

REGIONAL

NEWSLETTER

COMBATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS



“Combating Gender Based Violence in the South Caucasus” project is a three-year initiative implemented in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and funded by the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and UNFPA. The project started to be implemented in April 2008.

The main aim of the Project is to create an environment to reduce GBV in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in order to support protection of human rights, gender equality and women’s participation.

The project constitutes a comprehensive and rights based response to the requests for assistance, and includes research and data collection, advocacy and awareness-raising, laws and legal reform and governmental action

plans, capacity building for prevention of GBV, protection and rehabilitation of GBV victims and inter-country collaboration on gender equality and gender based violence.

Overall the project, through promoting women’s rights, ensures protection of human rights, supports development of human capital and serves sustainable development, establishing a basis for democratic governance in the region.

The project is implemented through Project Coordination Units based in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia under the UNFPA Country Offices and a regional coordination unit at UNFPA Turkey Country Office.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women’s Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates, November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women and December 10, International Human Rights Day, in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.

The campaign aims at eliminating all forms of violence against women by raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue, strengthening local and international work around violence against women and creating tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to eliminate violence against women.

COMBATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

ARMENIA



On November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, UN agencies and projects officially launched “16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence” campaign in Armenia.

The same day, 16 Days of Activism Campaign Opening press conference took place at UN Conference Hall. The event featured speakers representing Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Armenia and UNFPA as the UN coordinating agency for 16 Days of Activism Campaign of the year 2009, and UNDP.

During the press conference a calendar of events was distributed to the audience. The planned activities focused on the cultural and national aspects of violence against women, including domestic violence (DV), trafficking and HIV/AIDS twin pandemics, men’s participation and role in combating GBV and the importance of the youth involvement. The calendar envisaged a number of activities, such as conferences, press conferences, public hearings, PSA airings, film screenings, meetings and seminars with NGOs, CBOs, students and local government representatives, which were to take place in Yerevan and other 10 marzes during the campaign.

This year’s campaign focused on the importance of male involvement in combating gender-based violence (GBV), as well as on the say men can have and the role they can play in combating violence against women. The project invited the young athlete, 2009 European Champion in Greco-Roman Style wrestling, Arsen Julfalakyan, to become 2009 White Ribbon Ambassador in Armenia in order to highlight the importance of men’s involvement in anti-GBV movement. The athlete condemned violence against women by clearly stating: “A Strong Man Will Never Abuse a Woman”. This statement, directed in the first place to the male population of Armenia, has become the leading message of the campaign and events organized by UNFPA CGBV project in Armenia.



The athlete’s image and his message were portrayed in the set of visual products used as ultimate awareness raising tools during the campaign. The PSA, two large outdoor banners and hundreds of posters were produced. Other information and visual materials produced by the project for the campaign included: information brochures on 16 Days of Activism campaign and GBV, HIV/AIDS and Trafficking; the White Ribbon Campaign leaflets and posters on 16 Days of Activism campaign. The launching of the campaign was widely covered by print, electronic, radio and TV media. The PSA on men against violence was broadcasted on LCD screens in Yerevan metro stations 20 times a day and aired on major (AR TV, H1, H2, Yerkir Media, and Yerevan) and regional TV channels of Armenia.

Series of thematic TV airings focusing on violence against women, male participation in anti-GBV movement and gender equality issues were broadcasted throughout Armenia. A number of national and regional TV channels aired interviews on 16 Days of Activism Campaign and reflected on the situation with GBV in Armenia.

COMBATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

ARMENIA



Throughout the campaign the project carried out awareness raising meetings in 11 Armenian marzes, including the capital, Yerevan. During these information meetings, information materials were distributed to the audiences of participants. Meetings with youth, which also included film screenings for the target groups of youth audiences, were held in marzes. During these meetings 3 PSAs on: Domestic Violence, Men Against Violence and Equal Rights/Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (the later produced in 2008 by UNDP) were demonstrated to the target groups of youth for further discussion and sharing of concerns regarding GBV and gender equality related issues.

Other events also included information meetings for rural women, refugees and asylum seekers, LSG body representatives, as well trainings on gender and GBV issues for local NGOs and community activists.

On November 25 Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS), held a roundtable discussion to examine gender equality and the state of women rights in Armenia. “Women Resource Center” NGO organized a Peaceful March Protesting Violence Against Women and a Candle lighting ceremony with an open stage concert. “Women’s Rights Center” NGO marked the start of the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence” campaign with participation of art performance groups (drama, national dances). “Ajakits” NGO (Gyumri city, Shirak marz) held a round table discussion on the topic of “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence”.

On December 1 An event devoted to the World AIDS Day was organized by the National AIDS Center in collaboration with NGOs, and support of the UN Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNDP, UNFPA and other UN agencies. The event featured screening of the movie “Who never lived”.

On December 2 Conference and a close-up of “Youth Against Trafficking” project was organized by UNDP “Anti-trafficking Programme: Capacity Developing Support and Victims Assistance” project. The event featured participation of RoA Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Labor and Social Affairs, RoA Police, Armenian Red Cross Association, Armenian UN Association and the International Youth Bridges Association. Psychological consultancy for the victims of violence was offered by “Tatev-95” NGO operating in Yerevan.



On December 6 Collective art exhibition and film screening on “Violence against women” was organized by “Women Resource Center” NGO. A Street action with distribution of information fliers on “White Ribbon” Campaign was organized by “Women’s Right Center” NGO.

On December 10 “The human rights protection in Armenia: achievement and challenges” conference was conducted in Yerevan. The event was jointly organized by UN RC DP, RoA Ombudsman office, OSCE, EU commission delegation to Armenia, and UNDP.

COMBATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

AZERBAIJAN

Increased collaboration with mass media has constituted the pivotal line of activities held by Combating Gender Based Violence in Azerbaijan Project in the frames of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence campaign. Overall, the campaign aimed at increasing public awareness on GBV and VAW among the media representatives as well as the wider society.



RADIO SHOWS: Production of three radio shows on domestic violence, current situation of women rights in Azerbaijan as well as human trafficking was successfully accomplished. The shows were broadcasted at Baku Bureau of “Radio Liberty”, Azerbaijan State Radio channel and radio channel of Baku Slavic University. Representatives of the parliament, national machinery and local NGOs specializing in the filed of gender addressed some of the major questions in regard to the abovementioned topics and highlighted the recent developments on gender, GBV and

women rights in Azerbaijan.

Of particular interest is the fact that the need for the law on domestic violence has come out once again during the broadcast of the radio show on GBV. Thus, speaking about the importance of adoption of the respective legislation on the “Radio Liberty” Elmira Akhundova, a member of the Azerbaijan Parliament said that “the Draft Law on Domestic Violence has already been presented to the Parliament. I hope that the Draft Law will be adopted whether the males want it or not”. The radio show produced and broadcasted on the radio channel of Baku Slavic University mainly focused on the issues of women trafficking. The broadcast was preceded by the demonstration of the documentary “Life Betrayed” representing a story of a woman who became a victim of human trafficking and produced within the frames of CGBV and “Prevention and Response to the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence for IDPs and Refugees/Asylum Seekers in Azerbaijan” (SCFWCA, UNHCR, EC, Ward). A mini-poll that followed aimed at revealing the students’ level of awareness on human trafficking was also held. According to results, only few young girls are informed about the cases, causes and consequences of human trafficking in the country.

The representative of the State Committee on Family, Women and Children’s Affairs Ms. Talehe Ibrahimova as well as the Chair of the Research Union on Women’s Problems Ms.Sajida Abdulvahabova were guest speakers at the third radio show that was broadcasted on Azerbaijan State Radio Channel. The experts spoke of major issues on the gender related policy agenda in the country and highlighted key challenges encountered in this respect. Taking into account the importance of reaching out to the people in the remote regions the project documentary “Life Betrayed” (produced in cooperation with UNHCR) was broadcasted on Simurg TV channel (broadcasted all over Ganja-Basar region) on 10th of December, twice a day. The feedback received from the audience has once again demonstrated the need for more awareness activities to be held in the districts of the country.



COMBATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

AZERBAIJAN



WORKSHOP FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES: A three-day media workshop on “Gender based violence in mass media: principles and standards” was held on December 4-6, 2009 for 20 journalists representing national and regional mass media organizations. The main goal of the training was to increase awareness of journalists on GBV, and provide them with theoretical and practical knowledge that would assist them to improve the quality and impartiality of the materials on GBV and women rights. The participants were provided with comprehensive information on GBV, its causes and consequences, its impact on men, women

and children. Particular attention was paid to the role of media in forming the opinions and misconceptions on women’s roles in the society as well as GBV and adhering to the principles of confidentiality and sensitivity while writing on GBV. Taking into account the fact that this year’s campaign has coincided with the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women one of the workshop sessions was entirely devoted to the Convention and the obligations of the Azerbaijanian government in this respect. Following the workshop, a round table discussion with participation of journalists reporting on human rights and gender issues was organized.

INFORMATION SESSIONS ON GBV: The information sessions for project’s target groups also constituted one of the key components of the campaign. CGBV Project continued the conduction of sessions on GBV in Baku and Sumgayit cities, Masalli, Lenkoran, Astara, Sheki, Gakh, Zagatala, Guba, Gusar, Khachmaz, Shirvan and Shamahki regions. Particular consideration was paid to ensuring the representation of participants from vulnerable groups of population in these meetings (refugees and IDPs, the people with disabilities, children deprived of parental care).



GBV PUBLICATIONS: CGBV project has initiated a series of printed publication materials such as newsletters, booklets, calendars, notepads, pens, etc. to be distributed in the frames of the 16 days campaign. These materials have been distributed among international and local NGOs, state agencies, journalists, project’s target groups, etc.

Azərbaycanda Gəndər Əsaslı Zorakılıqla Mübarizə Layihəsi BMF-nin Əhəmiyyətli Fondu

Əsas məqsədi
Qadın hüquqlarının müdafiəsi, gəndər bərabərliyi və qadınların cəmiyyətdə daha geniş iştirakını təmin etməkdir. Qadınların cəmiyyətdə daha geniş iştirakını təmin etməkdir.

Əsas fəaliyyət istiqamətlərini

- Gəndər əsaslı zorakılıqla mübarizəni gücləndirmək üçün gəndər bərabərliyi, qadın hüquqları və gəndər bərabərliyi üzrə cəmiyyətin, xüsusən də qadınların, biliklərini artırmaq.
- Gəndər əsaslı zorakılıqla mübarizəni gücləndirmək üçün gəndər bərabərliyi, qadın hüquqları və gəndər bərabərliyi üzrə cəmiyyətin, xüsusən də qadınların, biliklərini artırmaq.

Zorakılıqsız həyat qadın hüquqlarının təməli prinsiplərindəndir!

AZƏRBAYCANDA GƏNDƏR ƏSASLI ZORAKILIQLA MÜBARİZƏ LAYİHƏSİ

Ünvan: Şeyx Samil küç., 12, məm. 7, Bakı, Azərbaycan, AZ 1001
Təlx: (994 12) 4928664

GƏZ-i fərədan əsas səbəblər

Fiziki zorakılıq
Döyülmə, cəzalandırma, qadınların bədənində zərərli silahlarla zərər vətirilməsi, qadınların bədənində zərərli silahlarla zərər vətirilməsi, qadınların bədənində zərərli silahlarla zərər vətirilməsi.

Gəndər əsaslı zorakılıq (GƏZ) nədir?
Gəndər əsaslı zorakılıq qadınların və kişilərin cəmiyyətdə daha geniş iştirakını təmin etməkdir.

Psixoloji zorakılıq
Qadınların psixoloji baxımdan zərər görməsi, qadınların psixoloji baxımdan zərər görməsi, qadınların psixoloji baxımdan zərər görməsi.

GƏZ-in nəticələri
Gəndər əsaslı zorakılıq qadınların və kişilərin cəmiyyətdə daha geniş iştirakını təmin etməkdir.

COMBATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

GEORGIA

In adherence with the tradition established in 2008, UNFPA implemented project *Combating Gender-Based Violence in the South Caucasus (GBV-SC)* stood at the gates of the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence 2009. The campaign, coordinated by GBV-SC Georgia under the auspices of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Gender Equality with active involvement of the international and local NGOs and further supported by the Embassy of France in Georgia proved to be one of the most successful project highlights of 2009.



OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM: The campaign was officially launched on November 25th, the international day of elimination of violence against women at the Parliament of Georgia hosted by the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Gender Equality and the UNFPA/Georgia.

During the official launch, **Declaration of Commitment of Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls** was adopted. The Declaration was elaborated by UNFPA Georgia office within the framework of the United Nations UNiTE campaign. The declaration was officially presented by Ambassador of France to Georgia HEM

Eric Fournier. The signatories of the Declaration, joined the new network of men leaders headed by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, established on November 24th, 2009 within the framework of the United Nations UNiTE campaign. During the 16 days of activism over 1800 signatures were collected within government, parliament, donor organizations, nongovernmental organizations, academia and media.

MOVIE SCREENINGS ON GENDER ISSUES: Within the framework of the campaign, UNFPA in collaboration with the Embassy of France in Georgia organized a series of documentary movie screenings on gender and gender based violence. In order to reach out to young people, students from various schools and universities were invited to the screenings, followed by discussions facilitated by gender experts and psychologists. Three movies – “Women from Georgia” (2008) by Levan Koguashvili, “Invisible” (2003) by Liana Jakeli and “Let you always sing Mother” (2008) by Zurab Inashvili were screened. *“These movies reflect the problems that women face in contemporary Georgia, however our society often fails at addressing them”, - said GBV-SC Georgia National Project Coordinator Ms. Thea Jaliashvili, - “As discussions revealed there is still a lot of controversy around issues of gender equality and domestic violence. It is important to start active discussions and to put these issues on the public agenda.*



“YOUTH CONFERENCE ON ICPD+15: On November 27th, Youth Conference on International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+15) was organized by UNFPA and Youth International Relations Department at the Tbilisi National Youth Palace. Over dozen of students aged from 15-18 participated in the conference and presented their research papers on goals, priorities and results of the ICPD.

All Participants were awarded with memorable gifts and certificates. *“Cooperation with the Youth Palace International Relations Department is a long-established tradition for the UNFPA Georgia office.*

COMBATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

GEORGIA



Through annual conferences supported by UNFPA Georgia, each year, students are being educated on issues such as gender, reproductive health, population and development” – said UNFPA assistant representative Ms. Tamar Khomasuridze – “This year, students presented outstanding works marking 15 years anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development. The youth conference initiatives in partnership with the Youth Palace will continue in future.

INFORMATION SESSIONS ON GENDER ISSUES WITH THE IDPS:

As a cascade to the Training of Trainers (ToT) initiative held within the framework of the GBV-SC Georgia earlier in 2008-2009, information sessions on gender issues has begun. Within the framework of the 16 days of activism in collaboration with the Fund TASO and the International Association “Women’s Movement for Gender Equality”, UNFPA conducted two information sessions targeting IDP women in the resource centers in Karaleti and Tserovani IDP settlements. GBV-SC Georgia project will continue public awareness campaign on gender issues for various target groups in 2010 encompassing approximately 1000 individuals.



PHOTO CONTEST & EXHIBITION:

Continuing extensive and incessant focus on youth, GBV-SC Georgia announced photo/poster contest on gender discrimination for students in early fall aiming at raising awareness of young artists on the issues of gender discrimination and domestic violence. Over 150 contest entries were submitted by students from Tbilisi State Arts Academy; the Theatrical Institute and Georgian Institute on Public Affairs. In consequence, on December 6th a ten day exhibition on gender discrimination was open at the Tbilisi State Arts Academy.



On December 16th, the exposition was moved to the Parliamentary National Library of Georgia, where the closing ceremony of the 16 days of activism and an award ceremony of the photo contest winners took place. Within the framework of the event, results of the 16 days of activism were summarized, winners of the photo contest were awarded, and presentation of the new PSA on domestic violence was held. Up to 300 guests attended the event including the Chair of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Gender Equality and a Vice Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, HEM Rusudan Kervalishvili, Vice Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia HEM George Tsereteli, Ambassador of the United States of America to Georgia HEM John R. Bass, Ambassador and

Head of EU Delegation to Georgia, HEM Per Eklund and UNFPA Assistant Representative Ms. Tamar Khomasuridze. “The 16 days of activism 2009 has been an excellent example of cross-sectoral cooperation between government, parliament, diplomatic corps international organizations, local non-governmental organizations and media”- said UNFPA Assistant Representative Ms. Tamar Khomasuridze, - “We are sure that our efforts will not cease as the campaign closes. 16 days of activism 2009 strengthens our commitment to eliminate all forms of violence against women in Georgia and worldwide.”