

## ➔ #IDAHOBIT 2018



On May 17, Press release on the occasion of International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) was held at Media Center online platform. The speakers of the press release NGNGO advocate Ara Gharagyozyan, NGNGO lawyer Anahit Mkrtchyan and NGNGO advocate Maro Khachaturyan spoke about the protection of LGBTI rights in Armenia.

## ➔ POD CAST AT US EMBASSY IN ARMENIA



On May 17, 2017 on the occasion of International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) representatives of "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO (NGNGO), PINK Armenia NGOs and LGBT+ community had a meeting within the framework of podcast held at the initiative of US Embassy in Armenia.

## ➔ FIRST TRAINING SESSION OF 4-PART SEMINAR ON EMPOWERMENT OF LGBTI PEOPLE



On March 27-30, 2018, the first training session of 4-part seminar on Empowerment of LGBTIQ people started.

## ➔ CAPACITY BUILDING AND EMPOWERMENT OF CSO REPRESENTATIVES ON SEXUALITY



On April 13-14, 2018, two-day training on Capacity Building and Empowerment of CSO representatives on Sexuality was held by New Generation Humanitarian NGO (NGNGO), in Aghveran city.

# ALONG WITH TIME

# #32

Sir Elton John is one of the unique people who are actively engaged in HIV prevention and LGBT rights advocacy around the world. At the same time Armenia was one of the unique countries which Sir Elton hadn't visited so "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO invested all their efforts to bring the EJAF's attention to the problems related to LGBT+ people and HIV in our country. Here's how the NGNGO team had an exclusive meeting with Sir Elton John in his hotel room on May 27, 2018 and discussed LGBT + community needs and problems in the fields of HIV prevention and human rights protection in Armenia. Next, Sir Elton John and the NGNGO team headed to the National Center for AIDS Prevention, where he got acquainted with the work of the center and made his observations.

Sir Elton John was very excited from the series of meetings and expressed his willingness to support and promote HIV prevention and advocacy process of LGBT+ rights in Armenia.

The NGNGO team express their gratitude to Sir Elton John for coming to Armenia, honoring and hosting the NGNGO team.



**«NEW GENERATION»**  
Humanitarian Non-Governmental  
Organization



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## PROTECTION OF LGBTI RIGHTS IN ARMENIA.



***Lawyers protecting the LGBT+ rights express the hope that, with the change of the political situation in the country, the judges, attorneys and lawyers will from now on be guided by the principle of human rights protection***

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During the press release advocate Maro Khachaturyan stated that LGBT+ community is subjected to segregation in Armenia.

“Even the advocate that protects the rights of these people is labeled. The judge who makes decisions in favor of these people is also labeled. If we have fair and just courts, impartial judges, we will also be able to change the attitude of people which in reality is not so severe as several groups instigate and call out under false patriotism,” says the advocate.

IDAHOIT is celebrated annually on May 17 to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder in 1990.

In 2017 “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO has had 300 beneficiaries who have been subjected to discrimination expressed by slander, insult and violence. Lawyer at “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO, Anahit Mkrtchyan says that it

is not only the issue of legislative gaps, but also the stereotypes and perceptions rooted in the society.

“Many cases of discrimination have been recorded in military enlistment offices where 18 year old boys have been mocked and insulted because of their sexual orientation. Cases of violence against the members of this community have also been recorded, and we have tried to help them finance the acquisition of a temporary shelter,” says Anahit Mkrtchyan. “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO advocate Ara Gharagyozyan says that there are many criminal cases committed on the basis of discrimination.

“There are cases when these people have been subjected to discrimination and cruel attitude not only by the citizens also by state bodies in healthcare, criminal executive institutions and law enforcement system,” says Gharagyozyan

He emphasizes that detention as preventive measure is not applied to the suspects or accused of criminal cases on the basis of discrimination.

“It gives cause for alleging that the previous government did not have sufficient will to solve these cases and punish the guilty.”

Gharagyozyan also added that it is very important to train the judges, attorneys and policemen on these matters.



# IDAHOBIT 2018

International Day Against  
Homophobia, Biphobia,  
Intersexism and  
Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)



On May 17, 2017 on the occasion of International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) representatives of “New Generation” Humanitarian NGO (NGNGO) , PINK Armenia NGOs and LGBT+ community had a meeting within the framework of podcast held at the initiative of US Embassy in Armenia. During the podcast NGNGO representative Arman Sahakyan spoke about his long experience in LGBT+ activism, the stigma and discrimination, threats and hate speech he had faced as a result of this activism and how it all reflected the homophobia prevailing in the Armenian society. Next Arman Sahakyan gave exhaustive answers to all the questions of the participants. U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard M. Mills Jr. also attended the meeting. He thanked Arman Sahakyan for being so brave as to share his personal stories with the public and congratulated all the people present on the occasion of IDAHOBIT.

At the end of the meeting the participants were treated with a cake of LGBT+ pride flag colors.



# FIRST TRAINING SESSION OF 4-PART SEMINAR ON EMPOWERMENT OF LGBTI PEOPLE

On March 27-30, 2018, the first training session of 4-part seminar on Empowerment of LGBTIQ people started. During the training, the following topics were presented: Human Rights: Protection Mechanisms, ECHR and application procedure, Prevention of Stigma and Discrimination, and Torture.

On the first day of the training, March 27, expert Ara Gharagyozyan presented the topic of Prohibition of Torture: What is Torture, Distinction between Torture and Ill treatment` as violation of the right defined by Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, Investigation Peculiarities of the cases of victims that have been subjected to Torture, International standards for the effective investigation and documentation of torture and ill treatment, Legal positions as reflected in the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.



On March 28, 2018, expert Hasmik Harutyunyan presented the topic of Human Right, European Court of Human Rights: The European system of Human Rights Protection, Human Rights Protection Framework of European Convention on Human Rights, Admissibility Criteria for Application to the European Court of Human Rights.

On March 29, 2018 expert Hayk Hayrapetyan presented the topic of Prevention of Stigma and Discrimination to the participants: Prohibition of Discrimination in international and in-state legal documents,

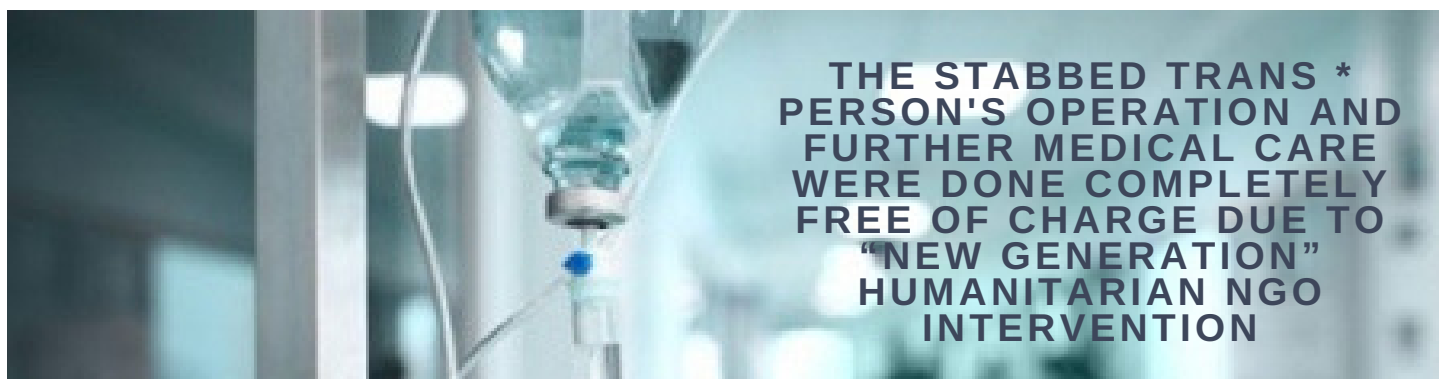
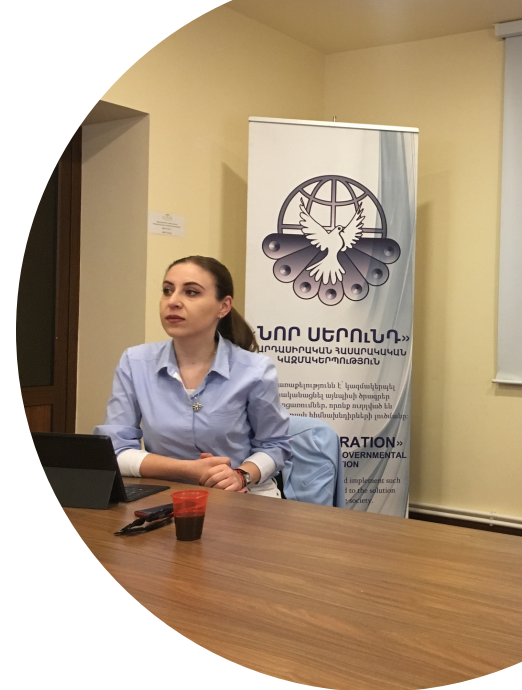
Categories of Discrimination, Evidence-based Issues in the Right to Non-discrimination, Manifestation of Discrimination through Violence.

On March 30, 2018 expert Hayk Hayrapetyan presents the topic of Human Rights: the Concept of Human Rights, the Origin and Generations, the Situation of the Human Rights of LGBT+ people in Armenia, LGBT+ related Legal Documents and the Obligations assumed by Armenia, Local and International Human Rights Protection Institutions and Organizations.

All the topics presented during the training included both theoretical and practical parts and were actively discussed by the participants. The training participants were equipped with deep knowledge and skills on Human Rights:



Protection Mechanisms, ECHR and application procedure, Prevention of Stigma and Discrimination, and Torture, in great anticipation of the next training sessions where they will acquire knowledge and skills on Sexuality, Monitoring and Reporting, Leadership, Activism, Strategic Planning, Public Events organizations and Public Speech.



***The stabbed trans \* person's operation and further medical care were done completely free of charge due to "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO intervention***

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On April 15, 2018, trans \* person XX was stabbed in her rented apartment at about 2:30 pm.

The latter had a meeting arrangement with a man with whom they had got acquainted from the internet. The unfamiliar person abused XX's trust, entered their apartment, drank and chatted. Then, when the victim XX turned with their back to the stranger, the latter pulled the hair of XX and hit them in the neck with a knife. The knife was pierced into the throat of XX.

The unknown person left the house, taking the victim's phone (iphone 7), the keys of the Mitsubishi car and the jacket.

When the stabber left, the victim exhaustedly removed the knife from their throat and crawled to the next door. The neighbors urgently responded, called an ambulance and helped the wounded before doctors could approach.

XX was taken to the intensive care unit of the Erebuni Medical Center where he was operated on at 06:20 am.



The doctors demanded about 300,000 AMD for medical interventions from accompanying people.

"New Generation" Humanitarian NGO immediately proceeded to apply to the Ministry of Health, then to Erebuni Medical Center, providing sufficient arguments to provide free medical care. As a result of the NGO's intervention, the victim's medical aid was fully provided free of charge.

"New Generation" Humanitarian NGO provided an advocate to Victim XX. A criminal case has been initiated. The case is under preliminary investigation.

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## CAPACITY BUILDING AND EMPOWERMENT OF CSO REPRESENTATIVES ON SEXUALITY

**On April 13-14, 2018, two-day training on Capacity Building and Empowerment of CSO representatives on Sexuality was held by New Generation Humanitarian NGO (NGNGO), in Aghveran city.**

On the first day of the training, April 13, Sexuality expert Alik Ustyan presented the following topics: "Sexuality. Its definition and components", "Biological sex", "Sexual Identity and Sexual Behaviour", "Sexual Orientation and its types".

Next, NGNGO volunteer from the USA, Regina Agopian presented the history and current situation of LGBTIQ human rights in the USA; all the important facts and events, the progress that has been made, what problems and issues still persist and what activities are done to make the changes.



On the second day of the training, April 14, the following topics on "Gender and its types", "Gender Expression", "Gender Roles", "Gender Stereotypes", "Transgenderness and its Components" were presented to the participants.

All the topics presented during the training included both theoretical and practical parts, interactive group works and were accompanied with active and lively discussions.





## FROM RAINBOW TO REVOLUTION

***Peaceful mass protests in April led to the ousting of the old, corrupt regime. It is called the Velvet Revolution because people won an unprecedented victory for democracy without a bullet fired. The protest marked a historic turning point for a group of minorities.***

“LGBTI activists were among the most active protesters. The society started understanding that we are patriots too, fighting for justice for all”, says the Armenian LGBTI activist Arman Sahakyan.

LGBTI persons in Armenia face widespread prejudice, bullying and discrimination. In this context, it took a lot of guts for individuals to get involved and get loud during the revolution.



### **FEARLESS**

“Our community has become more fearless. Trans persons demonstrated and spent sleepless nights in the streets with the other protestors. A friendly atmosphere was formed everywhere for one purpose: to end the corrupt regime and to build a new Armenia.”

The revolution is still not over. Pro-Russian opponents of the new Government claims that the USA and EU bring “perverts” to Armenia in order to destroy the traditional families and the country. LGBTI issues are still highly controversial, and it is now up to the new cabinet as well as the human rights movement in Armenia to change the agenda.



## NOT ACCEPTED

“We are doing our best in order to be an integrated part of the human rights movement. This is hard because many human rights defenders in Armenia still don’t accept our rights as human rights.”

International human rights organizations support the formation of civil society and democracy in Armenia.

“We are grateful for the support. The Norwegian Helsinki Committee has an important

role in promoting equality and democracy in Armenia”, says Arman Sahakyan.

## PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY THREE-DAY TRAINING



On May 23-25 three-day training on "Prohibition of discrimination for a democratic society" was held for 11 representatives of Criminal Executive Institutions of RA Ministry of Justice. 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 Human Rights. The following subjects were introduced within this topic: the Concept of Human Rights, Origin and Generations, Situation of LGBTI Human Rights in Armenia, Human Rights Protection Mechanisms, Several litigation cases.

The topic of the second day of the training was Prevention of Stigma and Discrimination.

Within the framework of this topic, trainer Anahit Mkrtchyan introduced the following: Prohibition of Discrimination in international and in-state legal documents,





Discrimination, Certain Characteristics, Evidence-based issues against Discrimination in rights, Manifestation of discrimination through violence,

The topic of the third 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.



All the topics presented during the three days of the training included both theoretical and practical parts, were accompanied with lively discussions, video screenings, various interactive games, group and individual activities which made the material more easy to understand and perceive for the participants.

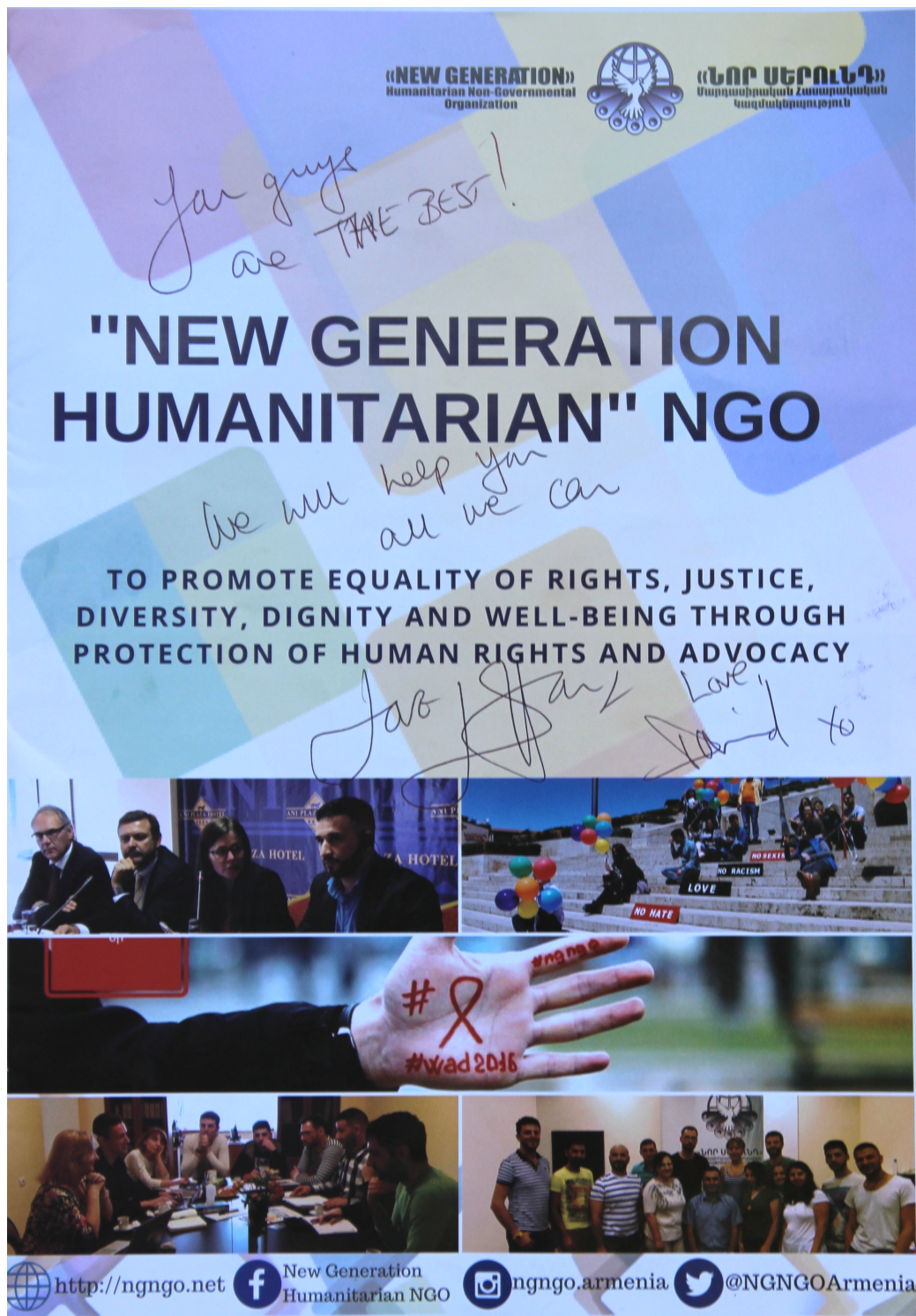
At the end of the training the participants were handed the certificates of participation.

# EXCLUSIVE MEETING OF SIR ELTON JOHN AND NGNGO

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Sir Elton John was very excited from the series of meetings and expressed his willingness to support and promote HIV prevention and advocacy process of LGBT+ rights in Armenia.

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