

Summary

The full version of the UN in Russia bulletin in Russian can be found at the UN Internet portal in Russia www.unrussia.ru (Publications and Documents)

UN / Message of the UN General-Secretary for the 2014 Human Rights Day

In his message Ban Ki-moon emphasizes that human rights are a cornerstone of the global political culture – they are for all of us, all the time, regardless of our origin, gender, faith, social status and sexual orientation. The UN protects human rights because when people enjoy their rights, economies flourish and countries are at peace. “Violations of human rights are more than personal tragedies, they are alarm bells that may warn of a much bigger crisis,” Ban Ki-moon says, adding that UN’s Human Rights Up Front initiative aims to heed those alarms. He calls on Member States to honour their obligation to protect human rights every day of the year.

UNAIDS / Youth against HIV/AIDS

On 1 December, World HIV/AIDS Day, international youth team Red Ribbon launched in their countries a video and a song “Together” to demonstrate solidarity with people living with HIV. All the team members received certificates of acknowledgement from Dr. Michel Sidibe, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and UNAIDS Executive Director, for their commitment to HIV/AIDS control and support to people living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, leadership on the path to achieving UNAIDS’ vision of “Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths,” open discussion of safe behavior, tolerance and human rights.

UNAIDS / Vera Brezhneva appointed UNAIDS HIV/AIDS Goodwill Ambassador for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

As AIDS epidemic is increasingly acquiring “female face,” UNAIDS appointed Vera Brezhneva – a singer, actress, and a TV host – as its Goodwill Ambassador for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In her new capacity Vera will participate in HIV prevention campaigns with special emphasis on HIV-infected women, including prevention of mother-to-child transmission. According to UNAIDS Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia Vinay Saldanha, Vera Brezhneva is a role model for millions of women and girls, whose active involvement is an essential condition for addressing the issue of HIV proliferation.

WHO/ Joint WHO – Russian Federation project for NCDs launched in Moscow

As non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are gaining significance on the global health agenda, a new joint WHO – Russian Federation project was launched with the aim to build capacity in the WHO European Region to combat avoidable NCDs through better data collection, processing and exchange, more effective prevention and evidence-based disease management. Special Representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Russia Dr. Luigi Migliorini points to positive changes in health outcomes achieved by Russia due to its strong commitment to NCD control, in particular to tobacco use. Still there is much to be done in implementing the tobacco control law, decreasing the prevalence of lung cancer, controlling alcohol consumption, cardio-vascular diseases and hypertension and providing food safety.

UNESCO / Strengthening social and educational role of museums

More than sixty years of UNESCO’s close collaboration with the International Council of Museums (ICOM) resulted in the promotion of cooperation among experts at national, regional and international levels, a more efficient exchange of best practices and training courses for museum staff. In November 2014 a regional meeting for CIS countries of museum experts, hosted by UNESCO and ICOM Russia, discussed UNESCO’s conventions related to the capacity building for museum, their strengthening as basic cultural society institutes and tools of social integration, dialogue and sustainable development, platforms for intercultural dialogue in the CIS countries.

ILO / Achieving the set goals

Unemployment among people living with HIV being three times higher than the average level in the respective countries, more attention is needed to people in the risk groups. HIV-related discrimination, gender violence and inequalities are major barriers in providing health services, including testing. Responding to this challenge ILO in collaboration with UNAIDS and partners launched the initiative “Voluntary consulting and testing at work,” which has already covered more than a million and stimulated another 500 000 for HIV testing in the selected Russian regions. Lack of knowledge is still hampering the popular reaction, so specialized training was organized for trade union activists to raise awareness in health and legal HIV-related issues.

UNIC / Project “Acropolis”: Beauty and disability are not incompatible

At a special event held at the UN House on 2 December on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Director of Cultural Centre “Bez Graniz” Yanina Urusova presented her Centre’s unique photographic project “Acropolis: My Newly Found Body,” which breaks stereotype perceptions of beauty and attitude to people with disabilities. The project showcases beauty in a “different” human body through the prism of ancient Greek art presented in fragments and expressing harmony and integrity of an original work of art. The project invites renowned authors, philosophers, sociologists, and journalists to discuss the beauty of “another” body and attitudes towards people with disabilities in Russia.

UNHCR / The right for citizenship

Currently more than 10 million people globally are stateless – one of the world’s most numerous vulnerable group. Due to legislative collisions, political reasons, administrative barriers, change of state borders etc. they have lost their basic rights. Aiming at ending the injustice and eradicating statelessness, UNHCR shares its experience in providing people with legal assistance and helping them normalize their life and regain rights. An active partner of the Federal Migration Service and other Russian stakeholders, it encourages Member States to join the two UN conventions on statelessness and to enhance national legislation and its practical application. The UNHCR’s decade against statelessness will provide a unique opportunity for reaching this goal.