



ACTIVATE Talk

UNICEF

“Armenia Activate Talk: Innovation for Inclusive Education”

Location & Date

Ayb High School
11/11 Tbilisyan Highway, Yerevan
June 23, 2014
12:00-3:00 (Armenian local time)

Please RSVP here: yerevanactivatetalks.eventbrite.com

Context:

UNICEF Armenia will host an Activate Talk aiming to bring together the brightest minds and boldest change makers in the country to enhance the local dialogue with fresh thinking and advocating the need for innovation and equity approach in achieving results in access to education, especially for children with disabilities. The event will focus on the topic of child rights in education and disability, inviting key thinkers and doers (young people, government, civil society, children and parents, international development partners, donors and Ambassadors) who are committed to social innovation for children. Aside from setting the agenda for SOWC, Yerevan Activate Talks will also benefit to the local campaign on social inclusion of children with disabilities.

Through a series of tailored TED-like talks (six of them), Yerevan Activate Talks will bring in various perspectives on the issue of equity in education and the right of children with disabilities to education, including and not limited to lessons learned. The event will be concluded with a panel discussion to also give the audience of 150 participants an active role to voice their opinions right on the spot. The event will be featured on the global online platform talk.unicef.org and will be live streamed (in Armenian and in English simultaneous translation).



Speakers:

Anahit Bakhshyan is the Director of the State Institute of Education of the Armenian Ministry of Education and Science. Previously Anahit served as an MP in the National Parliament and worked in a number of Armenian schools as a teacher of physics, deputy director and later on as director of the 27 school, one of the first ones in Armenia to become inclusive. Anahit has three children and is very outspoken about child rights, education reforms and policy.

Zara Batoyan works as the advocate for the rights of people with disabilities at Bridge of Hope NGO since 1999. As part of her job, Zara has extensively worked in advancing awareness and acceptance of people and children with disabilities and promoting an accessible environment for people with physical disabilities. Having a physical disability herself, Zara went to college only seven years after graduating from high school and got a degree in journalism while she was also the editor of a local youth journal “Arevatsaghik” (Sunflower). ‘When your rights are being violated, never take it as a status quo, fight for your rights, be more proactive; change comes from within,’ says Zara. She also directs disabilityinfo.am and ikin.am websites.

Artak Beglaryan is a public figure and a political scientist. Having visual impairment, Artak studied public policy and administration at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy through the Tavitian Scholarship. In 2012, he graduated from the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London. He also completed a non-complete master course in conflict studies at Yerevan State University where he previously studied political science. Beglaryan has worked as a political analyst and columnist for several Armenians newspapers and journals.

Garen Koloyan is a practicing doctor and currently directs the department of orthopedics and traumatology of the Arabkir health center. Garen is an associate of the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America, member of the European Pediatric Orthopedic Society, as well as member of the editorial teams behind the Journal of Pediatric Orthopedics and Journal of Children’s Orthopedics. In 2000, Garen received an award from the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine.

Mari Martirosyan is a musician, linguist and journalist by background. She has extensive work experience in residential and academic institutions. After the birth of her two children Mari stopped working and dedicated her time to their development. She overcomes a range of numerous barriers every day to ensure a happy childhood for her daughter who has physical disability and her son who has autism. She believes that motherhood is the greatest gift of all. “To me, being a mother means sacrifice, a mixture of love, faith and loyalty,” says Mari.

Teni Matian is an Armenian choreographer, originally from Iran. Having been born and raised in a country where dance is forbidden never stopped Teni’s passion for dance. After



graduating from St. Mary high school in Iran, she moved to Armenia, her motherland, to pursue her dream and obtained an MA in Dance Pedagogy. Later on Teni also studied in Great Britain and graduated from Salford University with a BA in Theatre Dance. She then became a registered professional dance teacher at the Royal Academy of Dance in London. Once back to Armenia, Teni lectured at several Armenian academic institutions, wrote the first contemporary dance course program in the country. In 2010, Teni established her own dance company and since has choreographed, directed and produced different choreographic pieces, including for the famous TV show "So you think you can dance." More recently, Teni worked with Candoco company from London, through the British Council, to establish the first inclusive dance company in Armenia.

Agenda:

11:40 Meet & greet

12:00 Keynote address (Minister of Education or Ombudsman – TBC)

Welcome remarks from organizer (UNICEF Representative) and host (Ayb school Director)

Session I

12:15 Talk 1. The Invisible

- Zara Batoyan, Advocate for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Bridge of Hope NGO

12:30 Talk 2. Equity in Education

- Anahit Bakhshyan, Director of the National Institute of Education

12:45 Talk 3. Finding Your Path to Education

- Artak Beglaryan, Public Figure, Political Scientist

13:00 Lunch

Session II

13:30 Talk 4. The Walk to School. What can we do to improve the lives of children with disabilities?

- Garen Koloyan, Orthopedist - pediatric traumatologist, Arabkir medical center

13:45 Talk 5. The Joy of Parenthood

Meri Martirosyan, mother

14:00 Talk 6. The Dance of Life

- Teni Matian, Inclusive dance teacher

Session III

14:15 Panel Discussion

14:50 Wrap up