

January 2012

ABOUT TIANXIAGONG

On July 25, 2011, TIANXIAGONG was registered in Nanjing, China, as an NGO that focuses on policy advocacy regarding the issues of discrimination against people with disabilities, Hepatitis, and HIV/AIDS. We also work on civil society education, and on food and medication safety standards.

Following, are the most important projects TIANXIAGONG has worked on since its foundation:

First case against HIV discrimination in the work place in Guizhou:

In 2011, a person with HIV suffered from discrimination by his employers in GuiZhou province. TIANXIAGONG guided this person in the process of finding evidence and helped him find a pro bono lawyer that would take his case to court. In addition, TIANXIAGONG coordinated interviews between the Chinese media and UNAIDS and the ILO's officers. These interviews and publicity helped bring attention to this case, as well as raise awareness on the issue of HIV discrimination in the work place.

“Ten Thousand Photos” campaign against HIV discrimination

On September 22, TIANXIAGONG launched an initiative called “One person, One photo,” which sought to support people with HIV as they struggle to secure equal employment rights. At the end of this campaign on November 29, we collected a total of 12,621 photos. These photos, along with a proposal letter, were sent to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, asking that the standards for civil service recruitment examination be amended to allow people with HIV to work as civil servants.

This initiative gathered the largest number of people advocating for an end to HIV discrimination in China. It successfully mobilized the community, and secured support by UNAIDS.

Support to a person with HIV in the collection of smiling photos of people in 12 cities

On November 8, TIANXIAGONG helped a person with HIV and his volunteers take photos on the streets of 12 provincial capital cities. We also helped contact student organizations to arrange for this person to share his experience on university campuses. This initiative attracted a lot of media attention and each local media published articles on the activities carried out in their province, with more than 250 articles written about this.

Helped three plaintiffs send letters to the prime minister

On November 28, TIANXIAGONG helped three plaintiffs involved in cases of HIV discrimination send letters to the State Council Legislative Affairs Office and Premier Wen JiaBao, asking for an amendment to the “Civil Servants Employed Medical Standards,” for it negatively affects the employment opportunities of people with HIV. On December 1, Prime Minister Wen JiaBao, during an “AIDS Day” event, publicly asked the government to eliminate this discriminatory provision. While this did not result in the actual change of the standards for employment, it did raise the profile of the issue of HIV/AIDS discrimination.

Legal training on discrimination against disabled people in Suzhou

On December 9, TIANXIAGONG held a 3-day legal training session in Suzhou on discrimination against disabled people, which was attended by approximately 45 disabled people and staff of other NGOs.

Advocacy for “Guidelines for Public Disclosure of Charitable Contributions”

At the end of August, due to the controversy surrounding Guo Meimei, who claimed to be the general manager of the Red Cross in China, the Ministry of Civil Affairs announced a draft for the “Guidelines for Public Disclosure of Charitable Contributions.” TIANXIAGONG believes this guideline lacks the legal power to create the necessary changes and was the only NGO to submit a petition letter to the Ministry of Civil Affairs proposing that its legal status be upgraded to a law. As a response to our concern, we received a call from the Minister of Civil Affairs expressing his agreement with our concern. In October, in an interview the Ministry of Civil Affairs said that the legal status of the document would change from “guideline” to “rule.”

“Listen to them—interviews with NGOs in Eastern China”

On December 5, TIANXIAGONG issued a booklet named “Listen to them—interviews with NGOs in Eastern China.” In this booklet we published interviews with different NGOs, foundations and prominent individuals in East China, in order to promote collaboration amongst them, and to facilitate the access to information about the work of these groups to anyone interested.

Survey on online HBV advertisement

On October 27, TIANXIAGONG published “Survey on online HBV advertisement,” a research that pointed out the characteristics and status of illegal and false HBV advertisement.