

Recommendations

Submitted as a result of the July 7, 2009 discussion
On a sociological qualitative research

1. **To create a new class course on the subject of Law** (the legislation, court system, etc.) **for school age children and a new textbook entitled, “The ABC’s of Human Rights”**. Include computer games in this class course, reality-based films and problems, group role-playings, etc. The reason is that the level of understanding of young people of the issue of human rights remains at a low level even though instruction on the subject is mandatory. To study the reasons of non-productivity of existing class courses and take these deficiencies into consideration while creating a course of study. To retrain teachers so that they can convey this in an interesting and comprehensible manner.
2. **To produce programs and films on the methods on defending personal rights** (court system, Ombudsman, international legal organizations, etc.) for broadcast via the mass media, as well as **print materials** for distribution in Armenia’s regions (where internet isn’t accessible) since being uninformed about the defense of one’s personal rights is one of the primary reasons why those rights are violated.
3. **To produce interactive T.V. games ensuring victory/success via the defense of human rights and democratic values.**
4. **To produce Armenian feature films on FoE** and other issues of importance to Armenian society.
5. **To establish an interactive theater** aimed at widening the possibilities of individual (“non-elite”) FoE and to transform the experience of FoE into customary practice.
6. **To publicize the existing databases of various legal and attorney advice centers.** These informational sources can be advertised in the mass media via running captions, etc...
7. **To produce a series of reality-based T.V. programs highlighting the fact, that in other countries even high-ranking officials are “equal before the law”**. These programs, films will show trials punishing that sector of society which in Armenia is considered “unpunishable” (presidents, ministers, etc.) and will depict the “privileged class” being subject to the rule of law (e.g. the fact that even the daughters of George Bush were fined, etc.) In this way it will be possible to overcome conceptions that it is “normal” for officials to break the law.
8. **Donor organizations: Prior to the financing of the NGO, conduct an evaluation of the quality of its human resources** (evaluative tests, personal interviews, etc.) with the aim of revealing whether or not the staff’s value system corresponds to the overall focus of the NGO. This will help avoid inappropriate stakeholders/grantees and the squandering of financial and other resources.
9. **To produce a series of reality-based T.V. programs on court cases, a «success stories» (A1+, etc.) that have been won in the RA and other countries** in which will be shown films on the court processes,

the commentary of experts, etc. This will help overcome the doubt of the society regarding the possibility of defending personal rights and will clearly depict the mechanisms involved in the defense of those rights.

10. **To launch a debate program entitled “Who is an Armenian?”** This is necessary since the professional level of existing programs is poor and they are directed to reinforce existing stereotypes. Invite experts who raise “taboo themes” concerning the Armenian society (the influence of other nations on Armenian customs, the reinterpretation of notable historical events, the disclosure of censored events, etc.). This will help overcome the “inviolability” of existing stereotypes regarding the Armenian nation and its history and the uniformity of opinion.

11. **To raise, by way of social science-historical research, examples in Armenian history and culture regarding democratic values, civil society and the punishment of high-ranking officials** (fables, the epic of «Davit of Sassoun», demands to dismiss various Armenian Church Catholicoi, etc.) This will help overcome the “conspiratorial” perceptions of democracy, according to which this concept is alien to the Armenian “mind-set”, and that it is being imported with the aim of “destroying” the Armenian nation.

12. **To come up with a list of “worst of” awards for law enforcement bodies**; e.g. the “worst judge”, the “worst prosecutor” of the year award, etc.

13. **To conduct a system-wide analysis of the legislation from a FoE standpoint in order to bring to light contradictions amongst various laws.** To present proposals regarding legislative changes.

14. **To produce a series of programs or films regarding principles of democracy.** To highlight the link between democracy and the welfare and competitiveness of the individual/state (to remove the split between those two concepts within the social consciousness). This will help to mitigate society’s inaccurate and incorrect conceptions on democracy.

15. **To produce informative, analytical programs and publish articles, etc., regarding the formation and development of a European social and value system.** To show the acceptance process of democratic rights, internal state fluctuations, the mechanisms of state creation and reinforcement and the current situation. This will help overcome the distorted conceptions regarding Europe and the archaic thinking on state stability and competitiveness.

16. **To produce computer games ensuring victory/success via the defense of human rights and democratic values.** To incorporate these games in educational materials.

17. **To ensure the continuity of programs and films initiated by the Eurasia Partnership Foundation.**

18. **To produce advertisements on human rights and democratic values.**

19. **To initiate informative-accusatory demonstrations about judicial, administrative and other types of illegalities and incidents of arbitrariness.** It is desirable that this be carried out in the regions to overcome the tolerance towards illegalities and conceptions of the destructive nature of protest and to place those who violate the law on the alert regarding their actions.

20. **To bring this research, via creative game or seminar, to a conceptual end**, by formulating a future strategy of the RA on FoE.
21. **To produce advertisements, organize events, etc., aimed to foster tolerance in the choice of a personal (legal) lifestyle.**
22. **To translate and publish the best and newest international writings** (Fukuyama, Wallerstein, Habermas, Adorno, Ricoeur, etc.) **in the social sciences** (philosophy, sociology, political science, etc.). To discuss these works in appropriate Armenian regional circles.
23. **To assemble the “foolhardy” individuals** (those who fight for FoE), who will reinforce the public censuring of law-breakers.
24. **To create a communicative, interactive platform for like-minded members of society on the issue of FoE and to establish a social-intellectual network among them.** This will bring together like-minded individuals now separated and will make its current marginal discourse all the more audible.
25. **To organize public action aimed at overcoming cultural or historical stereotypes** (e.g., mock funeral of the “red apple”).
26. **To conduct social science analyses regarding various phenomena-stereotypes** (for example - hospitality, freedom fighter, patriarchalism, etc.). To present their actual “censored” manifestations and meanings, to show the connection with the values of other cultures, to analyze in a contemporary context and to separate the viable/non-viable parts. This will serve to demythify these phenomena and to “rationalize”, to a certain degree, social consciousness.
27. **To perform a well thought-out and detailed selection of «opinion leaders»** for public presentation on FoE in order to avoid undesired (contrary) results.