

PROMOTING AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING OF TRAINERS

YOUTH CASE STUDY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UKRAINE



SUMMARY

The Human Rights Training of Trainers led by Amnesty International Ukraine aimed at promoting an intersectional and intergenerational approach to human rights while encouraging an activist-led approach to activism and human rights education. The Training of Trainers is an example of how human rights trainings can be adapted to specific cultural contexts and promote an inclusive approach.



DESCRIPTION

The Training of Trainers was a year-long project launched in November 2016 which aimed to enable various regions of Ukraine to independently lead on Activism and Human Rights Education activities. In total 23 people were selected to take part in this project based on their location, human rights knowledge, training experience, access to a wide audience and leadership skills. Out of the 23, 11 participants were under the age of 30 and 3 under the age of 25. The participants came from different social groups, backgrounds and ages. Participants included those from ethnic minorities, LGBTI communities, people living with HIV, sex workers, migrants, human rights defenders, teachers, students, teenagers and adults. Young participants were given the opportunity to engage in a dialogue with adult participants on an equal footing, which is an unusual dynamic in a context in which youth/adult relationships are generally hierarchical. The Training of Trainers methodology included dynamics such as peer dialogues, interactive approaches and video sessions. All the participants used their personal experiences to talk about human rights and focussed on four main topics: freedom of speech, freedom from torture and ill-treatment, women's rights and LGBTI rights. After the Training of Trainers, the participants conducted trainings, lectures

and seminars on these four key areas in their respective regions. Amnesty International Ukraine provided the trainers with individual mentoring, consultations, and co-training support.

OBJECTIVES

- Build a diverse community of human rights trainers across Ukraine while promoting an intersectional and intergenerational approach to human rights.
- Decentralize the activism and human rights education activities of Amnesty International Ukraine.
- Create a safe space where everyone, especially young people, could speak freely and be listened to.
- During the Training of Trainers, a new objective appeared: the need to challenge stereotypes, since members of minority groups realised that they are prone to stigmatizing other groups as much as they are victims of stigmatization themselves. Participants were encouraged to speak to members of other groups, hear their experiences and unpack differences.

"Our trainer taught us the basics of intersectionality of human rights issues, made us reflect on our privileges and warned against major mistakes that can be made by novice coaches". -

Olga

IMPACT

- The Training of Trainers highlighted the importance of intersectionality when teaching human rights.
- Within the first 10 months from the first Training of Trainers, 5 new Training of Trainers took place. 61 people organized and conducted events in their respective regions and kept supporting Amnesty International Ukraine's campaigns and actions.
- A total of 94 events were organized across 18 regions in Ukraine, involving 1500 people.
- The trainers engaged new Amnesty supporters, and recruited volunteers and people interested in enrolling in the Training of Trainers programme. Capacity building and debating skills were acquired due to training workshops and information sharing.
- Training of Trainers graduates formed a regional team of activists in Lutsk.
- Educational and human rights organizations reached out to Amnesty International Ukraine asking for educational materials.

TIPS AND TRICKS

- *Promote inclusion!* Inclusion was essential to this project, given its intersectional approach. Minority groups were represented in the trainings and enabled to contribute with their personal experiences.
- *Create a safe participatory and learning space!* Participants are provided with a safe space to participate and learn about their human rights, both at a theoretical and practical level.
- *Give Youth a voice!* These trainings are an opportunity to give young people a voice and engage in dialogue with older people, which in Ukraine tends to be unusual.
- *Challenge stereotypes!* During the trainings, stereotypes about various minority and at-risk groups were challenged.



“I now have a more complete understanding of the problem of violence and discrimination against women. From now on, I will incorporate this knowledge in my job as an editor” - Vitaly



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Soldado Kowalisidi was one of the trainers, and shared this experience: “Intersectionality is something that can only be understood after it has been experienced. As a transgender person, a political refugee and a Muslim I feel the influence of the State and the challenges linked to it. I participated in many Human Rights Training of Trainers where the information presented was very dry and difficult to put into practice. That’s why we launched the Training of Trainers project in Ukraine, where the participants could learn how to talk about human rights in an accessible way, so that everyone could understand the importance of human rights and the need to fight to make sure they’re respected.”

STAKEHOLDERS

- Activism and growth staff at Amnesty Ukraine
- Schools and universities
- Organisations friendly to human rights
- Right-holder groups and organisations, for example: Roma, LGBTI, sex workers, women’s organisations

KEY INFORMATION

- For more information contact Lesia Kharchenko, Growth and Activism Coordinator from Amnesty International Ukraine: l.kharchenko@amnesty.org.ua

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