

TRANS NEWSLETTER

April 2023



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IN THE MONTH OF MARCH 2023, THE RIGHT SIDE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER NGO CARRIED OUT THE FOLLOWING 7 EVENTS IN THE ORGANIZATION’S SAFE SPACE

On March 1st, the “Zero Discrimination Day” community meeting was attended by 13 Trans and LGBIQ+ people, sex workers, and supporters.

On March 3, the “Domestic Violence” legal consultation was attended by 18 Trans and LGBIQ+ people, sex workers, and supporters.

On March 10, the “Conflict in Interpersonal Relations” group meeting with a Right Side NGO’s psychologist was attended by 12 Trans and LGBIQ+ people, sex workers, and supporters.

On March 15, the “Reproductive Health / STD / HIV / AIDS” community meeting in participation with “Real World, Real People” NGO’s social worker and psychologist was attended by 22 Trans and LGBIQ+ people, sex workers, and supporters.

On March 23, the “Sex, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Gender Identity” community meeting was attended by 13 Trans and LGBIQ+ people, sex workers, and supporters.

On March 30, the “Stress Stress Management, Art Therapy group meeting with a Right Side NGO’s psychologist was attended by 12 Trans and LGBIQ+ people, sex workers, and supporters.

During the month of March, The Right Side NGO accepted a number of 202 Trans LGBIQ+ people and sex workers, who used the services provided within the legal, educational, and informational, social programs implemented by the organization

THE RIGHT SIDE NGO IMPLEMENTED A LEADERSHIP PROGRAM INVOLVING LGBTQI+ YOUTH

B | S | T The Black Sea Trust
for Regional Cooperation
A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND

RIGHT SIDE
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER NGO

Starting in the March of this year, The Right Side Human Rights Defender NGO has been implementing a new project funded by The Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation, aimed to empower young members of the LGBTQI+ community to become change-makers in their society. In the framework of the project, The Right Side NGO has organized training with the participation of 20 young LGBTQI+ people between the ages of 18-30 from Yerevan and different regions of RA.

The training equipped participants with all the competencies necessary to fight against gender violence, conduct online or offline activism and run advocacy campaigns against hate speech on social networks, protect themselves from hate crimes and discrimination, and prevent human rights violation cases. Through the program, participants gained the ability to develop project ideas from the first until the last stages to achieve long-term results, developed leadership and responsible decision-making skills, and learned to measure the effectiveness of their projects and adjust their strategies as needed.

Some of the outcomes of the project have been an action plan drawn up by the participants, and a card game on human rights and ideas on preventing gender-based violation cases.



WITH THE HELP OF RIGHT SIDE NGO ATTORNEYS, THE IRANIAN CITIZEN RECEIVED A NEW RESIDENCE STATUS

On December 20, 2022, the Iranian citizen F.S. addressed the Right Side Human Rights Defender NGO and reported that the head of the Passport and Visa Department of the RA Police made a decision to revoke his temporary residence status.

From the study of the case, it was found that an administrative hearing of the case was scheduled for December 14, 2022, however, the notification of the hearing was delivered to F.S. by mail on December 19, 2022, that is, 5 days after the scheduled administrative hearing. And the decision to revoke the residence status granted to F.S., a citizen of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was made on December 15, 2022, and was delivered to F.S. by mail on December 26. This means, F.S. was not properly notified about the administrative proceedings and did not have the opportunity to exercise his rights during the proceedings, whereas it is the requirement of Article 38 of the RA Law “On Administrative Principles and Administrative Procedures” that the administrative body is obliged during the administrative proceedings to give the participants of the proceedings and their representatives an opportunity to express themselves regarding the factual circumstances discussed in the administrative proceedings, however, the administrative body did not ensure the right of F.S. to be heard.

The attorneys of the organization made a complaint to the RA Minister of Internal Affairs. At the same time, F.S. was directed to apply to the competent authority on new grounds for obtaining a residence status. As a result, the decision of the RA Police and Passports Department of December 15, 2022, remained without consequence, and on new grounds, F.S., a citizen of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was granted a residence card for a period of one year on March 22, 2023.



A THREE-DAY TRAINING HELD TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF LGBTQI+ RIGHTS



The Right Side Human Rights Defender NGO with the support of the Human Rights Campaign organized a 3-day training with the theme of “Advocating for our Rights” to support and empower LGBTQI+ activists from different regions of Armenia aimed to equip the participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to advance the cause of LGBTQI+ rights in Armenia.

The training covered a range of topics, including communication skills and strategies for effective advocacy. Participants learned about the basic elements of communication and its impact, different types of communication, and the principles of effective communication. They also gained information about the communication barriers that LGBTQI+ people often face, and how to build rapport, trust, and credibility with their target audiences.

Additionally, the activists learned about successful advocacy campaigns and the various steps to be involved in planning and carrying out successful campaigns. They were informed about the importance of identifying key issues, mobilizing resources, and evaluating the impact of their advocacy efforts. Strategies, tactics, and tools for effective advocacy were also discussed, along with the importance of community mobilization and networking for successful advocacy work.

As a result of the training, the participants have become able to initiate their own activities in their communities, striving to address the problems faced by the community.

This training represents another step forward in the fight for LGBTQI+ rights in Armenia.



RIGHT SIDE NGO HAS DEVELOPED ITS ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY

GLOBAL FUND FOR
WOMEN
Champions for Equality.

RIGHT SIDE
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER NGO



Corruption is a major challenge that many societies face, and Armenia is no exception. With the support of the Global Women Fund, in the community center of the Right Side human rights defender NGO, a series of meetings took place that brought together the organization's employees and board members. The training program focused on various aspects of corruption, including how to identify and report corruption, the negative impact of corruption on society, and the importance of transparency and accountability. Participants were also introduced to various tools and techniques for preventing and combating corruption.

The exclusion of any type of corruption has always been central to the approaches of the Right Side NGO, and during these meetings, through the discussion and revisions of previous policies, the training participants developed a new anti-corruption policy. The policy is a comprehensive document with an action plan that outlines specific steps the organization will take to prevent and combat corruption. In the training, there was also a discussion about the corruption that trans individuals encounter, and specific strategies were developed to avoid it and support trans individuals in addressing these issues.

In addition to the anti-corruption training program, the participants also went through the different policies and the strategic plan of the organization. The Right Side NGO emphasizes building a society based on trust, honesty, integrity, and responsibility, excluding corruption, and this series of meetings was another step in adapting to new challenges and ensuring that the organization's activities remain relevant and effective.

«Ես նույնպես Ձեր օգնության կարիքն ունեմ»
"I also need your help"

«Ոստիկանությունը բռնությունը կանխելու, այլ ոչ թե քողարկելու համար է»
"Police is to prevent violence, not cover it up"

«Ձեր կողքին ես ինձ պաշտպանված եմ ուզում զգալ»
"Next to you, I want to feel protected"

LGBTQI+ RIGHTS ACTIVISTS LAUNCH A POSTER CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONG POLICE OFFICERS

The Right Side human rights defender NGO has been implementing a new program titled "Promoting LGBTQI+ People Rights and Well-Being in Armenia" which was funded by The Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation and aimed at raising awareness about the rights of the LGBTQI+ community, which has been facing significant discrimination and marginalization in Armenia.

As part of the project, the "Challenging Vulnerability through Action" training participants have developed specific posters within the theme of "I Need YOUR Help." These posters will be distributed among police officers in Yerevan and different regions of Armenia. The posters aim at increasing police officers' awareness of the needs and challenges faced by the LGBTQI+ community and encouraging them to provide better support and protection to the LGBTQI+ community.

LGBTQI+ individuals feel unsafe seeking police assistance because they face discrimination from the police, and their complaints are not properly processed. The lack of action on the part of the police results in the formation of an atmosphere of impunity and the violation of LGBTQI+ individuals' rights. It is essential for police to prioritize addressing violations against LGBTQI+ community members, as well as document violence against LGBTQI+ people as a hate crime based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

By engaging with the police and raising the level of awareness of the LGBTQI+ community, project participants hope to create a safer and more inclusive environment for all vulnerable groups.

«ԺՈՂՈՎՐԴԱՎԱԿԱՐՈՒԹՅՈՒՆՆ ավելին է, քան օրենքներ ընդունելը, անհրաժեշտ է հետևել դրանց»
"DEMOCRACY is more than passing laws, it is necessary to follow them"

«Քանի դեռ մեզանից մեկը վտանգի մեջ է, մենք բոլորս ենք վտանգի մեջ»
"As long as one of us is in danger, we are all in danger"

«Երբ մեզ բոլորիս հավասարապես վերաբերվեք, անկախ նրանից, թե ով ենք մենք կամ ում ենք սիրում, բոլորս ավելի երջանիկ կլինենք»
"When all of us are treated as equal, no matter who we are or whom we love, we will all be happier"





01 COMPLETED WORK

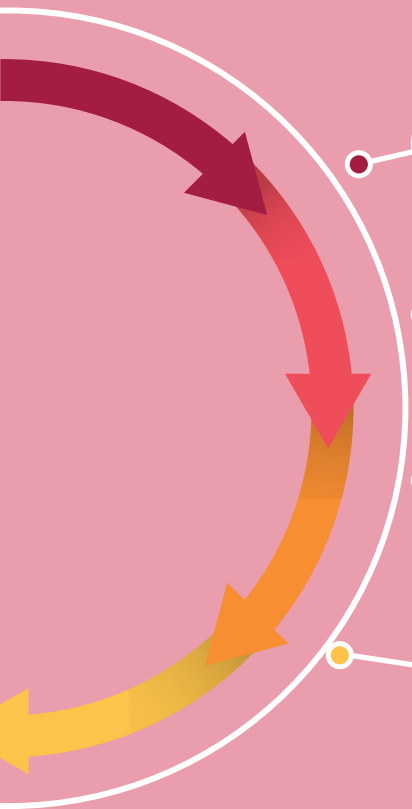
26 LEGAL ADVICE

02 REPRESENTATION IN THE COURT SESSION

05 PARTICIPATION IN INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES

12 NEW APPLICATIONS

**REPORT
ON THE CASES IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT
OF THE "RIGHT SIDE" NGO
MARCH**



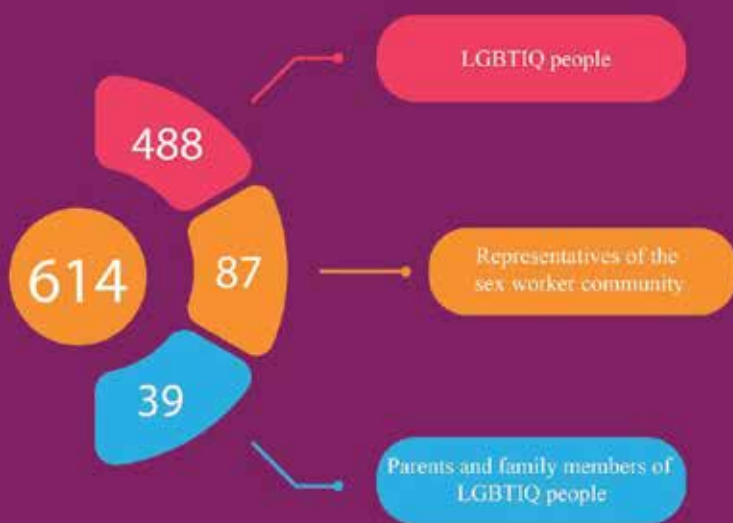
19 CURRENT LEGAL CASES

02 STRATEGIC CASES IN THE ECHR

06 CASES UNDER TRIAL

11 CASES UNDER INVESTIGATION

WE PRESENT TO YOU THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES WHO VISITED THE SAFE SPACE OF THE "RIGHT SIDE" HRD NGO AND USED OUR SERVICES BETWEEN FEBRUARY 1ST AND MARCH 31ST.



THE RIGHT SIDE DESIGNED A NEW GAME TO RAISE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS, “KNOW YOUR RIGHTS”

The Right Side human rights defender NGO has designed a new card game to raise awareness about human rights among Trans and LGBTIQ people. The “Know Your Rights” card game was created during a leadership program funded by The Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation in March of this year with the participation of 20 Trans and LGBTIQ youths aged 18-30.

How to play the game?

The game comprises 30 playing cards, each containing a human rights article at the top and a description of an event at the bottom. To start the game, the playing cards are divided into two parts, the first player takes a card and reads the event description. Based on the description, the partner must identify which human rights article the playing card represents. The game can be played by two people or in pairs in the community safe space of the Right Side NGO.

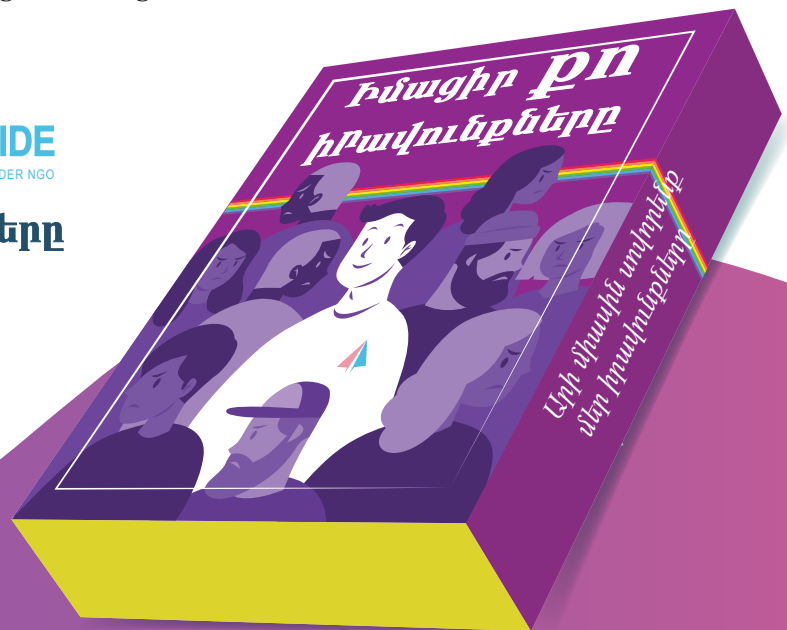
The “Know YOUR Rights” card game is a creative and interactive way to raise awareness about the rights of Trans and LGBTIQ individuals. Moreover, the participation of Trans and LGBTIQ youths in the development of the game is an important aspect to highlight. The game is not only an educational tool but also a way to empower Trans and LGBTIQ youths and encourage them to take a more active role in advocating for their rights.

The game’s copyright is protected and belongs to the Right Side NGO.

B | S | T The Black Sea Trust
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A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND

RIGHT SIDE
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER NGO

Իմացիր քո իրավունքները





WE EXIST, WE ARE VISIBLE, WE ARE STRONG/INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY 2023 VIDEO

This video presents the round-table discussion on “Hate Crimes and Other Human Rights Violation Cases against LGBTIQ+ People in Armenia” organized by the Right Side human rights defender NGO on March 31, 2023 - the International Transgender Day of Visibility, during which trans people’s problems have been voiced and steps were discussed aimed at preventing discrimination against the community and improving the quality of life of community representatives.

This video was prepared by the Right Side NGO with the financial support of the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice.

The content and views expressed herein belong to the Right Side NGO and may not coincide with the views of the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice.



LE SOIR MAGAZINE, THE SILENT STRUGGLE OF ARMENIAN WOMEN

Vinciane Moeschler, a journalist from the Belgian newspaper Le Soir, has held an interview with Lilit Martirosyan, the president of the Right Side human rights defender NGO as part of the “The Silent Struggle of Armenian Women” article, which was published in Monday, 24th of April. The article focuses on the effects of the Armenian-Azarbeijanin conflict on women victims of domestic violence through conversations with representatives of organizations operating in the field and activists.

April 26 Lesbian Visibility Day

April 26 is celebrated every year as Lesbian Visibility Day. The day serves the purpose of increasing the visibility of lesbian culture and LGBTIQ people and aims to raise the issues faced by lesbian women. Lesbians played an important role in the feminist movement, helping to achieve justice in the workplace, at home, and in the courts.

This year, the Right Side human rights defender NGO organized a movie screening and discussion in its community safe space to celebrate Lesbian Visibility Day. After the film screening, a discussion was held on the important issues and challenges faced by lesbian individuals in Armenia. At the heart of the discussion was how Rights Side NGO and other organizations operating in the field can help to prevent discrimination and create an environment for the development of the lesbian community.

The Right Side NGO congratulates International Lesbian Visibility Day and stands in solidarity with all lesbian people emphasizing the importance of recognizing diversity.



A REHABILITATION RETRIT WAS ORGANIZED FOR SEX WORKERS



On April 22 and 23 of this year, with the financial support of the Red Umbrella Fund, the Right Side human rights defender NGO organized a rehabilitation retrit for representatives of the sex worker community from Yerevan and different regions of the Republic of Armenia. During the retrit, meetings, and conversions also took place, which were chaired by Lilit Martirosyan, the president of the Right NGO.

Many sex workers in Armenia face challenges such as stigma, discrimination, violence, and exploitation, which leads them to often experience high levels of stress and anxiety. The support of the community is one of the necessary components of improving the quality of life of sex workers, that's why the Right Side NGO initiated this rehabilitation retrit, during which the participants had the opportunity to spend time in nature, relax and communicate with each other.

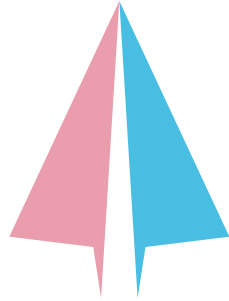
After the welcome speech, the participants got to know each other, became closer through various games, and formed an atmosphere of mutual trust, which made it possible to conduct pair therapy, share the main problems talk about traumas, stigma, and cases of violence. They also discussed how to self-rehabilitate, regulate relations with society and family members, form mutual aid groups, and implement actions aimed at strengthening the community. During these days, the participants completed many psychological tests, thanks to which they made discoveries about themselves.

The Right Side NGO's priority is to provide sex workers with the support they need to maintain their physical and mental health and live full lives. At the end of the discussion, the participants thanked for the effective meeting and added that they will move together towards creating a safe and harmonious environment for all representatives of the community.



*Together, we strive for
SEX workers in Armenia
to enjoy basic human rights
and dignity.*





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