



## NEWS REPORT

<b>Date:</b>	06 April 2011
<b>Expert:</b>	Biljana Kotevska
<b>Title:</b>	Annual report on sexual and health rights of marginalised communities in Macedonia for 2010 published
<b>Country:</b>	Republic of Macedonia
<b><u>Context</u></b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	Discrimination against marginalised groups (drugs users, sexual workers, LGBT, people suffering from HIV/AIDS)
<b>Ground of discrimination:</b>	Sexual orientation, gender, health status, multiple discrimination
<b>Source:</b>	Civil society - Coalition of NGOs
<b>Field:</b>	All fields
<b>Legislative provisions:</b>	Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia (Art.9); Law on prevention and protection against discrimination (Art. 3; 5; para 1, line 12; 6; 7; 9-12; 14, para 1, line 6; 15, para 1, line 6).

### Content

**Development:** The “Coalition for protection and promotion of sexual and health rights of marginalised communities” (hereafter “the Coalition”) published on April 2011 a 2010 annual report on sexual and health rights of marginalized communities in Republic of Macedonia. The Coalition is an informal initiative of seven NGOs from Macedonia which target LGBT/MSM and sex workers (*HOPS, MASSO, EGAL, HERA, MHRN, Izbor*). It started to operate in 2007 aiming towards the promotion and protection of the sexual and health rights of these target groups.

According to the expert, the report presents very realistic pictures and in particular a very alarming overview on the position of marginalised communities in the country.

With regard to discrimination, the Coalition recorded approximately 30 cases of discrimination: 14 cases against drugs users, 11 cases against sexual workers, 1 case of LGBT discrimination, 2 cases of discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS. According to the report, cases show

strong relations between violence and discrimination, noting also 6 cases of deprivation of health care to persons belonging to marginalised groups, as well as sports-events homophobic-driven violence. Discriminatory treatment by the media and public institutions is also noted in the report. The rise of hate speech and homophobia in media and in public speech, including in front of the state institutions, is frightening. Events related to the adoption of the 2010 Law on prevention and protection against discrimination were discussed in great detail in the report.

The Coalition also alerted on an initiative, dating from the end of 2010, of the leaders of the two largest and dominant religious communities in Macedonia, the Christian Orthodox and Muslim, urging to adopt an amendment to the constitution that will redefine the family as a communion of one man and one woman. In addition, the Coalition rightfully underlined the implicit adoption of the proposed initiative by the highest state institutions by not refuting the initiative immediately.

**Internet link source and additional information:**

Coalition's annual report on sexual and health rights of marginalized communities in Republic of Macedonia for 2010. *Coalition for protection and promotion of sexual and health rights of marginalized communities Website.* [http://www.coalition.org.mk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=230&Itemid=1&lang=en](http://www.coalition.org.mk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=230&Itemid=1&lang=en) (Last accessed: 06 April 2011)