



Workshop for RSD staff on “Assessing asylum claims by LGBTI asylum-seekers”

Holiday Inn
Tbilisi, Georgia
15 November, 2013

QIEE RSD Specialist of UNHCR Georgia and Senior RSD Specialist of the Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia (MRA) have attended a seminar, jointly organized by the Council of Europe Directorate General of Democracy (DGII) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), on “Assessing asylum claims by LGBTI asylum-seekers”, held in Rome on 10-11 October 2013.



As a follow up to the mentioned seminar, one day sensitizing workshop was organized for the Refugee and Repatriation Division of MRA, UNHCR Georgia and NGO legal partner UNAG on 15 November 2013. NGO partner Sakhli staff, who deal with SGBV issues, took part as resource persons.



Opening remarks were done by Ms. Danijela Popovic-Efendic, UNHCR Protection Officer, who focused on the importance of the workshop and briefly highlighted some of the key challenges identified in the process of the adjudication of claims based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Opening remarks were followed by the general presentation on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression delivered by Ms. Nana Khoshtaria, psychologist from NGO Sakhli.

The workshop is organized by UNHCR Georgia under the EU-funded Asylum Systems Quality Initiative for Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Project

The further two sessions were done by Ms. Salome Kusikashvili, RSD Specialist, on the legal framework, more specifically how the rights of LGBTI asylum seekers are protected under international and European Law. Another session focused on UNHCR guidelines on International Protection No 9. The sessions were followed by a case study and discussion, facilitated by Ms. Tamta Papuashvili and Ms. Salome Kusikashvili.

Since the Georgian asylum authority does not have much of an expertise dealing with LGBTI related claims, it was important to dedicate a separate session on the issue of Credibility Assessment, which is one of the most challenging aspects in the assessment of LGBTI claims. The presentation was done by a Senior RSD specialist of MRA, who concentrated on dos and don'ts of the assessment and highlighted some of the tips that can be utilized during the status determination process.

During the workshop, a CREDO credibility assessment checklist was also presented to the group by Ms. Inna Borisevich, Associate Field Officer of UNHCR. The checklist was translated into Georgian with the QIEE funds.

The agenda and list of participants of the event are enclosed to this report.

Overall workshop was interactive and practical, it was positively evaluated by the participants.

UNHCR Georgia
28 November 2013