

My name is Iordanis Chorooglou, I am member of the European Young Bar Association and I am one of this year's Youth Delegates that take part in the Conference of INGOs.

In order to build a fairer society, we have to take into consideration the situation before the covid19-crisis and the situation during the pandemic.

Some communities and/or some regions were more vulnerable, and this vulnerability has let Covid19 affect them the most.

These communities are more fragile, and we have to keep on them.

We have witnessed from the very beginning of the pandemic crisis that some people were excluded from the public health care system as Governments had other priorities.

However, we all know, and that is why we are working on that conference and generally in the NGOs that we are members, that in a crisis the one who needs more help is the weak. It is urgent to set the most vulnerable and fragile parts of our society as a priority.

During the pandemic – crisis, we have seen that there has been a humanitarian behavior by the majority of the society and that volunteers tried to help a lot.

Taking all these into consideration we have to build a society that will be fair for everyone.

The new era should be based in 4 pillars.

1. Facilities and Infrastructure.
2. Human Resources.
3. Social Policy.
4. National and International Network.

1. Facilities and Infrastructure.

All people and regions should have access to the public health care system. That means that there should be hospitals full equipped, pharmacies, roads and of course all the fundamentals such as clean water etc.

The quality of life of the most fragile should be improved.

For example, in spots where refugees/immigrants are living there are thousands living in small camps raising the risk of affection.

2. Human Resources.

Vulnerable people are people too. They have needs. Their needs do not end by building a hospital. There should be enough people to make the hospital work properly. That means that there should be given motivations so that doctors etc can work under these conditions.

For example, we have seen that in some regions (mainly rural) there is a hospital but there are only a few people working there, and as a result, people do not enjoy the services they should (and could).

In addition, there should be also psychologists and sociologists because a lockdown for someone who is already fragile and faces many problems will be even harder for them and their families.

3. Social Policy.

The policy of the states should aim to decrease the imbalances among citizens. There should be motivations for the people that are to help the vulnerable part of the society so that they can be strong enough and feel safe.

Measures facing the financial impact of the pandemic crisis should not be horizontal. Every country should offer to all such financial aid to everyone in “normal” periods so that everyone can stay home without worrying about his survival, but there should be special provisions for the parts of the society that are really in need.

Furthermore, there are many people, mainly elderly, that need help from their children. Due to the imposed lockdown, most of them had problems in their everyday needs. So, there should be a provision for specialists who will help these people.

4. National and International Network.

In a national level, there should be a storage of the supplies that could serve the society for a longer period and that could be given to the most fragile categories of the society. We have witnessed that we were running out of some products. Moreover, unfortunately, many people got advantage of this situation and started making profit of some products (masks for example). Countries should set an upper limit in the prices of the products.

It would be also very important if countries were working together on such problems. Some countries did not allow the export of such product and confiscated them. On the other hand in some cases we have seen international help in medical equipment (even in doctors and experts) to other countries and we can only be optimistic about that.

Unfortunately, we cannot be sure that the states will change their policies towards the most vulnerable.

In a world full of selfishness where almost only profits matters, there are people who are still romantic and want to spread their spirit and their way of thinking. Engagement is a way of life for them. They are open to sacrifice many things for their dream to make the world better. NGOs are to organize people’s dreams and actions.

NGOs play a significant role in the well being in today’s society because there are many issues that the states do not have the resources or the expertise to take care of on the one hand and individuals are not strong enough to confront on the other hand. By picking up the governments’ deficits in services and social protection for citizens via the philanthropy of donors and the social awareness NGOs can fill the gap that exists. They are independent and they cannot be manipulated; they yield and guarantee a better result.

As a consequence, we have to ensure that at least the NGOs during the pandemic crisis can keep working and offering their services during the crises because people’s needs do not stop because of the crises. On the other hand, they are becoming even bigger and more. Most of NGOs exist because of the gaps in state’s policy. So, states should understand the needs of their citizen and

try to help them during the crises. That can be achieved by letting NGOs operate and not by putting obstacles to them.

I am optimistic, because we have seen during this pandemic that when a society wants something, it can get it. We have seen almost all the citizens to cooperate together so that to control the pandemic-crisis. We have to build on that and we will!