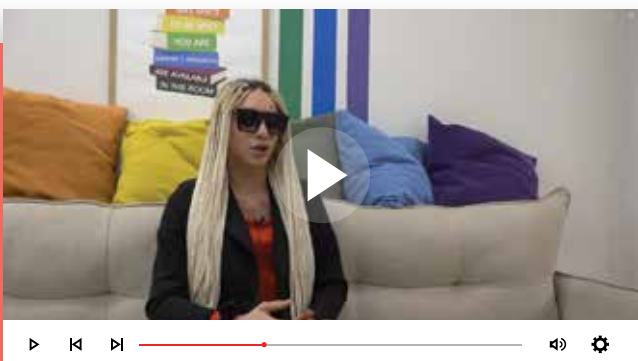
The victim approached the police in the area, they called an ambulance.

"Recently, a number of cases of beating trans people have been registered. We believe that this can be directed, perhaps even organized in nature. At the same time, there were more than 10 masked people with batons in their hands, who attacked two trans women in different places at different times.

Before the violence, two other trans women were walking along Mashtots Avenue, and the guys came from above with bandanas tied on their faces and said, "Do it like they are trans people, let's follow them." Trans women managed to hide in SAS supermarket. The boys then went down Amiryan to Zakyan, where they beat the first trans woman...", the human rights activist told Epress.am.

Neither he nor the victims know who these people could be. They saw the faces of several people, but did not recognize them.

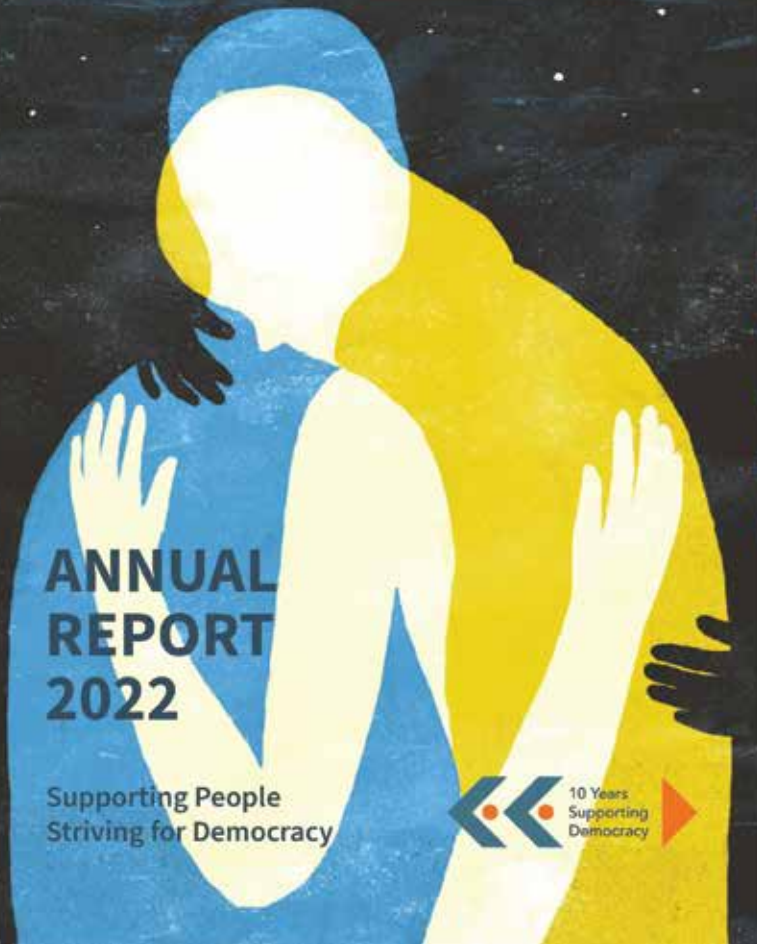
The lawyers of "Right Side" organization led by Lilit Martirosyan are dealing with this case. The abused women appealed to the human rights defenders yesterday, today letters were sent to the police, the prosecutor's office, the Investigative Committee and the HRD. There is still no response from law enforcement.



EUROPEAN ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY HAS PUBLISHED ITS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023, MENTIONING RIGHT SIDE NGO'S WORK

European Endowment For Democracy has published its Annual report, where the organization highlights what activities were held for defending democracy in the European Neighbourhood and beyond. EED mentions, that 2022 was undoubtedly the most difficult year since its establishment in 2013 because the year was dominated by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In the EED alumni stories section, The Right Side NGO was featured for advocating for the rights of Armenia's transgender community. EED provided start-up funding to the Right Side NGO in 2017 to assist the organization to begin its awareness-raising work around the issues faced by the transgender community in Armenia. Today, Right Side NGO is a prominent player in Armenia. It has helped hundreds of transgender individuals in difficulty, assisted with name changes, and provided legal services to address discrimination, hate speech, and crime. Its team accompanies clients to courts and police stations and collects information on violations of human rights the NGO works closely with family members to help support transgender people build relationships and become involved in social life, and it provides an important hub for the community for meetings, trainings, mobilization, and advocacy. Lilit Martirosyan, who leads Right Side NGO, came to international prominence in 2019 as the first trans person to take to the Armenian parliamentary podium, when she condemned discrimination against transgender people at a session of the parliament's Committee of Human Rights. Her speech sparked a violent backlash, forcing Lilit to temporarily leave the country.

EED notes, that, although there are few targeted campaigns against LGBTIQ+ people than previously, Right Side NGO's work remains crucial in Armenia, as the community still faces harassment, discrimination, and violence.



EED ALUMNI STORIES



ARMENIA:

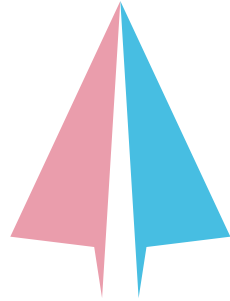
RIGHTSIDE NGO – ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS OF ARMENIA'S TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

EED provided start-up funding to the **RightSide NGO** in 2017 to assist the organization to begin its awareness-raising work around the issues faced by the transgender community in Armenia.

Today, **RightSide** is a prominent player in Armenia. It has helped hundreds of transgender individuals as attorneys, assisted with name changes, and provided legal services to address discrimination, hate speech and crime. Its team accompanies clients to courts and police stations, and collects information on violations of human rights that it acts as part of its advocacy. The NGO works closely with family members to help support transgender people build relationships and become involved in social life, and it provides an important hub for the community for meetings, trainings, mobilization and advocacy.

Lilit Martirosyan, who leads **RightSide**, came to international prominence in 2019 as the first transgender to take to the Armenian parliamentary podium, when she condemned discrimination against transgender people at a session of the parliament's Committee of Human Rights. Her speech sparked a violent backlash, forcing **Lilit** to temporarily leave the country.

Although there are few targeted campaigns against LGBTIQ+ people than previously, **RightSide's** work remains crucial in Armenia, as the community still faces harassment, discrimination and violence. To date, the Armenian criminal code has still not recognized homophobia and transphobia as aggravating criminal circumstances in hate crimes.



RIGHT SIDE

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER NGO



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