



Human rights and democracy

FIELD: Human rights and democracy

SECTORS: Human rights, civil society, conflicts, democratic society, prejudices and discrimination

PROGRAMME

Human rights and the exercise of human rights is a significant component part of the training course designed for youth expert associates. It is important to talk about the history and the development of the concept of human rights whereby a particular focus is placed on specific human rights. Furthermore, it is important to be knowledgeable about both various theories of conflicts and the corresponding resolutions, ethnic principles and values that officers must comply with. Upon relying on prejudices, stereotypes and discrimination against certain groups, the basic principles of dealing with vulnerable groups will be determined. Conscientious objection in the field of human rights is a topic that relates to civic activism within human rights, but also to prejudices and conflicts.

TARGET GROUP

The target group comprises Youth Officers who are proficient in the field of youth issues in their municipality, they act as mediators between the municipal council/administration, youth and adults, and provide appropriate support to young people in the municipality. They work as associates in the municipal administration and are employed as part of the administrative structure. The target group ensures that the subject matter in question does not remain of secondary importance to the municipal council/administration.

IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIT TO THE TARGET GROUP

The knowledge and the exercise of human rights are of great importance to the youth sector. For the purpose of easily engaging in the sector, it is necessary to sensitise one's own perceptions and strive towards overcoming prejudices against different social groups on a daily basis, especially in terms of young people. Youth rights should therefore be addressed through legislation, but also through practical daily undertakings. A sound knowledge of the origin of human rights and documents according to which actual mechanisms that guarantee the respect for human rights can additionally empower individuals and institutions within which they operate. This especially refers to the harmonisation of legislation with human rights standards and democratic proceedings within institutions but also outside them. The act of overcoming stereotypes and prejudices against certain groups is one of the greatest challenges, thus it is essential to realise how they influence the group itself and to what extent they violate its basic rights through various forms of discrimination. This segment is intended for all officers regardless of their previous experience because there is a high probability that they will be meeting and working with different individuals who will expect of them openness, acceptance, support, assistance and no judgements.

EDUCATIONAL TOPICS

The workshops guide Youth Officers through the Unit on Human rights and democracy as they master the following topics: human rights in theory and practice, prejudices, stereotypes and discrimination, conflicts and the corresponding resolutions.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Unit on Human rights and democracy are:

- become familiar with the concept of human rights and the basic mechanisms at the international and local level,
- acquire the knowledge about human rights violations through real-life examples upon testing the gained knowledge,
- use the theoretical knowledge to deal with human rights violations and voluntarily initiate the prevention of and the reaction against violations that are taking place in their local municipality,
- become familiar with the basics of human rights and systematically observe human rights starting with their origin and continuing through the present,
- apply the acquired knowledge about human rights through concrete examples,
- become familiar with the concept of conscientious objection and recognise the right to conscientious objection as a human right,
- become acquainted with the basic definitions of the following terms: prejudice, stereotypy and discrimination,
- recognise the basics of prejudices, stereotypes and discrimination in the BiH society and their causes,
- share the knowledge about public authorities' structures at the local level,
- learn the basic theories of conflicts, types, methods, features and the corresponding resolutions,
- become familiar with the concept of a civil society and what a civil society should represent.

RESULTS AND INFLUENCE ON THE TARGET GROUP

Following the workshop:

- the Youth Officers have been sensitised and are more willing to engage in youth work,
- the participants have been trained to strive towards preventing human rights violations, to react in cases of discrimination, but also to promote democratic principles upon pursuing their efforts.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology to be used in the course of educating Youth Officers incorporates individual and group work performed in small or large groups, plenary discussions, simulations of various situations that Youth Officers might face, mutual sharing of experiences, brainstorming, interactive exercises, audio and visual presentations, the instance of processing the subject matter following the workshop as they do their own homework assignments.

HOMEWORK

Society – as it is today and what it should be like? Human rights and discrimination in practice.

SPECIFIC FEATURES

Made suitable to the differences in the workshop participants' experiences, use of gender-sensitive language.

DURATION

1. Human rights through theory and practice (5 hours, 4 Units)
2. Prejudices, stereotypes and discrimination (3.5 hours, 1 Unit)
3. Conflicts and the corresponding resolutions (1.5 hours, 1 Unit)

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