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REGIONAL CENTRE FOR MINORITIES



CUPS



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GAYTEN LGBT

Centar za promociju prava seksualnih manjina
Center for Promotion of LGBT Human Rights



Koalicija protiv
diskriminacije



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DISCRIMINATION IN SERBIA CURRENT TRENDS

Conference for non-governmental organizations and media Coalition against Discrimination

On the occasion of presentation of the Annual Report on Discrimination in Serbia, the Coalition against Discrimination is organizing a conference for non-governmental organizations and the media with the aim to shed light on the current problems faced by the minority groups. The conference will take place on **Friday, 15 May 2015, in Media Center, Belgrade, from 9 to 12 a.m.**

According to the collected data, the most frequent problems, faced by the Roma and other ethnic minorities, religious minority communities, LGBT, persons with disability, victims of armed conflicts, women, children, the elderly, asylum seekers, and even by the non-governmental organizations protecting the rights of these and other minority groups, are not being solved but only multiplied on a daily basis. It may, thus, be concluded that the society in Serbia is far from attaining the standards on which the modern constitutional democracies are founded.

Even more, it could be claimed that there is no functioning democracy in Serbia yet. The executive authority still dominates the political life in the country and exerts its direct influence over the legislative and judicial powers, independent bodies, local self-governments, but also a great number of media, non-governmental organizations, professional associations, trade unions, universities and scientific research institutes.

Such an atmosphere does not contribute to the development of an open, democratic society of equally free individuals, which is confirmed by the current trends of imposing new problems on the minority communities. Therefore, we believe that a dialogue on these new problems could significantly contribute to finding a solution for the non-functioning democracy as a central political issue of the society we live in today.

At the same time, the resolution of the old and new problems in the lives of minority communities, as well as of other problems that still prevent the establishment of an efficient system aimed at respect and protection of human rights, such as those related to obtaining of personal data and free access to information, access to justice, access to free legal aid especially, war crime prosecution and other mechanisms for facing the past, should enable much desired opening of the first chapters in the process of EU accession. Regardless of what is included in the laws, strategies and action plans, without answers to factual questions raised by those whose rights and freedoms are being violated, there will be no progress in the process of European integrations.

We would like to invite you to participate in the conference and thus contribute to opening a dialogue about these issues. The agenda of the conference is enclosed in the invitation.

Belgrade, 11 May 2015

DISCRIMINATION IN SERBIA CURRENT TRENDS

Conference for non-governmental organizations and media Coalition against Discrimination

Media Center, 1 floor, 15 May 2015

AGENDA

09.00 - 09.15 Registration of participants

09.15 - 10.00 Presentation of the Annual Report on Discrimination, Coalition members

10.00 - 10.30 Discrimination in Europe, current trends, Adam Weiss (Legal Director,
European Roma Rights Centre)

10.30 - 10.45 Coffee break

10.45 - 12.00 Discussion

Note: simultaneous interpretation in English is provided.

Coalition against Discrimination consists of: Center for Advanced Legal Studies, Civil Rights Defenders, Labris - Lesbian Human Right Organization, Network of Committees for Human Rights in Serbia (CHRIS Network), Association of Students with Disabilities, Gayten- LGBT, Praxis and Regional Center for Minorities.