

Findings from the round table:

Psychologist's approach to the gender issues on the fair trial

Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI), in collaboration with the Albanian Order of Psychologists and the Academy of Sciences, have organized the Round Table with the following topic:

“Psychologist's approach to gender issues on the fair trial”

This activity was carried out in the framework of the project: “Strengthening the marginalized women through providing free legal aid and psycho social support, a more effective response of professionals and institutions and pro bono contribution”, which is being implemented by CLCI, in cooperation with Civil Rights Defenders, financially supported by the Swedish Government.

The discussion was focused on the implementation of the suggestions carried out by the Conference on the role and performance of psychologists on the judicial bodies, which took place in the Academy of Science of Albania, in January 2015.

We think it would be fruitful to share some of the conclusions of the round table in this field with the psychologists, who are offering services and expertise during the judicial process.

The Round Table has established that some of the Conference's suggestions are implemented through the legal initiatives during the Judicial Reform and the making of the Order of Psychologists in Albania. Moreover, there were discussions on the contribution of NGOs for the implementation of the new legislation, which requires more engagement for the revision of the sublegal acts and also for the institutional improvements of the psychologist services given to the justice system. For this reason, it was emphasized that the scientific studies of international standards and of the best practices of other countries is very important.

The round table suggested that the CLCI, the Order of Psychologists and the member organizations of the Monitoring Network against Gender Based Violence offering psychological services, will collaborate together in order to achieve a better approach of the psychologist to the gender knowledge and to have proper expertise in front of the judicial bodies.

It was suggested as follows:

- The cooperation of NGO-s with the Order of Psychologists on the improvement of professional capacities of gender mainstreaming should be enforced; especially focusing on the victim's status during criminal and civil proceedings with special attention to children, as well as during the offering of services and psychological support for this target group.

- The CLCI, in cooperation with the Order of Psychologists, will submit to the Ministry of Justice the proposals for the improvement of sublegal acts, particularly for the establishment of the electronic register of experts, its publication and adaptation.
- The CLCI, in cooperation with the Order of Psychologists, will submit to the Ministry of Justice the proposals for the improvement of DCM, no. 4, dated 12.12.2012, "On establishing the amount of expenses and payments of experts and witnesses during the trial", with regard to the compensation of the psychologists, who offer services free of charge in the justice bodies.
- The CLCI, in cooperation with the Order of Psychologists, will submit to the Ministry of Justice the proposals for the improvement of the cooperation between Bailiff Offices and psychologists in order for the protection orders and other court decisions to be implemented, paying special attention to contacts with children and their protection from the violence.
- The Order of Psychologists will cooperate with the Academy of Sciences and the NGO-s for organizing the trainings of psychologists, who assist the justice bodies, in order to increase expertise on gender issues and domestic violence - based on advanced international standards and comparative studies.
- The Order of Psychologists will work together with the CLCI to improve the cooperation of schools' psychologists with the judiciary, in the cases of domestic violence and violence against girls.
- The Order of Psychologists will focus on the implementation of the Psychologist's Code of Ethics with a due gender approach and if necessary, review it on this basis.