

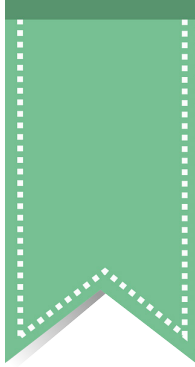


Public Information and
Need of Knowledge

non-governmental organization

NARRATIVE AND FINANCIAL
REPORT
2007-2014





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Hello,

Here we are presenting you the seven year activity report of Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO, which is offering a comprehensive insight into activity directions of the organization, projects implemented and their results. The extent to which we managed to fulfill our mission and achieve our goals is possible to learn from our published reports, as well as from the citizens who took part into organization's activities and events over the years and made use of the services provided by the organization.

During the seven years of operations of the organization we have succeeded to grow from a young and newly formed organization into respective organization in the sphere of human rights protection in Armenia. Yet all this would not be possible without the organization's interdisciplinary team of professional staff, whose dedicated work resulted in effective solutions to seemingly unsolvable problems of numerous beneficiaries of the organization. I am convinced that the wealth of the organization's experience, adherence to its principles and consistency in achieving the goals will further serve in strengthening the organization's activities.

However, the activities of the organization have not always run smoothly. Both the organization and the members of the organization have regularly been subjected to attacks due to their work to protect human rights. But the reality is that we still operate and continue to tackle issues with honor and high professional qualities. The external circumstances can always change and are often out of our control, but it remains crucial that the right decisions are made at critical times, which have become an aspect fundamental to our present and future operations.

Sincerely,
Mamikon Hovsepyan
"Public Information and Need of Knowledge" NGO founder

Introduction



December 14, 2014 marked the seven year anniversary of the foundation of Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO. 2007 was the year when three enthusiastic young people decided to create an organization which was to go through a difficult journey and do a type of work that has not yet been implemented to this scope.

On December 14th, 2007 having received the registration certificate, we realized that there is no way back - that PINK should have a large input for the development of civil society and contribute to the establishment of democracy in Armenia. Each year the organization's programs and activities had increased, the staff grew with various specialists. Over the years of work, PINK has been involved with local and international networks, and today we conduct joint projects with experienced organizations in this sphere.

Numerous donor organizations provided us with financial support over the years for activities, thanks to which educational and informational events have been organized in Armenia, STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) prevention, human rights and advocacy projects have been implemented, psychological, legal and social services have been provided to beneficiaries of the organization, human rights situation and the problems of beneficiaries have been presented in various local and international platforms, etc.

This report summarizes the organization's path, as well as briefly presents the history of the organization, the projects implemented over the past seven years, board and staff of the organization, who are involved in the organization's daily activities.

Remaining faithful to our values, part of which are transparency and accountability, in this report we also summarize the sources of funding of all years and the amounts given to the organization.

Sincerely,
Nvard Margaryan
"Public Information and Need of Knowledge" NGO Chairperson

The history of Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO



Staff, members and partners of the organization
(photo by Nazik Armenakyan)

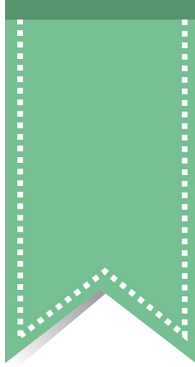
Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO was founded in 2007. The organization is better known as PINK Armenia to its beneficiaries and society, which is the abbreviation of its full name in English. It was the initiative of few active young people, who aimed to create an organization that would contribute to the idea of safe sex in the society, and would boost the process of human rights protection in Armenia. PINK Armenia is an LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community based organization. As such, PINK took on the responsibility of promoting LGBT rights in Armenia.

From the beginning, PINK has been leading activities to increase public awareness about sexual and reproductive health and rights, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, as well as to promote safe sexual relations and behavior. Afterwards, the scope of activities of the organization were enlarged - human rights protection and gender issues have come to the agenda of the organization.

In the sphere of human rights protection the organization promotes the ideas of equality and acceptance of vulnerable groups, and makes efforts to reduce the expression of all kinds of discrimination by establishing an atmosphere of respect towards cultural sensitivity and diversity in our society.

Despite its young age, the organization has managed to excel by its transparent, open and dedicated work. It has established strong cooperation with local and international organizations functioning in the sphere of sexual health and human rights protection.

The office of PINK is located in Yerevan; however, the organization provides services in a timely manner to all individuals who need our assistance and support regardless of their geographical location in Armenia.



Vision, mission and values of the organization

Vision

Society, where the human rights of all are protected and everybody is accepted regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity and/or gender expression.

Mission

Create a safe space for LGBT people by promoting legal, psychological, social protection and well-being.

Human rights violations of LGBT people can be witnessed in any sphere of social life. Degrading treatment, psychological and physical violence, denial of service provision and communication is the attitude they receive in their everyday life. We aim to achieve full protection of LGBT people in our society by creating safe space for the community, empowering the capabilities of LGBT individuals and community with its mission. It is also crucial to integrate LGBT community into society by means of lobbying the interests of the community, providing social, psychological, legal, medical and other services, along with developing partnerships with governmental and non-governmental institutions both at national and international levels.

The values of PINK Armenia are:

Understanding and acceptance of diversity, equality, humanism and the priority of social justice and universal values;

Respect and recognition for fundamental human rights with particular emphasis on equality and freedom from discrimination;

Promoting active citizenship, human rights and democratic values among the LGBT community and the Armenian society in general;

Solidarity with other discriminated groups of people, civil society actions and movements who are aiming to reach democracy in the country.

The structure of the organization

The General Assembly is the supreme body of the organization, which is held once a year by the members of the organization. Once every two years the General Assembly elects 5 members of the Board of the organization. The Board of the organization confirms the reports submitted by the coordinating president, including the report submitted to General Assembly, financial report, makes recommendations to the General Assembly on matters relating to its exclusive authority, accepts membership requests, dismisses or revokes the memberships.

The Staff is the main body responsible for carrying out the activities of the organization; the projects implemented by the organization, services provided are being done by staff.

PINK Armenia's Board is the main governing body of the organization. The Board duties include discussing and setting priorities of the organization, emphasizing the main directions of activities and the strategy by taking into account the interests and vision of the organization. The Board is mainly responsible for long-term planning, adoption of budget of the organization, as well as for implementing fundraising activities. PINK Armenia's Board comprises individuals who had their maximum contribution in the operations of the organization for years. Currently the board of the organization comprises individuals who have been elected in 2013, for 2 years period.

Nvard Margaryan

Nvard Margaryan is a social worker by profession. Nvard has been involved in the activities of the organization since 2008, as a volunteer first, and then, starting from 2010 she has worked as the editor of "As You" electronic magazine. Since 2013, Nvard has coordinated various projects of the organization and later she became a Board member.

Hovhannes Madoyan

Hovhannes Madoyan is a co-founder of the "Real World, Real People" NGO. He is a family doctor by profession. Hovhannes Madoyan is well-known as an expert and advocate of HIV/AIDS related issues. Hovhannes is one of the first people in Armenia to raise awareness and advocate for the significance and importance of human rights protection in the sphere of public health.

Marine Margaryan

Marine Margaryan is political scientist and international relations expert by profession. Marine has been involved in PINK Armenia's activities since the first day of the organization's operation. She was one of the brave volunteers of the organization during the early days. Later she was the projects coordinator of the organization, and now Marine is one of the board members of PINK Armenia. Marine currently lives in USA, where she best represents the interests of the organization at the international level.

Lara Aharonian

Lara Aharonian is a co-founder and director of "Women Resource Center" Armenia NGO. She is educational psychologist by profession. Lara is especially well known both in Armenia and worldwide as a frontline human rights defender fighting for women's rights and women's movement. In 2014 Lara Aharonian was given the "Woman of Courage" award for courageously defending and promoting women's rights and gender equality.

Mamikon Hovsepyan

Mamikon Hovsepyan is a co-founder and one of the board members of PINK Armenia. Mamikon is a sociologist by profession. Mamikon also received a MA in human rights and democratization. He is one of the first human rights defenders in Armenia to raise the importance of LGBT rights protection, to get involved with LGBT advocacy work and introduce it effectively to the Armenian public.

The main staff of the organization as of 2014

PINK Armenia's staff is a multidisciplinary team. The staff of the organization is providing beneficiaries of the organization with a complete package of services in a timely and geographical manner.



Nikolay Hovhannisyan

Nikolay Hovhannisyan has been involved in the activities of the organization since the very first day of organization's operation. He is a lawyer by profession. For many years Kolya has been one of the active and devoted volunteers of the organization. Since 2011, Nikolay has worked at PINK Armenia as projects assistant.

Heghine Babayan

Heghine Babayan is an expert of Russian area studies by profession and has been involved in PINK's activities since 2013. Heghine works in the organization as "As You" alternative magazine editor, which aims to promote citizens' participation in civic changes taking place in Armenia, to promote citizens' struggle against injustices, intolerance and inequality. Heghine is one of the Council of Europe's Young Peace Ambassadors.

Lusine Ghazaryan

Lusine Ghazaryan is the lawyer of PINK Armenia. Lusine is a member of Ethical Committee of the National Center for AIDS Prevention of Armenia, as well as the Deputy Chairman of the Committee. Lusine is also a volunteer at Council of Europe's "No Hate Speech Movement".

Erna Balasanyan

Erna Balasanyan is PINK Armenia's social worker. Erna began working in the organization in 2013. Erna coordinates the activities of "Information, Education, Communication" centre of the organization, where the visitors participate in trainings, discussions, receive counseling, as well as use the library and other services provided by the organization.

Lilit Avetisyan

Lilit Avetisyan is PINK Armenia's psychologist. She is a PhD student at Yerevan State University, in the department "Personality Psychology". Lilit Avetisyan is one of the rare psychologists in Armenia, who, besides having theoretical knowledge on LGBT issues, is also working in that sphere as a psychologist.

Nelli Arakelyan

Nelli is the web administrator of PINK Armenia. For many years Nelli has actively struggled in various civil movements and initiatives in Armenia.

Maya Kocharyan

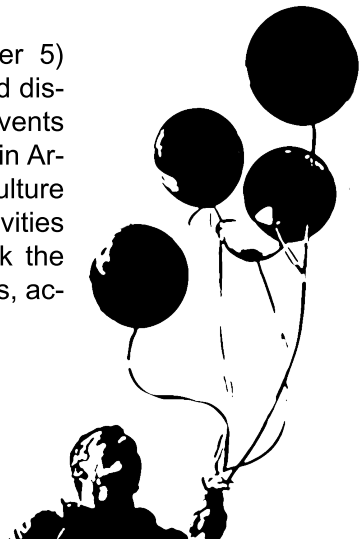
Maya Kocharyan is involved in PINK Armenia as a coordinator of outreach workers. Maya's role is particularly significant in prevention programs of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

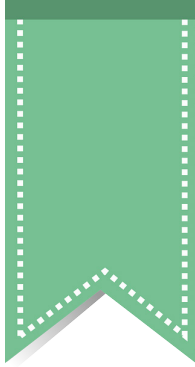
Kamo Davtyan

Kamo Davtyan was involved in PINK Armenia's sexual health projects as an outreach worker and counselor. Later, Kamo became the financial manager of the organization. By profession he is an economist.

One of the main focuses of Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO's activities has been and still remains the work with volunteers. Each year, over three dozen volunteers are involved in the activities of our organization. During the seven years of organization's functioning, more than 200 local and 30 international volunteers were engaged in volunteer work at PINK from world famous universities such as the Universities of London and Uppsala (Sweden), Durham University (UK), Duke University, the University of the South and Columbia University (USA), National University of Singapore (Singapore), etc. Volunteers input their knowledge and skills in the development and realization of tolerance, diversity, respect and human rights. Moreover, PINK Armenia's members get the opportunity to volunteer in different European countries through the European Voluntary Service, and also take part in various training courses and events.

On International Volunteer Day (December 5) PINK Armenia organizes various events and discussions every year. The purpose of such events and discussions is to promote volunteerism in Armenia, to contribute to the development of culture of volunteering, to encourage voluntary activities in general, and what is important, to thank the volunteers for their outstanding contributions, activities and support.





Beneficiaries,
services
and activities

In order to achieve its mission and strategic objectives, PINK Armenia carries out the following activities and provides beneficiaries with the following services.

Trainings and workshops

Trainings on sexually transmitted infections

Trainings on human rights

Trainings on sexuality

Trainings for civil society development

Trainings on leadership and communication

Trainings on Integrated Security

Trainings on how to prevent hate speech and hate crimes

Counseling

Counseling about sexual health and sexually transmitted infections

Social Work counseling

Psychological counseling

Legal counseling

Public and social events

Public and social events on sexual health

Public and social events on human rights

Public and social events to reduce LGBT-phobia

Public and social events on women's rights

Public and social events to prevent hate speech and hate crime

Public and social events to prevent bullying, LGBT bullying

Cultural events

Capacity building

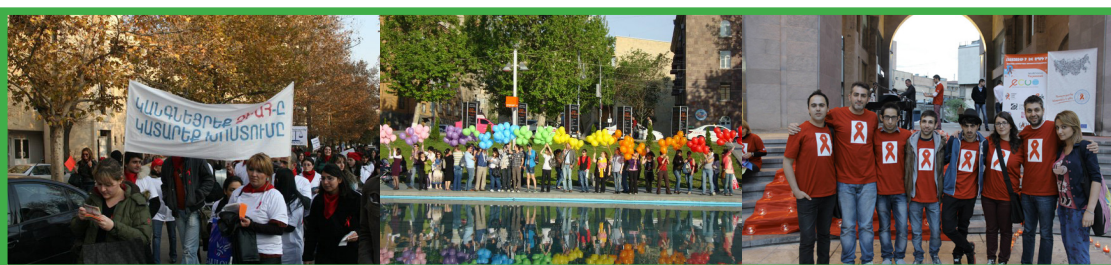
Preparation of educational materials about sexually transmitted infections

Preparation of educational materials on sexuality issues

Researches on LGBTI issues

Movie screenings

Promotion of volunteering in human rights protection activities and active citizenship



Prevention of STIs

Distribution of free of charge condoms, lubricants and information materials for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections

Organization of free of charge and anonymous testing on STIs

Outreach work for engaging new people in sexual health activities

Human rights protection and advocacy

Advocacy of issues regarding sexually transmitted infections and AIDS

Advocacy of LGBTI issues

Legal services for most at risk population towards HIV

Advocacy of PLHIV's rights (people living with HIV)

Advocacy of pain reduction issues

"Prevention of Domestic Violence" law advocacy

Anti-discrimination law advocacy

Preparation of annual reports

Preparation of alternative shadow reports to present to state bodies and international organizations

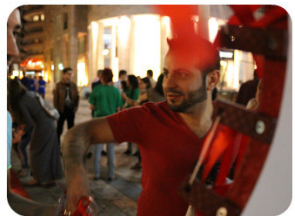
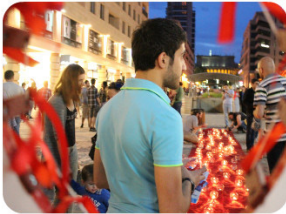
Strategic litigation

Preparation of letters, applications and all needed documents

Advocacy in protection of interests in governmental and non-governmental institutions

Trial monitoring

Projects implemented by
Public Information and
Need of Knowledge NGO
in the period of 2007-2014



Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections

Duration: 2007 - ongoing

Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO has implemented this projects since 2007, aiming to prevent sexually transmitted infections among young people. The program includes a number of components:

- Raising awareness among young people about sexual health with peer education method

- Conducting trainings on sexual health in Yerevan and regions of Armenia

- Dissemination of information on sexual health, in particular, on sexually transmitted infections through leaflets, posters and public events,

- Providing anonymous and confidential counseling on sexual health and human rights protection,

- Distribution of charge free condoms, lubricants and informational materials for the purpose of preventing sexually transmitted infections,

- Organization of free testing for STIs and HIV,

- Organization of public events for raising public awareness on sexual health and human rights,

- Outreach work to involve new people in sexual health programs.

More than 70,000 condoms have been distributed through the project, about 600 people received VCT service (Voluntary Counseling and Testing) and relevant treatment was provided. Nearly 4,500 people attended trainings and received educational and informational materials.

Diversity

Duration: 2010-2013

Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO implemented “Diversity” project, with the intent of reaching a high level of acceptance of diversity, mutual respect and cultural sensitivity by promoting the ideas of tolerance, respect, and anti-discrimination.

The activities and events organized during the “Diversity” project lead to the promotion and to better understanding of human rights both as a theory and as a practical tool to use in daily life, realities and situations, as well as in case of abuses, abuse reporting, etc. This project initially aimed to bring positive changes, to nurture and promote the ideas of equality, civil society, as well as to fight the negative taboos, stereotypes and to eliminate discriminatory attitudes of the society.

In the framework of “Diversity” project the trainers of the organization conducted the “Knowledge and Rights” training course in Yerevan and regions of Armenia. “Knowledge and Rights” is a two-day training for youth from Yerevan and regions, which aims to gather youth around values such as cultural diversity, respect towards different groups of society and their rights. During the trainings, with the use of non-formal education methods, the youth get acquainted with stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, human rights and basic principles of democracy. They receive fundamental knowledge which boosts the development of critical and analytical thinking. Overall, 30 trainings were conducted in Yerevan and 17 in other cities, which were attended by a total of 680 people.

“GATE” (Gender, Activism, Tolerance, Equality) camp is organized for young people who fully attended the two-day “Knowledge and Rights” training, who are motivated to gain deeper knowledge on topics discussed during the training course and to practice their knowledge for the development of their communities. It unites motivated youth from Armenia to promote the activism on regards to gender issues and sexuality in Armenia. Topics such as gender equality, feminism, sexuality, civic activism, leadership, as well as other topics are being examined in depth during the camp. As a result, the participants work together on thematic videos, posters and organization of activities. Overall 60 young people

have participated in the “GATE” camp in frames of the “Diversity” project, later to become leaders in their respective communities as well as peer educators.

The “As you” electronic magazine was launched in frames of “Diversity” project. “As you” is an alternative platform for the dissemination of information, where various articles are being published on topics such as civil society, human rights, gender, sexual health, social justice: topics that have been left out from mainstream media, and that are not being addressed. In frames of the project, a total of 40 000 people got acquainted with 7 editions of “As you” e-magazine, which comprises 100 different articles.

“Sexuality and Sexual Health” two-day trainings were regularly organized in frames of “Diversity” project, which aimed to provide information about the components of sexuality (biological sex, sexual orientation, sexual and gender identity, etc.), sexual health (sexually transmitted infections, the ways of transmission and prevention) to interested audiences. In total a number of 240 people took part in this training. The trainings were conducted in the city of Yerevan.

After the end of “Diversity” project, the program was continued with a new project: “Social Education and Empowerment”.



Legal Clinic for Most-at-Risk Population

Duration: 2011 - ongoing



The HIV infection epidemic has become a global crisis and has become a barrier to the development of Millennium Challenges. The protection of human rights of most-at-risk population toward HIV infection (injecting drug users, sex-workers and men having sex with men), as well as those who are living with HIV, has key and strategic importance. People belonging to the above mentioned groups are generally left out of public health programs and they do not receive support and appropriate services.

Furthermore, in Armenia, these marginalized groups are subjected to discrimination and the trampling-upon of their human rights in nearly all aspects of life. There are several organizations and institutions in Armenia which try to work in the field of protecting the rights of members of these marginalized groups. Unfortunately, there is a lack of coordination in the field, as well as the services are not addressed properly and specified quite often, which would allow to solve the issues affecting these people. The stigma, the discrimination and the public's intolerant attitude towards these people not only create opportunities for the trampling of human rights, but also builds up obstacles to these people's inclusion in public health, HIV protection, support and care programs and services.

The trampling of the rights of those who are highly vulnerable to HIV, as well as those who live with HIV, has two main sources. First, there are gaps and deficiencies in state laws. Second, common prejudices and so-called "traditional attitude" towards people who are vulnerable toward HIV. These main issues remain not raised, undiscussed behind closed doors and are not given public attention.

Concerned with these issues, as well as within the protection of human

rights and the accessibility of provision of addressed services, “Real World, Real People” and “Public Information and Need of Knowledge” (PINK Armenia) NGOs, since July of 2011, have cooperatively started to implement the “Legal Clinic for Most at Risk Population” project.

According to the project the organizations aim to increase the involvement of most at risk population in HIV prevention programs via provision of coordinated and competent legal services. The organizations also pursue the goal to create a basis for change of policies, laws and practices through fair, public and strategic litigation.

The organizations involved in the implementation of “Legal Clinic for Most at Risk Population” project provide the following services to the beneficiaries: people living with HIV, injecting drug users, sex workers and men having sex with men, in a timely and geographical manner:

- legal counseling,

- applications, claims and other necessary documents,

- visits to the police station if the beneficiary has been illegally arrested or brought to police station,

- advocacy in governmental and non-governmental bodies,

- representation in courts for civic and criminal proceedings (in certain cases),

- provision of information on human rights.

During 2011-2014, the services provided within this project have been used by 200 people from vulnerable groups such as LGBT (82 people), people living with HIV (65), female sex workers (20), injection drug users (23), as well as people who are in need of palliative care (10). In terms of 4 cases out of 200, the organization started implementing strategic litigations.

Strategic Litigations

In the framework of the “Legal Clinic” project the organization also implements strategic litigation of selected cases, which allows to significantly

reform the legislation, practice or to raise public awareness on the issues by filing complaints of the selected cases in the courts. Despite the fact that the primary objective of the strategic case is the presentation of a complaint brought by a particular person in the courts, it is also aimed at ensuring justice for a whole group of people, who may appear to experience similar or comparable situations. Moreover, strategic litigation is a legal instrument that allows achieving social, legal and political change through individual litigations of human rights violations, thereby creating legal precedents.

During 2011-2014, the organization had four strategic litigation cases, two of which are already in the European Court of Human Rights. Hate crime motivated by sexual orientation and gender identity is on the basis of one of 4 cases. The three other cases are referring to hate speech and violence propaganda. These cases are precedents, as there is delimitation in texts spreading hate between the concepts of hate speech and freedom of speech. Furthermore, those who make hate speech along with the general public are unaware of the illegality of said action and its possible consequences. The primary issue is that the legislation of the Republic of Armenia does not provide any legal act that would define hate speech or prescribe liability for such incidents. That is, hate speech is not defined; therefore it is not prohibited in RA legislation, which contributes to the continuing impunity for such illegal activities.

ACT - Advocate, Care, Transform: Now More Than Ever

Human rights are inextricably linked with the prevention of the spread of HIV and they directly impact the quality of life of individuals affected by it. A lack of respect for human rights promotes the spread of the disease, while at the same time HIV undermines progress in the realization of human rights. It is also apparent in the fact that the spread of the epidemic today is a greater problem in developing countries, where the disease threatens to reverse vital achievements in human development. The protection of human rights is therefore essential in preventing the spread of HIV. The protection of human rights also mitigates the impact of the pandemic in social and economic affairs. An effective international response to the pandemic therefore must be grounded in respect for all civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights.

Within this project, a march was held on December 1st, in the vicinity of universities, during which the participants of the march distributed informational materials and leaflets about prevention of HIV/AIDS to passersby. “HIV/AIDS and Human Rights” training was organized in frames of this project with more than 170 students of universities in Yerevan. 12 journalists were provided with information about the importance of human rights protection in the process of HIV/AIDS prevention, on how to cover materials concerning most-at-risk population towards HIV, on the role of journalists in the formation of public opinion on the aforementioned issues, and how they affect the HIV prevention processes in Armenia with their work.



After the trainings, talk shows, debates, as well as educational and informational programs have been organized on different TV stations and various platforms. Trainings were also organized on the declaration “HIV/AIDS and human rights: Now More than Ever” and about human rights protection and HIV/AIDS issues advocacy for activists dealing with HIV/AIDS issues in Armenia, which had a total of 28 activists as participants. In 2011, “HIV/AIDS Issues Advocate 2011” award ceremony was organized in frames of World AIDS Day. Awards were given in six categories of HIV/AIDS issues advocacy for prominent activities in the sphere of HIV/AIDS prevention and human rights, which is as follows: public figure, international organization, local NGO, state institution, media and cultural figures. And in frames of Human Rights Day, a mobile exhibition “ACT” was launched with the participation of young people. The exhibition was held in the cities of Yerevan, Vanadzor and Gyumri; and posters were prepared with the photos selected by jury.

Social Empowerment and Education

Duration: 2013 - 2016

Since 2013, Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO began implementing the “Social Empowerment and Education” project, which is the continuation of “Diversity” project. The project aims to develop consolidation and civic activism in Armenia by empowering civic activists and community leaders for non-discriminative approach, successful and realistic growth of democracy.

In the framework of this project the organization had the opportunity to expand its services to include the services of social worker and psychologist. Thus, since 2013 the organization managed to provide a complete package of services to its beneficiaries; results came shortly after.

During a one year period the psychologist of the organization carried out 137 individual counseling, 27 group meetings, as well as facilitated various group work activities. 20 people made use of the individual counseling provided by the social worker. Moreover, the social worker organized different thematic discussions, trainings, seminars, movie screenings and other events every week which were attended by nearly 300 people.



The “Social Justice Begins with You” training is conducted in frames of “Social Empowerment and Education” project, the goal of which is to unite youth over the topics such as social justice and everyone’s role in reaching social justice. During 2014, the training was conducted 10 times, including 5 trainings in Yerevan and 5 trainings in 5 regions, which were attended by 135 young people.



The most motivated and interested young people who attend “Social Justice Begins with You” trainings also get the opportunity to take part in “GATE” camp, which has become a tradition. During 2014, the organization initiated one “GATE” camp, which was attended by 20 young people from Yerevan and 5 regions. In frames of the project “As you” e-magazine is continuing to be released, which has been published 4 times during 2014, and had 14,000 views.

In frames of this project the organization is also working with journalists and civic activists, by discussing with them the issues of tolerance, sexuality and gender. The organization also initiates lectures and discussions on different topics for interested people, beneficiaries, and civic activists and invites different experts as speakers.

LGBT Month

Duration: April – May, 2012

Various events and activities were implemented by PINK Armenia within the project “LGBT Month” with the purpose to enhance LGBT rights protection through engaging into dialogue with youth, mass media and non-governmental organizations. Within the frameworks of “LGBT Month” we have conducted 3 discussions for students about tolerance and homophobia; 60 students participated in this event. 2-day workshops were organized for mass media and NGO representatives on sexuality and LGBT rights. The organization published booklets about homophobia which were distributed during different public events, conferences and meetings (600 examples).



For the Day of Silence we prepared and distributed postcards by which we made LGBT rights violations more visible. Besides, we conducted a press conference for media, during which two representatives of PINK outlined specifically on bullying and discrimination at educational institutions focusing on LGBT people.

In May, we successfully held “LGBT Rights in Armenia: Silenced Reality” conference to discuss LGBT situation in Armenia. Representatives of non-governmental, international and governmental organizations, as well

as representatives from embassies, members of local non-governmental organizations, civic activists and interested members of LGBT community attended the conference.

On May 17, International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia, PINK organized a campaign in Yerevan streets named “I am not a homophobe” and distributed informative materials about homophobia and pens (300 examples), on which it was written “I am not a homophobe”.

On May 21, 2012, the organization planned to hold a “Diversity” march, where the representatives of the organization, as well as other activists from civil society (about 30 people) who took the streets to celebrate the cultural diversity in our country, were subjected to the attack of 200 aggressive nationalists, which blocked not only the natural process of the march, but also the originally planned “(IN)VALUABLE” exhibition.

To date, none of the organizers of the attack bore responsibility for organizing and carrying out the attack. Moreover, that incident became key criteria for the growth of the society’s homophobic sentiments. The attack on “Diversity” march by the nationalistic group was justified and praised by the Armenian Apostolic Church clergy; many of the MPs and government representatives made statements and justified the attack on a peaceful march in their speeches.



Advocacy of anti-discrimination legislation in Armenia

Duration: September – December, 2012

In 2012, after the explosion of LGBT friendly bar “DIY” and the attack on “Diversity” march, as well as in a result of society’s intolerance towards LGBT people, the atmosphere of impunity on regards to such cases, the matter of the necessity of having advocacy of anti-discrimination legislation came to the agenda of the organization.

The organization conducted various meetings to discuss the necessity of anti-discrimination legislation among other civil society groups and non-governmental organizations, who also work with vulnerable groups and on the matter of combating discrimination.

Those meetings resulted in the formation of different working groups, who analyzed the international anti-discrimination practices, as well as justified the necessity of having a separate piece of legislation to regulate the issues of discrimination during the legal analysis. Although this project lasted four months, the struggle against discrimination, as well as the issues concerning the advocacy of an inclusive and comprehensive legislation to regulate the issues of discrimination are still in the center of the organization’s activities until now.



Strengthening the Human Rights Situation of LGBT in the South Caucasus

Duration: 2012-2013

The purpose of implementing the “Strengthening the Human Rights Situation of LGBT in the South Caucasus” project was to increase the level of LGBT rights protection by involving heterosexual people in the movement in Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

In the first phase of the project the program’s partner organizations conducted a monitoring in their countries to find out the situation of LGBT rights, as well as the prevalence of rights violation cases in particular sectors and institutions: education, employment, healthcare, military, police, etc. Based on the analysis of data collected during the study, organizations of each country singled out specific areas to try to reduce the cases of rights violations as well as to foster an atmosphere of tolerance in the chosen fields through implementation of various programs.

From the analyzes of the study, PINK Armenia singled out the sphere of education as such, in frames of which it organized campaigns which were aimed at decreasing the level of discrimination against LGBT people and bullying in educational institutions. In frames of this project the organization implemented the “Day of Silence” event, in frames of which the “Day of Silence” page was created in Facebook. A press conference was also organized on the “Day of Silence” which was covered by 10 news media and had a total of 800,000 views. With the purpose of prevention of bullying and violence in educational institutions, the volunteers and staff of the organization recorded two social videos, which were quite successful, and one of them was also introduced in various competitions (“One Shot, One Minute” film festival, a video competition on human rights organized by UN, etc.).

We and Our Rights

Duration: 2009 - 2011

Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO conducted the project called “We and Our Rights”, the aim of which was to gather information about discrimination and cases of human rights violations of LGBT people, to clarify how well does the legislation of the Republic of Armenia protect the rights and the duties of LGBT people, as well as to develop a set of recommendations for LGBT rights protection.

The project consisted of two phases. Sociological research with LGBT community was conducted during the first phase of the project to find out their problems and human rights violations in different spheres of public life; a comprehensive legal and political analysis of RA legislative framework and existing policies for LGBT Rights was also conducted.

During the second phase of the Project the organization conducted a study on public opinion toward LGBT people in Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor cities. A set of recommendations were developed in the result of the study, which was presented and discussed both with governmental employees and other stakeholders.

This project was groundbreaking and historical, as it was the first time on the same platform representative from governmental, international and local institutions discussed LGBT rights, expressed their concerns and suggestions.



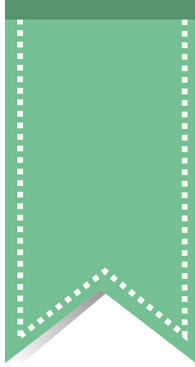
LGBT Role Models

Duration: July – November, 2014

The purpose of this project was to bring into discussion the discourses of homophobia and tolerance, as well as to empower LGBT community and community members through networking with Georgian and Armenian LGBT activists.

Various events have been organized for LGBT community members in frames of the project on how to prepare handmade materials, how to make stencil art and street art attributes, trainings and discussions on coming out were organized. Discussions on various topics, including “LGBT situation in South Caucasus”, “Internalized homophobia among Armenian and Georgian LGBT communities”, “The impact of territorial conflicts on LGBT situations” were organized together with Georgian partners and activists. Overall, 132 representatives of LGBT community and allies took part in the project.





Researches, studies and shadow reports

One of the main activities of PINK Armenia is the initiation and implementation of researches, studies on various topics, as well as preparing and submitting shadow reports to international human rights networks and organizations.

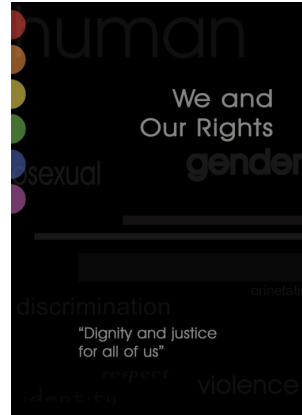
Prior to the creation of Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO, there were little to no research projects conducted on LGBT issues in the Armenian language.

From the first years of the organization's operation the staff of the organization noticed that in order to make our activities more efficient and targeted, we need to have such researches, which would let us understand the existing problems in our society, their nature, prevalence, the stereotypes and prejudices which lay in the roots of discrimination against LGBT people.

Moreover, the implementation of researches and studies allow us to bring out the possible ways of solving problems in recommendations and conclusions by summing up the findings of the researches. Below we present the researches, studies and shadow reports conducted by PINK Armenia.

“We and Our Rights”

“We and our rights” is a sociological research and legal analysis composed of two stages. Research aimed to find out the forms of discrimination and intolerance that LGBT people experience in their everyday life from workplace, healthcare, educational and informational, human rights and other institutions, as well as to find out the extent to which LGBT rights are protected in Armenia. We also had the purpose to determine the extent to which the society is informed about issues concerning sexuality, LGBT people, as well as the public attitude towards LGBT people.



We and Our Rights: sociological research, 2010

The implementation of “We and Our Rights: sociological research” allowed us to obtain accurate information on LGBT rights violation cases and how they affected their lives and lifestyle directly from LGBT people.

An individual cannot consider himself or herself to be a full and equal citizen of a state when his or her rights are being violated by the public. As a result of this study it became clear that discrimination toward LGBT people begins in the family, which can manifest itself through breaking off all contact, kicking them out of the house and disowning them.

Afterwards, discrimination continues in nearly all stages and facets of life: study and work, military service, healthcare and other services, media, entertainment, and so on. Cases of violating anonymity and confidentiality, which more often take place in media publications and establishments that provide healthcare services and psychological support, legal bodies or military commissariats, are not uncommon either.

LGBT people do not separate their rights from the rights of others; on the contrary they criticize any experience that sets them apart. According to LGBT respondents, they have an equal right to not be alienated and isolated from the public, not to be ridiculed, victimized, persecuted, and what is most important, to be accepted. According to the analysis of data

collected during the survey we can conclude that in order to improve the situation of LGBT people in Armenia on one hand, it is necessary to implement legislative reform and track its process of execution to exclude any form of discrimination against LGBT people, on the other hand, to carry out activities in different sectors and levels to change public opinion which will promote increasing respect toward human rights, sowing the seeds of tolerance, as well as positive step toward the process of democracy in the Republic of Armenia.

We and Our Rights: legal research, 2010

In this stage of the implementation of the research an attempt was made to find out how well the legal field actually guarantees the protection of LGBT people – citizens of our country, what are the guarantees of rights protection in the current legislation, as well as what kind of complex events exist or are expected to exclude hate crimes on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and relevant definition of punishment in case of such acts.

By analyzing the information gathered during the research, a general picture of LGBT rights was amassed, including the perception of LGBT persons of their rights, their opinions on discriminatory demeanor and expression of homophobic behavior in various regions of Armenia, as well as compared to other states. As a result of this legal analysis the experts came to the conclusion that not only is the justice system that regulates the sector in which LGBT people's rights should be protected in the Republic of Armenia not united, but also legislative definitions within the boundaries of understanding and the legislative formation connected to this sector, which would guarantee the possibility of protecting their rights, are actually absent from legislation.

Since 2008, the Republic of Armenia signed and ratified international agreements and joined various declarations on sexual orientation and gender identity, where elimination of any kind of discrimination against LGBT people is enshrined. These documents mainly condemn discriminatory attitude with respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. Many of these agreements have been signed and ratified by the Republic of Armenia, by which the state undertook obligation to implement these provisions.

We and Our Rights: Public attitude toward LGBT persons in Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, 2011

“Public attitude toward LGBT persons in Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor: 2011” is a quantitative social survey the scope of which is to accumulate and to analyze quantitative data on the following problems:

Vulnerable groups in Armenia,

Knowledge of LGBT persons,

Attitude/stance regarding LGBT persons.

Overall, 1156 interviews were conducted in Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor.

The outcome of the research has shown that Armenian society does not regard LGBT people as a vulnerable group. It can be assumed that the negative attitude with respect to LGBT people is conditioned by the lack of information and knowledge on sexual orientation and gender identity. The research has clearly validated that there are problems as regards to perception and attitude that LGBT people receive. 71, 5% of respondents consider that the state should fight against LGBT people.



This survey is the first of its kind for Armenia, and it is critically important. The survey gives a chance not only to grasp the Armenian realities, it is also a base for further steps, and it will serve as an initial comprehensive source of information for the successive surveys as well.

Thus, in Armenia LGBT persons nowadays are perceived in a way that the left-handers, for instance, were perceived decades ago – as “deviated” which shall be “helped out” in order them to “become normal” and those who disobey, shall be removed or alienated from the society.

LGBT rights monitoring in Armenia, 2013

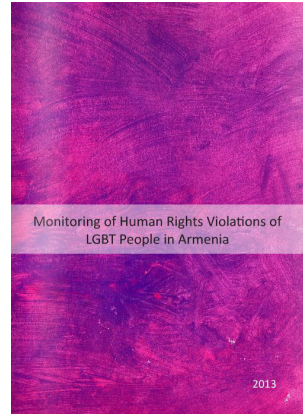
During September-October 2012 Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO scheduled and implemented LGBT rights monitoring.

The monitoring had a purpose to study the situation of LGBT rights in Armenia focusing on the two previous years. This monitoring was intended to supplement two researches conducted earlier by Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO, which were implemented as a part of “We and Our Rights” project.

During the monitoring LGBT rights violations were studied in institutions and spheres of life such as education, employment, family, health-care, police, army, religion and social life.

Overall, 111 people took part in the survey, from which 13 are females and 98 are males.

During the monitoring of the survey some interesting details were brought out about LGBT people’s rights violations in different spheres that were studied.



Based on the information collected and analyzed during the “LGBT rights violations monitoring” Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO developed a pack of recommendations addressed to RA state bodies, mass media, non-governmental organizations, office of the Ombudsman, as well as to international organization working in the sphere of human rights.

Armenia is proclaimed as a democratic country, the basic guideline of which is the institutionalizing and implementing of liberal values. Therefore, the state and all interested governmental bodies, acting within the framework of the Constitution and existing laws need to contribute to the process of forming the society as a bearer of a democratic culture.

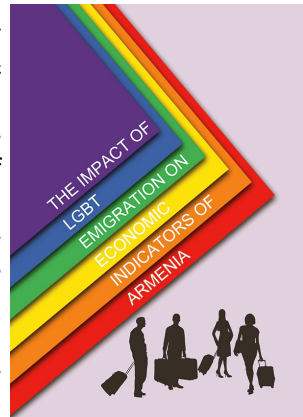
The Impact of LGBT Emigration on Economic Indicators of Armenia, 2014

How to show that LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) people are a part of society and that their identity does not diminish the fact of being useful for the state? One of the means: to conduct a socio-economic research to find out what benefits they can provide with their workforce and what the losses are for the state in case of their isolation.

As for GDP not received, Armenia lost \$88,365,000 during 2011-2013, and budget revenues for the same period of time could have been more by \$20 million had the LGBT individuals who left the country due to discrimination remained. The state budget will lose around \$2 billion in revenue, at purchasing power as of January 1, 2014, over the course of more than the following 36 years (until retirement).

As a result of LGBT emigration in the following twelve years, from 2014 to 2025, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will have a loss of \$3 billion at purchasing power as of January 1, 2014, adjusted for Purchasing Power Parity (PPP), while the budget will lose \$370 million at purchasing power as of January 1, 2014.

This is proved by the socio-economic study “The Impact of LGBT Emigration on Economic Indicators of Armenia”, which aimed to study the impact of LGBT emigration on economic indicators of Armenia during 2011-2013 as a result of discrimination against the LGBT community and to reflect those changes in a long-term perspective. Expert surveys demonstrate that in contrast to other emigrants, whose main reasons for leaving the country are economic problems, LGBT people mostly leave because of the existing discrimination against them.



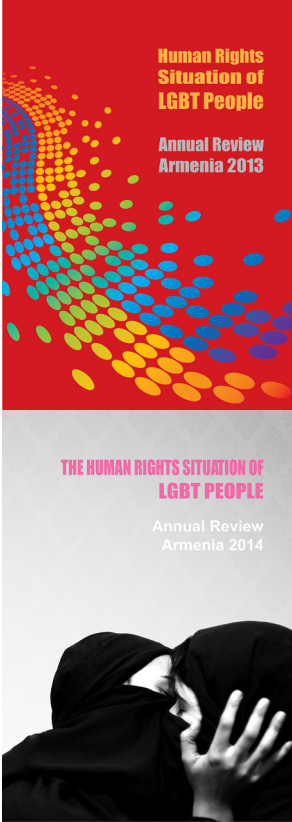
The elimination of discrimination in the labor market is the most important step, which will allow the struggle against discrimination to take place in other spheres as well, placing society on a more democratic footing. It is clear that the process of economic development is a much more complicated and lengthy process, taking into account the need to solve not only internal but also external problems (the above said does not mean that

economic development policy is secondary or impossible to implement). However, the emigration caused due to psychosocial factors is easily manageable for state institutions if a responsible approach and required targeting is demonstrated. Therefore, if there is consistent state policy, we believe that the social and psychological stress will reduce, and, of course, significant reduction of emigration from Armenia and emigration sentiments will be observed, especially among LGBT people, for whom the psychosocial stimuli for emigration are a priority.

Human Rights Situation of LGBT people in Armenia: Annual Reviews 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

Since 2011, every year the organization has addressed to LGBT rights violation cases, LGBT issues and changes in social life, which, somehow, relate to LGBT rights protection, as well as the major cases of discrimination on basis of sexual orientation and gender identity by summing them up in the report “Human Rights Situation of LGBT people”. The report provides a brief description of cases and events that took place during a year both in national, regional and local levels by documenting public sentiments on LGBT human rights.

In these reports the organization summarizes various cases of violence, hate speech and discrimination, addresses to the role of state in fighting or promoting discrimination against LGBT people, as well as to the prevalence of certain violations of rights. Realizing the importance and success of annual report 2011 the organization made the publication and printing such reports an annual practice.



Alternative Reports

Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO regularly submits shadow reports to various international human rights institutions to shed light on the widespread and systematic nature of the discrimination shown towards LGBT people and members of other minority groups.

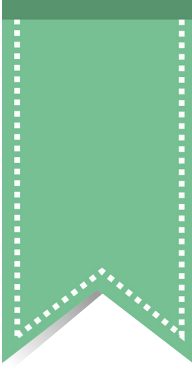
Human Rights Violations of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) People in Armenia: Shadow Report – Submitted for consideration at the 105th Session of the Human Rights Committee, July 2012, Geneva

This report is a joint submission by the Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO, the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights, ILGA-Europe: The European region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, and The George Washington University Law School International Human Rights Clinic to the United Nations Human Rights Committee on the occasion of its consideration of the State of Republic of Armenia's implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) at the 105th session taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 9th to 27th July 2012.

In particular, the report summarized the violations of rights enshrined in the Covenant on regards to LGBT people, as well as the country's responsibility to prevent hate crimes and to create a favorable environment for the protection of human rights.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) shadow report: The status of human rights of women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people in the Republic of Armenia

In 2014, "Public Information and Need of Knowledge", "Society Without Violence", "Women's Resource Center" and "Women's Support Center" NGOs with the support of the Human Rights House Foundation submitted a joint shadow report to the 21st session of the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The report emphasized the existence and prevalence of discrimination against women and various forms of violence, the propaganda of hatred against LGBT people, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as the threats and risks against human rights defenders, who are in particularly involved in the human rights protection of women and LGBT people.



Despite its young age, the organization has managed to excel with its transparent, open and dedicated work. It has established strong cooperation with local and international organizations functioning in the sphere of sexual health and human rights protection.



PINK Armenia is a member of **South Caucasus Network of Human Rights Defenders**. It unites 30 human rights NGOs in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The Network seeks to facilitate the creation of a safer and more enabling environment for human rights defenders in the South Caucasus and to strengthen their voices in the region and internationally.



PINK Armenia is also one of the co-founders of the **Human Rights House Yerevan**. This body unites 11 organizations working in various fields related to human rights protection aiming to create “one access window” services for the beneficiaries and by this eliminate the difficulties that visitors may face for getting support and services for their human rights protection.



In 2010 seven NGOs including PINK Armenia have established the **Coalition to Stop Violence against Women**, formed on the occasion of the tragic death of 20 year old Zaruhi Petrosyan, a victim of domestic violence. Within the frames of the coalition, PINK Armenia strives to protect women’s rights and to put an end to domestic violence, as well as advocates for passing the law on “Prevention of Domestic Violence” in Armenia.



Due to active cooperation with several organizations which are concerned with sexual health, HIV/AIDS and human rights protection issues in Armenia, Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO has conducted various public and social events both in Yerevan and in the regions of Armenia. These strong ties between the partners have brought us to the idea of creation of **Advocacy and Research Group on AIDS**. The initiators of it are Public Information and Need of Knowledge, Real World Real People, Women Resource Center and Positive People Armenian Network NGOs. The group aims to take joint actions for the rights advocacy and rights protection of vulnerable groups and bring public attention to the importance and urgency of sexual health issues.



Our organization is also a member of **AIDS Action Europe**, which was established in 2004 and has grown to be one of the largest HIV-related networks in the region. The network reaches beyond the borders of the European Union and covers all 53 countries in Europe and Central Asia. The mission is to unite civil society to work towards a more effective response to the HIV epidemic in Europe and Central Asia. Members of this network comprise a diversity of about 400 NGOs, national networks, AIDS service organizations, activists and community based groups of people living with HIV.

In 2012-2015, PINK Armenia was member of **Country Coordinating Mechanisms to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (CCM)**. Country Coordinating Mechanisms are central to the Global Fund's commitment to local ownership and participatory decision-making. Country Coordinating Mechanisms include representatives from both the public and private sectors, including governments, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, private businesses and people living with the diseases.

Since 2012, PINK is also member of **Ethical Committee of the National Center for AIDS Prevention of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia.**

In 2011 PINK Armenia joined **Regional Network against Homophobia.** The target of the network is to form Middle East, Caucasus, and Balkan Countries LGBT Network for the struggle against homophobia. Network aims for a social, cultural and political life in the region where LGBT can express them and live without hiding themselves. Moreover, Network seeks to organize LGBT people directly in their regions and existing organizations to become stronger through regional solidarity. As well as, it aims for the media in the region to change its discriminatory, militarist, sexist and homophobic language which produces hate and ignites nationalism, and development of a peaceful media.



In 2011 PINK Armenia became a member of ILGA and ILGA-Europe. ILGA is a worldwide federation of 1100 member organizations from 110 countries campaigning for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex rights since 1978. ILGA-Europe works for equality and human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans & intersex (LGBTI) people at the European level. ILGA-Europe advocates for human rights and equality for LGBTI people at the European level, before organizations such as the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).



Since October 2013, PINK Armenia is member of **United** Network, which is European Network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees. United coordinates, supports and strengthens a network of 560 organizations from 46 European countries. The member organizations of the network share values such as intercultural communication, diversity and Human Rights. United is working on issues, such as direct and indirect forms of discrimination, hate crimes and intolerance and highlight intercultural understanding, equal rights for all.



2008

Prevention of sexually transmitted infections (6 months)

Funded by Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway, Moscow – 7,900
EUR

Co-funded by the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Sport and Youth
Affairs – 507,000 AMD

2009

We and Our Rights (6 months)

Funded by Counterpart International Armenia – 3,408,400 AMD

Masculinity: Breaking Stereotypes (6 months)

Funded by Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway, Moscow –
75,925 NOK

2010

Diversity (2 years, 5 months)

Funded by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – 720,000 NOK

2011

We and Our Rights (6 months)

Funded by Counterpart International Armenia – 2,377,500 AMD

Legal Clinic for Most-at-Risk Population (1 year)

Funded by Open Society Foundations Armenia, through Real World, Real People NGO – 5,334,610 AMD

HIV/AIDS Prevention among MSM in Lori and Shirak Marzes (1 year and 4 months)

Funded by Global Fund, through Mission East Humanitarian Aid Organization – 53,764 EUR

2012

Strengthening the Human Rights Situation of LGBT in the South Caucasus (10 months)

Funded by COC Netherlands – 16,515 EUR

Anti discrimination advocacy (4 months)

Funded by Open Society Foundations - Armenia – 3,356 USD

Strategic Litigation (1 year)

Funded by Open Society Foundations Armenia – 4,720 USD

Legal Clinic for Most-at-Risk Population (1 year)

Funded by Open Society Foundations Armenia, through Real World, Real People NGO – 6,685,520 AMD

HIV/AIDS Prevention among MSM in Yerevan (3 years)

Funded by Global Fund, through Mission East Humanitarian Aid Organization – 74,071 EUR

Urgent evacuation

Funded by Urgent Action Fund – 1,488 USD

Purchasing Security Measures

Funded by Front Line Defenders – 1,511 EUR

2013

Social Empowerment and Education (3 years)

Funded by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – 1,145,000 NOK

“Domestic Violence Law Advocacy” (on behalf of Coalition to Stop Violence against Women) (4 months)

Funded by Open Society Foundations - Armenia – 10,640 USD

2014

Legal Clinic for Most-at-Risk Population (1 year)

Funded by Open Society Foundations Armenia, through Real World, Real People NGO – 6,855,890 AMD

LGBT Role Models (4 months)

Funded by Heinrich Böll Stiftung– 3,788 EUR

Strategic Litigation (1 year)

Funded by Open Society Foundations - Armenia – 4,000 USD

Integrated Security Workshop (1 month)

Funded by the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation – 4,042 EUR

Core funding (1 year)

Funded by Sigrid Rausing Trust – 20,000 GBP

Financial Policy of the Organization

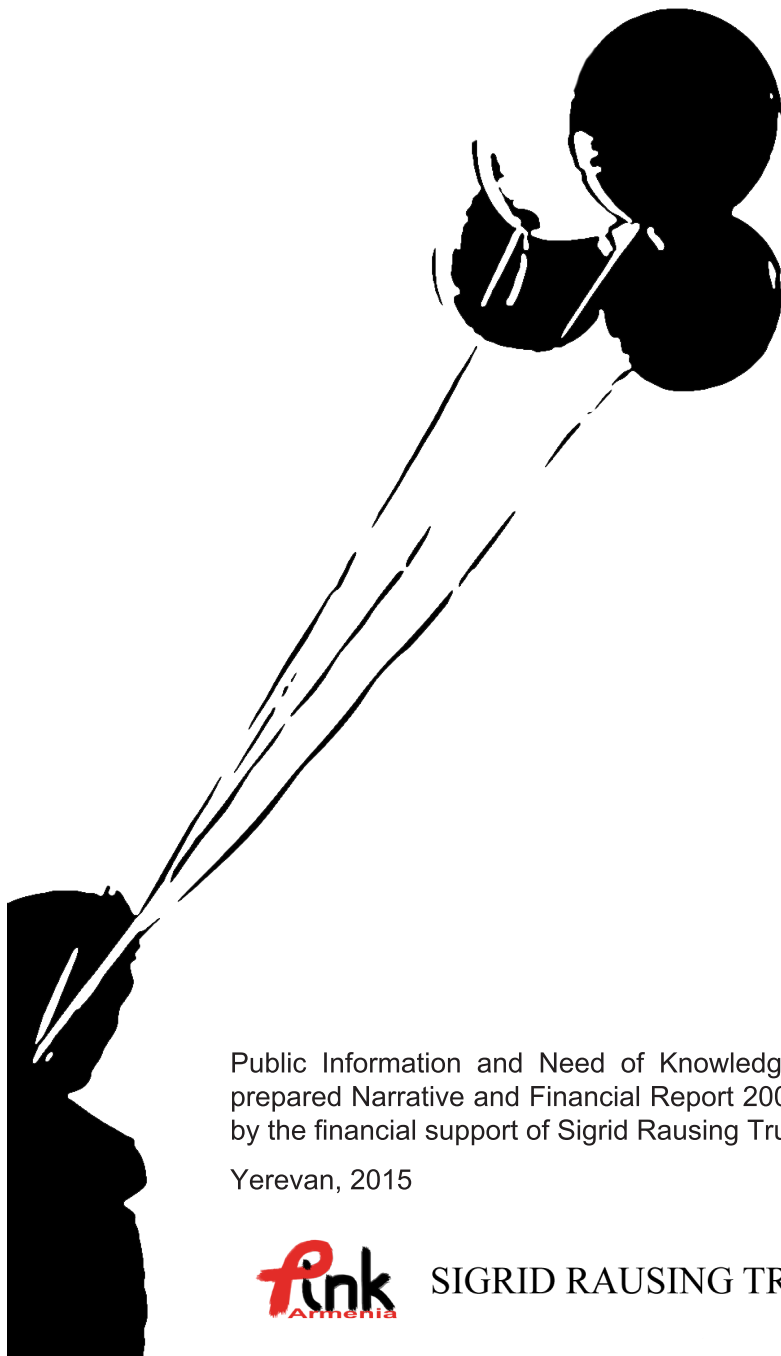
The organization has a financial policy which regulates both internal processes, and relations with organizations providing grants.

The organization ensures its financial resources through grants. A working group is formed for the purpose of applying to a grant, which presents a relevant project or a core-funding proposal to the donor organization.

The organization may also receive financial means through membership fees and donations.

The organization does not apply nor receives funds from such resources, whose income is formed from the production and sale of alcohol, tobacco and illegal assets. It also does not use the grant programs from governments who apply repression, hatred and discriminatory laws against LGBT people.





Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO prepared Narrative and Financial Report 2007-2014 by the financial support of Sigrid Rausing Trust.

Yerevan, 2015



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