



ARMENIAN CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT-PROTECTIVE
CENTRE (ACRPC) NGO

Our Vision is: A WORLD LIVING WITH PRINCIPLES OF LOVE AND
TOLERANCE WHERE LAW AND JUSTICE GIVEN ABOVE REIGN

REPORT 2003
ON UN-RELATED ACTIVITIES

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1. INTRODUCTION

"Armenian Constitutional Right-Protective Centre" (ACRPC) NGO was founded in 1988 with the name Constitutional Groups Association among several political and non-formal organizations in Vanadzor, the goal of which was to form democratic classes through a democratic constitution. The organization was registered in 1995 and registered in 1999 in the RA Ministry of Justice as a non-profit, non-political independent organization ruled by the Constitution and the Law of Armenia and the ACRPC Charter, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international standards and principles of Human Rights.

The 2003 was the year of institutional development for the staff. Successfully completing a programme of institutional development held by the AAA NGO Training and Resource Center, the staff members were awarded with Certificates of Completion. During and after the course with the endeavors of the staff *ACRPC Strategic Plan for Developing Legal Culture in Armenia in 2003-2006* was elaborated. The paper is an activity guide for the next three years, representing the continuation of the policy adopted from the start and clearly underlining the pathway through which ACRPC is going towards its mission that is:

To contribute to the development of the society's legal culture in Armenia through scientific activity, education, informational dissemination and advocacy.

The staff close team is formed aimed at and willing to reach the vision and mission formulated together due to unanimous endeavors.

The enthusiasm made towards reaching the goals and realizing the Plan gave their fruitful outcomes both in the field of the internal management of the organization and in extending its image and respect among international and local organizations and the government during the year of 2003, thus resulting in to broaden the scopes of cooperation with them. Also, the association with UN DPI provided a special trend to the ACRPC activities in the field.

Currently John and Janice Hahn are the ACRPC representatives in UN DPI Headquarters in New York. Meanwhile, ACRPC has submitted an announcement in seeking for one more representative.

We believe that eventually the Rule of Law based on the requirements of justice will be established in the world.

2. UN-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF ACRPC IN 2003: NARRATIVE IN BRIEF

- Since 1996 the organization's Human Rights School has been functioning in Vanadzor Town of Armenia, the activities of which are aimed at disseminating human rights and democracy ideas in the society.

In 2003 the School held its Ninth Advanced Annual Course with participation of 75 secondary school teachers from all the regions of Armenia involved in instructing Legal Subjects of *Human Rights, Civic Education, and State and Law*.

Within the main issues of the course programme the learners got in-dept knowledge on UN structure, objectives, human rights protection systems and mechanisms and UN-adopted



human rights documents, which gave the opportunity to the teachers of the field be more prepared and provide their students full information on UN.

The course learners were provided with the UN-related thematic literature, display-posters and reference-books donated by the UN Department of Public Information (UN DPI), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other UN agencies in Armenia, and Vanadzor Human Rights Library book fund as well. UN-related literature was shared also to the libraries and Human Rights rooms at the secondary schools of Armenia.



- In September 2003 ACRPC completed a one-year project *Human Rights Library Network in Armenia*, through which the Human Rights Library Network including the regions of Lori, Tavoush, Gegharkounik, Ararat and Kotayk of Armenia has been created. In the libraries of the Network special sections have been separated for the UN-related materials to make the information more accessible for the readers. In 2003 the sections were supplemented with more than 800 pieces of publications: bulletins, posers, references and other kinds of periodicals and video and audio catalogues received from various UN agencies in Yerevan and Geneva.

Periodical experience exchange between the UN DPI Library in Armenia and Vanadzor Human Rights Library was held.

- Since 1989 the scientific-methodological review *For the Sake of Justice* has been published. It is published in Armenian, and all the articles have corresponding English and Russian summaries.

Since January 2003, started from issue 33, a special page has been disposed where the UN DPI Office has periodically introduced information on their and other UN agencies' activities in Armenia and throughout the world.

Within the frameworks of cooperation the review has been sent to the Office for High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva and DPI NGO Section in New-York.

The organization has been carrying out informative and analytical scientific and methodological publications and translations. In 2003 ACRPC initiated the Russian-Armenian translation of the Report *The UN Activities in Armenia: Educators' Perspective*. The paper sums up the results of the sociological survey conducted in February-July 2002 by the DPI Yerevan Office with the support of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and other UN agencies in Armenia. Surveyed were teachers of the Legal Subjects to identify the level of the teachers' awareness and knowledge on the UN-related activities in Armenia, as well as provide recommendations for increasing efficiency of various aspects of activities.

- In spring 2003 as a human rights education NGO, ACRPC was involved in the group participating in the measurements held by the UNDP Office in Armenia for the purpose of drafting the *United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)*. A series of trainings, workshops and meetings were held aimed at prioritization for the UNDAF. The paper represents the collective, coherent and integrated response of the UN system to national priorities among them also the Human Rights education through identifying the UN development assistance to Armenia in 2005-2009.

- By the initiative of the ACRPC Department of Public Relations and by active involvement of Human Rights School post-graduates and ACRPC young volunteers six meetings and workshops were organized in the Human Rights Library in Vanadzor with the participation of 150 schoolchildren of various grades. During the events the schoolchildren got acquainted with the UN mission, agencies and activities in Armenia and the UN Human Rights documents. Films and animated cartoons on the topics were released.

- On December 10, 2003 - the Human Rights Day, ACRPC and UNDPI Office in Armenia supported by UNDP Office in Armenia, organized and held a series of republican events in Vanadzor Charles Aznavour Cultural Palace devoted to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 55th, Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 10th anniversaries.

To the events representatives of the government and the heads of UN agencies in Armenia:

Ms. Lise Grande - UN Resident Representative/UNDP Regional Coordinator, Mr. Valeri V. Tkatchouk - UNDPI Representative, Mr. Lloyd Dakin - UNHCR Representative, Mr. Branislav Jekic - UNICEF Representative, Ms. Aida Topusyan - Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia, Mr. Arakel Gyulbudaghyan – Representative of the Ministry of Education Center for Educational Reforms and representatives of Lori Regional Administration participated.



Welcoming the participants, they all introduced the state and stressed the importance of the Human Rights education in general and particularly in Armenia. Further scopes of cooperation were decided, too.

Within the events, a round-table and a press conference on *Human Rights Education in Armenia* were held and a paintings republican contest devoted to the ACRPC's 15-year anniversary was organized. The representatives of the UN Armenian Office organized workshops with participation of elementary and middle school students; also films on various fields of human rights were released. In the evening rock and gala concerts devoted to the Day were held.

The press release on the events was made and distributed to republican press agencies, TV and radio stations and collaborating organizations (***See the annex***).

Association with UNDPI and devotion to its commitments induces ACRPC to feel more responsible in fulfilling the activities in harmony with the UN goals and objectives and aims at making collaboration with UNDPI broader and active from year to year.

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