

On August 26-28, 2010 in Tsaghkadzor (Armenia) within the framework of UNFPA CGBV “Combating Gender-Based Violence in Armenia” project implemented by consortium of local NGOs, a ToT on Gender and GBV issues was conducted for the group (40 participants) of 3rd-4th years and Master’s students from Yerevan State University, Yerevan “Interlingva” Linguistic University, Yerevan North University, as well as Gyumri and Vanadzor State Pedagogical Institutes, Gyumri branch of Moscow Humanitarian Academy and Artashat University.

At the opening of the training Ms. Jina Sargizova, UNFPA CGBV Project Coordinator and Ms. Jemma Hasratyan, PhD, President of Armenian Association of Women with University Education/Director of the Centre of Gender Studies welcomed the participants.

The training sessions were conducted by the experts of AAWUE Centre for Gender Studies, namely Artak Hovhannisyan, PhD in the field of history, Anahit Harutyunyan, PhD in humanitarian sciences, Ruzanna Panosyan, lecturer on gender knowledge basics, Irina Manukyan, the leading expert of the Training and Researches Centre of the Professional Unions Confederation, as well as Armen Avetyan, Deputy Head of the Regional Division of Vanadzor Social Service.

The ToT was dedicated to the topics of gender as a critical issue of concern and socio-cultural paradigm, gender socialization and gender stereotypes, gender-based violence (GBV) and its underlying causes, types and manifestations of GBV, as well as ways of combating GBV. The participants got acquainted with the international documents and national legislation pertaining to gender equality, anti-GBV international mechanisms/tools, as well as regional and international initiatives in the field. Interactive learning methods were also introduced.

The students, future specialists-to-be in the fields of sociology, social work, pedagogy, journalism, law, history and other sciences took a great interest in the training. Majority of the participants previously attended courses on gender knowledge basics conducted in their respective universities and were more or less familiar with gender issues of concern; this made work easier in small groups while presenting and analyzing different cases of GBV. The sessions were conducted in informal environment that featured group work, active discussions and disputes, which promoted deeper comprehension of the training materials. During the ToT several films and PSAs on the topic of GBV were demonstrated to the participants to provoke discussion on the problem, its prevalence in Armenia and in the world.

Clashes of opinions and ideas during discussions helped the participants to review their own perceptions and attitudes concerning GBV problem.

The participants of the training were provided with Manual for Trainers that was published within the framework of UNFPA CGBV. The Manual will be used later on by the participants of the trainings to conduct training sessions/discussion for their peers: students and friends.