

## Alternative report

### To the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

### Concerning women's rights and gender issues in Georgia

Prepared by 13 organizations working in the field of women's rights and gender and 2  
women's networks

Advisory Centre for Women "Sakhli"  
"Amagdari"  
Association "Hera XXI"  
Association "Imedi"  
Association "Leaders for Democracy"  
Association of Azerbaijani Women  
Coalition for Women's Political Engagement  
Cultural-humanitarian foundation "Sukhumi"  
Gender Equality Network (GEN)  
"Gender Justice"  
Kakheti Regional Development Foundation (KRDF)  
Partnership for Human Rights (PHR)  
The IDP Women Association "Consent"  
The Samtskhe-Javakheti Media Center  
Union of Pedagogy  
Women's Information Center (WIC)

**Joint report was prepared by NGOs protectors of women's rights, with the support of United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations Development Program, for submission to the United Nations Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**

This report is a result of the work of NGOs protecting women's rights and includes issues of implementation of the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.



This report was prepared by 13 organizations working in the field of women's rights and gender and 2 women's networks. Development of this report was coordinated by Women's Information Center. (See Annex #1 for the list of organizations)

We would like to acknowledge UN Women for the technical support provided during preparation of this report. Considerations contained in this report belong to its authors and may not coincide with the position of UN Women.

### **Executive Summary**

1. Georgia acceded to a number of international conventions in the sphere of protection of human rights and freedoms, among them: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Additional Protocols, International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol. It has signed onto Beijing Platform of Action; Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Geneva Convention for the Protection of War Victims and its optional protocols and other human rights documents of the UN. Georgia is a state party to almost all of the universal and regional human rights conventions. Thus, Georgia is under obligation to implement existing international standards in the sphere of human rights and to create effective mechanisms for human rights protection on national level. The Constitution of Georgia is in compliance with universally recognized principles and norms of international law. Treaties concluded by Georgia, if they correspond to the Constitution, shall take precedence over domestic normative acts.<sup>1</sup>Treaties are a part of the Georgian legislation and they have direct force of operation. In addition, the state acknowledges and protects universally recognized human rights and freedoms as eternal and supreme human values.<sup>2</sup>
2. In the field of human rights, Georgia actively cooperates with the UN human rights agencies, Council of Europe (CoE), and the Organization for the Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE). Georgia is a State party to most of the main UN human rights instruments. Georgia is a member of the CoE and has thereby acceded to a series of CoE conventions, *inter alia*, European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its protocols 2, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12,13 and 14, European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, European Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Social Charter.<sup>3</sup>
3. Georgia has confirmed to move combating gender based violence to the policy level by expressing commitment to sign and ratify Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women (Istanbul Convention). On April 2, 2012 working group for ensuring compliance of the Georgian legislation with the Istanbul Convention against women was established. Criminalization of Domestic Violence happened in June, 2012, based on which domestic violence was recognized as criminal offence.
4. Georgia submitted its second and third combined reports regarding implementation of the CEDAW in November 2003 (CEDAW/C/GEO/2-3). The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women considered the Report on its Thirty-sixth session on 7-25 August 2006. Concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (hereafter – the Committee) with regard to Georgia were adopted as a result of the consideration of the Report, along with acknowledging the positive developments and measures taken by Georgia to implement the CEDAW. The Committee adopted its Concluding comments, including *inter alia* principle areas of concern and recommendations requiring the State party's priority attention between the period of the previous report and the next periodic report. The report, which in accordance with the new United Nations Guidelines, is Georgia's response to the Comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, following the consideration of Georgia's last report (CEDAW/C/GEO/2-3), addresses implementation of articles in parts I-IV of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women during 2007-2011. In 2012 the Government of Georgia provided the Committee with its 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> periodic report on Georgia's conformity with the Covenant.

## Contents

Introduction.....	4
Article 2,3,4. Measures taken for the elimination of women’s discrimination.....	4
Article 3. Basic rights and freedoms .....	6
Article 3,5,6,12,16 – Violence against women .....	6
Violence against children .....	7
Harassment of women .....	7
IDPs and UNSCR 1325.....	8
Article 5.– Stereotypes in the society .....	8
Articles 5, 15, 16. – Single mothers.....	9
National Minority Women’s Rights.....	9
Prisoner Women.....	9
LGBT Women.....	10
Article 6. Trafficking .....	10
Article 7 and 8 – Women’s participation in politics and social life. ....	11
Article 10 – Education .....	11
Article 11 – Labor and Employment.....	12
Article 12 – Healthcare.....	13
Article 14 – Rights of women living in rural areas. ....	13
Annex 1 - NGOs working in the field of protection of women’s rights, who took part in the process of preparation of this report:.....	16
Annex 2 - Statistic concerning Violence against Women .....	19
Annex 3 - Statistic concerning Trafficking.....	21
List of Sources.....	24

## Introduction

1. On 22 September 1994, Georgia joined the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and undertook the commitment of submitting periodic report on the status of women in the country to CEDAW Committee. After ratification of the document, Georgia signed additional protocol of the Convention in 2002, and in 2005 undertook a commitment under the Article 20 paragraph 1 of the Convention.
2. In February 1998, Georgia submitted its first report reviewed by the Committee on its 21<sup>st</sup> session, on 8-11 June. In addition to the positive appraisal, Georgia received final comments and recommendations drawn up by the Committee for the implementation of CEDAW. In parallel to the national reports, Georgian women's NGOs submitted to the Committee the first alternative report in 1998.<sup>4</sup>
3. Committee on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) reviewed second and third periodic reports submitted by Georgia at the same time, at 36<sup>th</sup> session, 7-25 August 2006. Issues under consideration and the list of questions, drawn up by the Committee reflected in recommendations of the Committee to the Government of Georgia (CEDAW/C/GEO/3),<sup>5</sup> and answers of Georgia in CEDAW/C/GEO/Q/Add.1. Second and third reports were also submitted by Georgian women's NGOs.<sup>6</sup> It is worth to note that recommendations received from Human Rights Council correspond to the requests often raised by NGOs.
4. In accordance with the recommendations and comments received by Georgia after review of the second and third reports, CEDAW Committee offered Georgia to submit joint fourth and fifth periodic alternative report in November 2011. However, the State submitted report in May 2012. Despite of commitments undertaken by Georgia, state was submitting reports to contracting agencies of the United Nations with delay or not submitting them at all.<sup>7</sup>
5. In the same period of time, the coalition of NGOs working on the issues of women's rights prepared "shadow" report containing analysis of implementation of commitments undertaken by Georgia under the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women in different periods; and on the issue of implementing recommendations given to Georgia by CEDAW Committee and UN Human Rights Council, during Universal Periodic Review (UPR).
6. On 1 February 2011, Georgia presented UPR report at 11<sup>th</sup> session of United Nations Human Rights Council. State received 160 recommendations under UPR, with more than 20 recommendations related to the issues of women's and gender rights.<sup>8</sup>
7. Universal Periodic Review Report on women's rights was presented by a large group of NGOs working on women's rights issues, so called JS5<sup>3</sup>, consisting of 21 NGOs. Information in this report had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and UNHRC Resolution 5/1 of 27 September 2007.
8. In 2013 shadow report of Georgian NGOs on the implementation of commitments undertaken by Georgia under the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had been sent to Human Rights Committee, where special section was dedicated to gender issues and prohibition of women's discrimination.
9. Alternative report for CEDAW Committee had been prepared in 2014 by the coalition of NGOs.<sup>9</sup>
10. It is noteworthy that from the previous review period until now political situation and government in Georgia has changed various times, which somehow changed attitude to the implementation of commitments undertaken under the Covenant.

### **Article 2,3,4. Measures taken for the elimination of women's discrimination**

11. Georgian legislation, de jure, recognizes the principle of equality of sexes. Though, de facto, equality still remains problem. In Georgia, equality of women and men is declared by the Article 14 of the Constitution: *"Everyone is free by birth and is equal before law regardless of race, colour, language, sex, religion, political and other opinions, national, ethnic and social belonging, origin, property and title, place of residence"*.
12. In this article "sex" is mentioned with other categories not allowing differentiation of human beings before the law. There is no special indication in the text that women and men have equal rights and basic freedoms; Georgian Constitution uses terms: "human", "citizen", or "individual" for both sexes. For example, Article 18 paragraph 1: "Liberty of an individual is inviolable." Terms "human", "citizen", or "individual" are used for both sexes in the Constitution and this indicates that there is no necessity to differentiate citizens based on sex.
13. Women are mentioned only twice in the Constitution. Mentioning women together with minors in the Article 30 paragraph 4, indicating that "the working conditions of minors and women shall be determined by law", which emphasizes that State should protect their working conditions by means of the special law, implies that

creators of the Constitution recognize (though not declared directly) necessity of protection of women, like minors. Article 36 considers women just as wives and mothers: “marriage shall be based upon equality of rights and free will of spouses”, and paragraph 3 of the same article declares that “the rights of the mother and the child shall be protected by law”.

14. “Gender-neutral” language and general recognition of prohibition of sexual discrimination is included in almost all key legislative acts.<sup>10</sup> Though, no effective legal enforcement mechanisms and listing of concrete measures for ensuring gender equality come with general provisions of these laws. Namely, Election Code of Georgia recognizes equal, passive and active electoral rights of men and women, but lack of concrete legal standards ensuring these rights leads to imbalance when realizing passive electoral rights. Although a number of amendments have been made in Election Code, women’s representation in decision-making bodies and the Parliament is still significantly low.
15. Introducing amendments in the Criminal Code of Georgia, regarding responsibility for domestic violence crime (Article 11<sup>1</sup> of CCG) and domestic violence (Article 126<sup>1</sup> of CCG)<sup>11</sup> was not much effective.<sup>12</sup>
16. Unlike executive branch, the legislative branch made more progress, as in December 2004 Gender Advisory Council under the Chair of Parliament was created, which contributed to development of State Concept on gender equality and adoption of the law “on gender equality” in March 2010.<sup>13</sup> Since 2008 Vice-Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia was a Chair of the Council, since 2010 Gender Advisory Council became a permanent institutional mechanism.
17. Law “on gender equality” and adoption of action plans is a step forward, but has some flaws. This law is declarative, presenting pathos of gender equality only by principles; it accumulates statements in labor law, domestic law and other fields existing at legal level, but does not indicate mechanisms assisting to implementation of these principles: 1. List of obligations of persons holding levers of decision making is not identified, as gender policy of the country must be implemented by the subjects holding these levers; 2. Procedural measures, protection of rights of discriminated persons in the circumstances of direct or indirect discrimination are not set out; 3. If the fact of discrimination is confirmed, amount of compensation and way of payment is not set out; 4. List of concrete forms of discrimination, does not exist, e.g. in labor, welfare, health, education fields; 5. The issue (term) “gender mainstreaming” included in the State concept of gender equality adopted in 2006, remains out of the law. Despite action plans adopted in different periods, improvement of institutional mechanisms could not be achieved.
18. Legislative amendments and reforms carried out throughout last years, including adoption of the law “on gender equality” and action plans<sup>14</sup>, as well as drawing up of the concept of gender equality,<sup>15</sup> turned out to be insufficient.
19. NGOs protecting women’s rights express their concern and indicate that the law cannot be fully implemented by the legislative body only, especially, if it is not provided with gender-sensitive budget. In Gender Equality Council of the Parliament should be established special forum, space for the representatives of civil society (women’s NGOs, researchers, media), for drawing up policy and laws related to gender equality. This is especially important taking into account the fact that women’s NGOs were invited members of Gender Advisory Council under the Chair of the Parliament, when the Council was not permanent authority yet.<sup>16</sup>
20. Insufficient resources provided by the State in order to implement gender equality policy and lack of political will, especially in executive branch, leads to ineffective protection of women’s rights and weak progress in achieving gender equality.
21. Despite of amendments made at legislative level, according to the “global gender gap index” 2013<sup>17</sup>, Georgia is on 97<sup>th</sup> position among 136 in terms of women’s political participation.<sup>18</sup>
22. Poor legal consciousness of the society, especially lack of information on women’s rights and gender issues, gender sensitive programs for small business development, absence of special gender-sensitive programs for education of youth (from general education to higher institutions), “zero tolerance” to the violence against women, inactivity of media regarding this issue, absence of stereotypes, high level of violence against women, insufficiency of shelters for victims of violence, inefficient actions of the police to eliminate facts of domestic violence and other factors are results of inefficiency of women’s rights protection in Georgia. Initiatives of citizens in terms of actualization of women’s and gender issues are low. Civil society – NGOs protecting women’s rights, are trying to fill the gap, but their resources are limited.
23. Actual situation worsened by the absence of opportunities for women regarding implementation of their rights. On the one hand, they are not aware of their rights, and on the other hand, they live only with obligations, what is in most cases stereotypical view on women’s role in the society. Legal education level is low, especially

in regions, where habits, influence of religious factor is strong, and access to information is poor, compared to center. Thus, women are not aware of protection mechanisms existing in the country. Language barrier is a problem in national minority groups.

24. Regarding electoral quotes, amendments initiated by NGOs, which have been partially adopted by the government, could not ensure expected result. Women's representation in decision-making bodies is too low.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Georgian Government must realize in depth alerting tendencies and develop result-oriented measures;
2. Gender issues to be obligatory by national educational programs (developed by the Ministry of Education and Science) in schools and gender component included in teachers' continuous educational system;
3. Accordingly, required financial resources to be raised in the budget for the implementation of the action plan;
4. Consider gender equality principles (gender mainstreaming) in the processes of policy planning and implementation in various fields.

#### **Article 3. Basic rights and freedoms**

##### **Article 3,5,6,12,16 – Violence against women**

25. Violence against women still remains one of the most important problems. Violence occurs inside and outside the family (see Annex #2). Strengthening of silence culture and zero tolerance among the representatives of relevant authorities, non-governmental sector and society regarding facts of domestic violence remains a concern.<sup>19</sup> In case of sexual violence, rape, inside or outside family, victims avoid unveiling details of violence committed against them. Reason is the attitude of the society, fear of violator and non-confidence towards law enforcement authorities. Because of complexity of criminal process, victims do not make a complaint or later refuse proceeding with it.<sup>20</sup>
26. Addressability to the police regarding facts of violence especially decreased since 25 June 2012, when domestic violence became criminalized,<sup>21</sup> which means recognition of domestic violence as a crime.<sup>22</sup> Current situation forces a victim of domestic violence to avoid declaration, because they are afraid of criminal prosecution of violator, especially if violator is a breadwinner. Cases when police does not write restraining order and fact of violence is reported as family conflict, are common.
27. In 2013 through television PLLA Levan Samkharauli State Forensic Expertise Bureau announced that for years already it has been providing services for women regarding testing their virginity, namely for 175 GEL (approximately 72 EURO) women can have their hymen checked. This service is offered to private persons and women use this service to prove their virginity to their husbands and relatives. Independent Group of Feminists, a non-formal feminist initiative, protested this practice and demanded its abolishment from the above mentioned public law legal entity and relevant regulatory legislation, but this discriminatory practice is still ongoing.
28. Index of individual statements submitted to the Court demanding approval of order of protection is low.<sup>23</sup> Defense mechanisms under restraining order turned out to be less effective.<sup>24</sup> Requests are submitted to the Court regarding issuance of the order of protection are less compared with restraining order.<sup>25</sup>
29. Inaccuracy of statistics is a problem. Gender analysis of statistics shows that statistics required by the final comments of the Committee on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>26</sup> and recommendations of the Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Issues<sup>27</sup> regarding Georgia, are not carried out by any authority.
30. We acknowledge that within reporting period a number of measures were taken by the state, law<sup>28</sup> and action plans for different periods were adopted (2007-2008;<sup>29</sup> 2009-2010;<sup>30</sup> 2011-2012;<sup>31</sup> 2013-2015),<sup>32</sup> mechanisms for responding to domestic violence were developed. Despite of this, general character of action plans does not change from year to year. State cannot ensure synchronized operation of all mechanisms. Activation of mechanisms for first and urgent aid to victims, defined in legislative amendments made in 2009, e.g. establishing crisis center, are not achieved until now.<sup>33</sup>
31. Effective measures regarding rehabilitation of violator, provided by the law and postponed until 2015, should be implemented immediately, otherwise separation of victim from the violator following each fact of violence has a formal character, violator is not able to change behavior and eventually victim faces the problem again after some time. Intimidated victim will not have a desire to address to law enforcement authorities or the Court.

32. The law cannot be enforced without effective work of different mechanisms – police and social worker's institute, which are determined by the law. Absence of social services until now makes a big flaw in complete enforcement of the law on domestic violence.
33. Issue of shelters still remains a problem. Taking into consideration number of population of Georgia, 4 - state (Tbilisi, Batumi, Gori and Kutaisi) and 3 - non-governmental shelters are not enough.
34. Adequate services for domestic violence victims and providing them with assistance is still problematic issue.
35. One of the problems related to shelter is cases of victims with psycho-social disorders. In shelters, such requirements are not considered.<sup>34</sup> For the victims, who are drug abusers, getting into shelter is associated with problems or is impossible at all.<sup>35</sup>
36. This service should be equally available both for residents of cities and villages. It is very important to raise some resources from the State budget, in order to arrange shelters in all regions of Georgia.
37. State must provide financial support to shelters and services established by NGOs.

#### **Violence against children**

38. Often children are witnesses of violence and victims of psychological violence. When studying the practice, it seems that it is difficult for patrol police to identify psychological violence towards minors.<sup>36</sup>
39. Court often does not approve restraining order for children, who are witnesses of domestic violence between their parents and suffer from psychological violence. Sometimes trace of violence is hard to identify even for policemen. Arrival of social or medical worker at the scene, where there are minor victims of violence, is not regulated by the law.<sup>37</sup>
40. With the purpose of information sharing, there is a necessity of the cooperation with teachers of kindergartens and psychologists, schools or other institutions, where identification of such problem and psychological violence is possible. Based on the best interest of the child, it is necessary to introduce programs at state level for implementation by social workers, what will allow them identifying facts of violence against minors, for their prevention and rehabilitation.
41. Patrol police officers must also have skills needed for identification violence against minors.

#### **Harassment of women**

42. Awareness of the society on harassment of women is still low. Often such forms of harassment as offences on the street, in transport and public places are not considered as violence and society though may not like it, still will not consider it as malefaction. Often society is not tolerant to the victim of harassment, and sometimes victim does not realize violence committed against her, or suffers to avoid condemnation from the society.<sup>38</sup>

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Collect statistics related to domestic violence, both by the police and courts. Carry out systematization of domestic violence cases and gender-based archiving according to years;
2. Regular and systematic training of state officers on these issues;
3. Planning trainings in regions for patrol police representatives on identification of types of domestic violence;
4. Ensuring systematic trainings for child specialists, in order for effective identification of violence against children and to take adequate measures in case if there is a suspicion on violence against children in the family;
5. Adequate financing from budget for types of activities stipulated by law and action plan, for effective enforcement of all regulations;
6. Action plan must involve complex activities, with concrete stages and indicators, in order to ensure comprehensive and coordinated approach for operation of all articles of the law;
7. Increase number of shelters, providing adequate service to victims and promoting effective referral system functioning for assistance/rehabilitation;
8. State must clearly define the role of social workers in national referral mechanisms of domestic violence victims; ensure institutional strengthening of social workers;
9. It is important for all adequate measures to be carried out by the State for elimination of facts of harassment of women and protection of victims. In particular, enhance defensive measures in public and civil sectors.
10. Ratification of The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)

### **IDPs and UNSCR 1325**

43. For the country with unresolved conflicts, putting in force UNSCR 1325 adopted in 2000 by UN Security Council and other related resolutions, is very important. Therefore, as a result of the efforts of civil society, and initiative of UN Women and Gender Equality Council, on 27 December 2011, the Parliament of Georgia adopted Action Plan for implementation of UNSCR 1325. This process started within the framework of the project “Women for Equality, Peace and Security” and 112 NGOs from Tbilisi and regions, and 102 IDPs and conflict-affected persons, majority of which are women, were involved in process of designing of the plan.<sup>39</sup>
44. In 2011 during the work on action plan, working meetings and consultations with representatives of civil society have been held. Problems raised by women from conflict regions have been considered directly in the Action Plan. Although action plan is developed, at the moment, women’s engagement in conflict settlement is at minimum level in Georgia. There are two formats of negotiations – Geneva Talks and Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism. Women’s engagement in Geneva Talks is limited to two women only and decreased compared to the previous period, when four women participated.
45. National coordination group consisting of Ministries and NGOs, which is working on implementation of the plan, has been established. Group convenes periodically and works only with the support of international organizations. Among Ministries, only the Ministry of Defense made steps forward, while implementation of the plan by other agencies cannot stand fire. At this stage, still important problem remains raising funds for the action plan from the State budget.
46. According to women NGOs, “women’s resources are not used in conflict settlement until now. Informal meetings of non-governmental sector have often been conducted, but women’s opinion never was considered at high level governmental meetings”.
47. Country has tens of thousands of IDPs, though effective policy for peaceful settlement of conflicts has not been implemented yet. Facts of arrest of Georgian citizens by Ossetian or Russian border guards, with the charge of crossing the administrative border of South Ossetia, are common. Residents of these villages are living in hard socio-economic conditions. Accordingly, necessity of implementation of the action plan for UNSCR 1325 in regions is permanently revealing.

### **Recommendations:**

1. State authorities participating in meetings of national coordination group, must work actively on effective implementation of the plan and gender mainstreaming;
2. State must allocate a budget for effective implementation of action plan for UNSCR1325.

### **Article 5. Stereotypes in the society**

48. Committee on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in recommendations issued in 2006, calls upon participant – Georgia – to continue efforts towards elimination of gender stereotypes.<sup>40</sup> According to the recommendations 106.27, 106.30, 106.33 adopted by the UN General Assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> Session of Universal Periodic Review (31 May, 2011), Georgia accepts these recommendations completely, which imply protection of women from discrimination and promotion of law on gender equality.
49. Situation in terms of raising awareness of the society is still alerting, although international organizations, UN Agencies and women’s NGOs and State institutions are cooperating actively and making joint efforts to overcome stereotypes existing in the society. Free social ads, talk-shows, video rolls, TV and radio shows are being broadcasted on Public Broadcaster, though their number is limited and broadcasting occurs at low-rating time, while actual products is not enough for full awareness of the society, thus being unable to cover negative tendencies in media space.
50. Overruling stereotypes prevent execution of existing laws. Media is not able, or does not try to restrict distribution of clearly sexist business ads. In addition, rapid development of modern technologies for distribution of the information: social networks, blogs and forums, provide rich soil for strengthening these stereotypes and sexist statements.<sup>41</sup>
51. Although majority of journalists are women, publishers, political commentators, editors, are usually men. In this regard, situation has not changed for years.<sup>42</sup> These tendencies are among the main obstacles in terms of putting forward women’s rights and gender issues.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Development of gender-sensitive information policy in the country;

2. Conducting gender audit of the Public Broadcaster and other media;
3. Assess the law on broadcasting and advertising and related legislative acts and initiate amendments;

**Articles 5, 15, 16. – Single mothers.**

52. There is no status of single mother in Georgia until now. In Georgia, woman is considered a single mother, if she gave birth to a child without father and the child has a surname of a mother, but this is a classic meaning of single mother. In Georgia there are many women abandoned: although child has a surname of a father, mother is still single in fact. Woman and child are ignored not only by father, but also by the State, and receive no state assistance.<sup>43</sup>
53. In Georgia, single mother can receive material assistance only if she is in a database of socially unprotected families. One more advantage is that annual income not exceeding 3000 GEL is not subject to taxes.<sup>44</sup>
54. At the initiative of the NGO<sup>45</sup>, by the end of 2011, amendment was made in Civil Code of Georgia, according to which paternity can be established by the court using DNA-test. According to this new amendment, if father abandons his child, mother can submit a complaint in the court and claim making genetic test to a father.<sup>46</sup> Although mother is not being charged with court fee, she still has to cover expenses of expertise, which makes expertise un-affordable for many single mothers. The test costs 1600-2000 GEL and answer is received within 10 working days. If defendant still refuses taking a test, his paternity is established automatically<sup>47</sup> and he is committed to pay alimony in amount of approximately 20-25% of his income. If parents cannot agree, the court establishes this amount individually.

**Recommendations:**

1. Status of single mother to be adopted;
2. Effective measures to be taken and financial resources raised by the State for covering costs of DNA-expertise for establishment of paternity.
3. Measures to be taken by the State for protection of rights of single mothers.

**National Minority Women's Rights.**

55. Representatives of national minority women especially face discrimination in some regions of Georgia. Rules, habits, traditions, religious factor, stereotypes make this group one of the most vulnerable; it is especially true for early marriages, access to education and domination of "community laws" over state legislation.
56. Problem of early marriages is a serious problem in the regions, populated by national minorities, especially in Marneuli. Girls get married at the age of 14-15, while beforehand they are engaged and grooms no longer like girls going to schools and they drop out from higher classes. Marriage sometimes takes place because of willingness and compulsion of parents. Early married girls are often having many children and give birth without intervals. 18 year old child may already have three kids.<sup>48</sup>
57. Language barrier restricts mainly women, because men are able to find jobs, even if they do not know the language.<sup>49</sup> Representatives of ethnic and language minorities face problems in promoting general and professional education, mother tongue and literature. Because of language barriers, information on employment, health care, family planning and education is not accessible for national minority women.

**Recommendations:**

1. Consideration of specifics of national minorities at the shelters for victims of domestic violence.
2. Informing national minorities on women's rights and gender equality and establishment of institutions for protection of women's rights.

**Prisoner Women**

58. At the probation system, access to family visits remains a problem for accused women. This gap was maintained to avoid prisoners' pregnancy, before 2013, however, after 2012 Parliamentary Elections, attitude of government towards this issue has changed and after settlement of infrastructure at women's facility, family visits were allowed.
59. Women prisoners usually constitute 2-9% of total number of prisoners, however, in several cases this indicator can be higher.<sup>50</sup> Economically unprotected and vulnerable women happen at pretrial detention places more often, as they are not in the position of paying the bail or paying for lawyer service costs to be released before trial.

60. A lot of accused women are psychologically unbalanced, addicted to alcohol or drugs and therefore, are in need of special support.<sup>51</sup>
61. Government should more intensively carry out professional training, psycho-rehabilitation for prisoner women and work with prisoners with kids. <sup>52</sup> Trainings in business field with different groups of prisoner women are now mainly carried out by non-governmental sector.

**Recommendation:**

1. Government should consider women's specific needs at penitentiary facility, consider UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Sanctions for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);
2. Establish re-socialization programs for dismissed women that will help them in integration in the society;
3. Support improvement of conditions for prisoners from socially unprotected and other vulnerable groups.

**LGBT Women**

62. Several NGOs work on these issues in Georgia. In 2012, a study was conducted on the status of LGBT persons<sup>53</sup>. The study evaluated how wide is discrimination against LGBT group in different spheres, what type of physical or psychological violence is taking place and in what frequency, whether family members know about their orientation, how members of the group themselves assess the attitude of society towards them, etc.
63. Although, equality of rights is ensured by the constitution, in everyday life, LGBT persons face aggressive attitudes, discrimination and violence. Existence of number of legislative gaps supports institutional and legal discrimination towards LGBT persons. Social intolerance covers and is reflected in official attitude towards LGBT persons. Afterwards, LGBT persons have to live in unending fear, hide their sexual orientation and restrict self-expression. Adult, as well as young LGBT persons face harassment and oppression. Despite the claims on violations of rights, government has not adopted any law specifically for the solution of this issue (Anti-Discrimination law has been adopted by the Parliament in 2014). It should be mentioned, that 4<sup>th</sup> periodic report of government does not mention the problems of LGBT persons at all.

**Recommendation:**

1. Government should pay more attention to the protection of LGBT persons human rights.

**Article 6. Trafficking in women**

64. "Law on combating human trafficking" <sup>54</sup> entered into force on June 16, 2006. <sup>55</sup> Human trafficking is punishable action also by the criminal code of Georgia. Government entities, as well as representatives of non-governmental and international organizations have been working on the development of the law. Trafficking was announced as a punishable action by the criminal code of Georgia in 2003. <sup>56</sup>
65. Besides the positive changes regarding combating trafficking (start of the work of hotline, establishment of shelters, development of action plan, functioning of state fund on Protection and Assistance to the Victims of Human Trafficking, etc.), number of investigations and criminal prosecution diminished greatly. (See annex #3).
66. According to the US State Department TIP report, position of Georgia in 2012 worsened compared to previous year and moved from Tier 1 to Tier 2. <sup>57</sup>
67. Identification of victims of human trafficking also remains an issue.<sup>58</sup> Compared to previous year, number of persons recognized as victims of trafficking by the government and efforts for proactive identification of victims among vulnerable groups, lowered. Information on investigation of such type of cases where public servants were involved in trafficking is low. The number of investigations of the cases of trafficking and punishment of persons involved in human trafficking decreased.
68. Another problem stems from government not proposing any type of grant program for non-governmental organizations for raising public awareness on trafficking. Although, government continued information campaign through media, public statements, advertising billboards, social TV advertising, and seminars, these activities have incidental character and are less effective.

**Recommendations:**

1. Government should take permanent measures for combating trafficking;
2. Government should support awareness raising of society on the issues of human trafficking;

3. Government should provide grant programs to NGOs for implementation of educational and informational activities on the issues of human trafficking.

#### **Article 7 and 8 – Women’s participation in politics and social life.**

69. Main challenge of gender equality remains to be low level of women’s participation in political life of the state. According to the “global gender gap index”<sup>59</sup>, Georgia takes 97<sup>th</sup> place out of 136 states according to women’s political participation. Representation of women at the Parliament of Georgia is 11%, at the ministers’ offices - 21%; while at the local self-government bodies – 10%. It should be mentioned that participation of women at the local government level decreases after each election. There is an especially low indicator in the city councils of the national minority populated municipalities.
70. According to “global gender gap index”, Georgia holds 102<sup>nd</sup> place according to women’s representation at the parliament, while according to Inter-Parliamentary Union, as of December 1, 2013, among 188 national parliaments, Georgia holds 105<sup>th</sup> place based on statistics of women’s participation.<sup>60</sup> Although, after 2012 parliamentary elections, women’s representation at the legislative body was increased by 5%, Georgia remains among the states, where women’s representation at decision-making level is low.
71. There is no regulation about gender quota in election legislation in the country. Regarding this issue, recommendation was presented by Venice Commission in 2011<sup>61</sup> according to which, Georgia should review election system and to increase women’s engagement in political processes in Georgia through introduction of quota or other effective mechanisms.
72. In 2011, special supplement was added to the organic law of Georgia on political unions of citizens, which envisaged allocation of supplementary 10% funding for those parties, which included at least 20% of different gender in every 10 candidates on the party list. According to the amendments adopted in 2013, the abovementioned funding was increased to 30%, for the inclusion 30% of different gender. Despite this incentive, for 2014 local self-government elections, number of women candidates represented is still low in party, as well as majority lists<sup>62</sup>.
73. Moreover, there is a problem in lack of communication among different actors (political parties, state structures, non-governmental and international organizations), which hinders strengthening women’s political participation. With this aim, in February, 2014 “Task Force” was established, which coordinates support to women’s political participation in pre-election period and will mobilize existing resources.<sup>63</sup>
74. For effective implementation of gender policy it is necessary to improve institutional mechanism in legislative and executive branch. Matter of special importance is establishment of permanent institutions in executive branch at central, as well as regional level – in local self-governments.<sup>64</sup>
75. As of May 2014, women are heads of only 4 ministries – Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Environment Protection, Ministry of Education and Science and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which constitutes 15.8% of total number of ministries.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Increase politicians’ responsibility on support of women’s promotion in political life and government entities should contribute to women’s career development at regional and central level.
2. Promote introduction of quota or other mechanism, as a temporary special measure for increasing women’s political participation, in close cooperation with nongovernmental and international organizations.
3. Promote representation of national minority, internally displaced and other vulnerable groups in party lists.
4. Improve gender related institutional mechanism in Georgia at central and local levels.

#### **Article 10 – Education**

76. Constitution of Georgia<sup>65</sup> is gender neutral in relation to education issue. Constitution of Georgia<sup>66</sup> reiterates Declaration on Human Rights, provision specified by first optional protocol of the convention on human rights and fundamental freedoms and international covenant on economic, social and cultural rights, that everyone has the right to education.
77. According to the data of 2011-2013, number of students at state general education institutions is 606 659, among them girls - 242 026.<sup>67</sup> Number of women with higher education in Georgia is high. According to data of 2012-2013, girls constitute 54.3% of total number of students at private higher education institutions, while at state higher education institutions – 56.5%.<sup>68</sup>

78. At the education system, gender misbalance is evident from the data of 2013, according to which out of 67 152 teachers, 57 370 are women.<sup>69</sup> One of the reasons for this, is extremely low salaries. Although, most of teachers are women, in the villages school administration are mainly represented by men, in Tbilisi – by women. At the universities, usually men are represented at the positions of rectors or deans.
79. Only 3 higher universities in Georgia have introduced gender studies. Gender studies program course was introduced by the non-governmental organizations in the framework of different projects mainly.
80. In 2012, study of civil education handbooks was conducted and besides some level of gender sensitivity, gender discriminatory attitudes were identified in the handbooks. More specifically, “during the development of the handbook, there is no willingness shown, or less attention is paid to equal representation of gender. Therefore, handbooks do not show women’s role, contribution and importance in public-political life properly. Although, civil education handbooks give some knowledge on human rights, equality, but gives less or no knowledge on frequently unequal opportunities of realization of their rights by different gender in reality.”<sup>70</sup>
81. According to the data of Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, from October 2011 till January 2013, at the public and private schools before finishing studies at the basic level, 7 367 girls dropped out of schools, main reasons of which is mainly early marriages. Dropout rates are especially high in Kvemo Kartli Region. Despite the recommendations presented in the report, issue of early marriages is still active and unfortunately, no active steps have been taken in this direction.<sup>71</sup>
82. Government cannot or does not ensure reproductive or sexual education of adolescents at the standard study programs. Education of girls with disabilities remains a problem; as well as rural girls and women’s access to higher and lifelong learning.
83. Educational programs for adults in Tbilisi and Regions are mainly carried out by non-governmental organizations and cover the courses of languages, computer and accounting.
84. Because of the problems related to childcare, women have less access to lifelong learning, compared to men. In Georgia, the idea that women should be occupied with household tasks and child care is widely spread. Therefore, women face additional barriers in accessing lifelong learning. Moreover, often women’s educational and work opportunities are defined and restricted by their spouses after marriage.
85. No reaction is followed for women facing this type of problems for the support of this type of women. There are no programs for young, student mothers, which restricts single mothers from accessing education.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia should consider gender parameters, including reproductive and sexual education study components, during the development of handbook standards.
2. Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia should work on raising gender sensitivity of the authors of handbooks, as well as teachers through conducting trainings;
3. It is important to strengthen activities directed to the awareness raising and special attention to be paid to awareness raising of teachers, parents and legal institutions about the problems deriving from early marriages and existing legal regulations.

#### **Article 11 – Labor and Employment**

86. As of 2013, Women’s economic activity and participation in state’s economic life is very low. According to the “Global Gender Gap Index”, Georgia holds 64<sup>th</sup> position out of 136 states. According to the same data, compared to previous years, Georgia has moved to lower position, instead of making progress, as of 2012, country was presented at 57<sup>th</sup> position, while as of 2011 – 54<sup>th</sup> position.<sup>72</sup>
87. According to the same data, based on the indicator of equal pay for equal work, Georgia holds 14<sup>th</sup> place, with the ratio of annual income of women and men – 114<sup>th</sup> place. Average rate of income also differs based on gender. Women’s average income in 2012 in Public Sector was 456.6 GEL (approximately 256 USD; while men’s – 833.8 GEL (470.1USD); in Private Sector – women have 583.9(328 USD); men - 968 (545 USD).<sup>73</sup>
88. Issues related to the realization of labor rights are regulated by the labor code of Georgia, which entered into force in December, 2010<sup>74</sup>, while legal guarantees of labor rights employed in public service is regulated by the “law on public service”.<sup>75</sup>
89. Although amendments to the labor code were made in several stages, employed women’s situation is still harsh and needs to be changed in compliance with international standards: compensation for pregnancy, birth giving and child care is still low (about 90 USD monthly), legislation recognizes unequal conditions for women

employed in public and private sector, there are no specific conditions considered for pregnant and nursing women.

**Recommendations:**

1. Fundamental guarantees for labor rights of mothers and pregnant women to be defined by the constitution;
2. Improve the legislation regulating legal relations; labor rights, social rights and guarantees of those employed in private sector, including women, should become equal to those employed in public service, based on the principle of equality;
3. State should join 183th Convention of International Organization(ILO) on protection of maternity;
4. Support entrepreneur women, including rural women, by issuing low interest rate credits and financing of small agricultural projects;
5. Increase awareness of rural women about their rights on property and land.

**Article 12 – Healthcare**

90. 2011-2015 National Strategy of Georgian Healthcare aims at development of services for mothers and children. Circumstances that lead to women’s decision on artificial termination of pregnancy are directly related to the problem of availability and accessibility of family planning services.<sup>76</sup>
91. Compared to 2009, number of abortions in 2012 has increased by 61.3%. By discussing number of abortions by age groups, it is noteworthy, that abortions made by women between the ages of 20-44, are more than 94% of total number.<sup>77</sup>  
Non- governmental organizations conducted a research concerning this issue, in the framework of which, 1600 women living in 4 regions were interviewed. <sup>78</sup>Interviews confirmed the fact, that **number of selective abortions is high.**<sup>79</sup> 1,4% of interviewed women told, that they’ve made abortion because of sex of the child, information about which they received before making decision on abortion. <sup>80</sup>
92. Number of selective abortions in Georgia is worrying. Regions, settled by ethnic minorities are particularly distinguished. Members of Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe (CoE)<sup>81</sup> state that in Georgia, Albania, Azerbaijan and Armenia, selection of sex before birth achieved alerting level. <sup>82</sup>
93. Non-governmental organizations were first to react to the problem of selective abortions, underlined in 1829 Resolution of CoE Parliamentary Assembly.<sup>83</sup>By the data of EU Parliamentary Assembly, by the ratio of birth of girls and boys, 111 boys are born for every 100 girls. By the data of UN, this ratio of birth of girls and boys, 106 boys are born for every 100 girls. We may conclude that despite the tendency of reduction of abortions in Georgia, number of abortions is still very high. <sup>84</sup>

**Recommendations:**

1. Raise awareness of population on the issues of reproductive health and gender equality/rights.
2. By implementing educational programs, the State should promote elimination of the practice of prenatal defining of sex.

**Article 14 – Rights of women living in rural areas.**

94. Support of women, living in rural areas needs great efforts. Despite the fact, that many non-governmental and international organizations work on women’s rights and gender equality in Georgia, this is not enough. Women’s economic empowerment is very important to strengthen their role in family and social life.
95. Situation of women’s employment is particularly difficult in conflict affected areas and in the villages settled by internally displaced and compactly settled people. Most of women living in rural areas do not own strategic property. They live in the houses of their fathers or husbands and are never the owners. They do not make differences between “family’s income” and “woman’s income”, or “family’s property” and “woman’s property”. Women living in rural areas, particularly in mountains, do not have access to information on services concerning healthcare, economic issues, insurance or other social issues.<sup>85</sup> Despite the support and participation of non-governmental and international organizations, it is necessary to make more active and important steps for women’s economic empowerment and their involvement in agriculture. It is noteworthy, that women are not on high positions neither in legislative, nor in executive branches working on agricultural issues.

**Recommendations:**

1. Coordinated work of legislative and executive structures and cooperation with non-governmental and international organizations will make possible the achievement of better goals and results in the field of gender equality.
2. It is necessary to work out educational programs for women and girls about reproductive health and cancer diseases;
3. Develop special grant programs for women and girls, which will create initiative groups/ organizations;
4. Promote establishment of cooperatives in order to allow women's participation in development of agriculture;
5. Develop special grant programs for women and girls, which will promote the implementation of cultural initiatives of women, living in high mountain regions (promoting unions/groups of creative women and girls and their activity).

## **Conclusion**

Despite the significant progress, the achievement of gender equality is still a problem in Georgia. Even though in 2013, there has been a number of positive changes in Georgia in the legislative, institutional and civil society's actions towards promoting gender equality, the level of inequality is still high.

Great efforts and active participation of NGOs in the field of women's rights included number of activities and initiatives of non-governmental organizations to attract attention to women's rights and to participate in correcting the infringement issues, which at times resulted in the creation of special mechanisms.

Although in the previous reporting period onwards, many things have been done for women's rights and gender equality on both the legislative and executive levels, the state needs more of an effort to show the CEDAW Committee and in the UPR recommendations, improvement and strengthening of the institutional mechanisms. It is necessary to have a gender sensitive budget to make implementation of gender mainstreaming systematic.

As practice shows, only gender neutral legislation and absence of gender discriminatory expressions in law do not always facilitate gender equality in the society; many other factors and obstacles affect the women's status and conditions. Hence, additional, gender oriented legislation is needed to achieve gender equality goal or at least to improve women's status. That is the main reason for integrating special legislation into national one. Speaking about the laws that particularly aim to ensure gender equality in Georgia, one can conclude: it is necessary to strengthen the institutional mechanisms for enforcing the legislation, so that the state will actually protect gender equality.

The practice, the numerous interviews with experts and practicing judges and lawyers, focus groups conducted with citizens' participation, seminars and workshops, which were provided in the framework of different projects, demonstrated different picture: the positive discrimination is the main source for gender discrimination on labor market of Georgia, the cruel situation in the domestic violence field, problems of women's representation in the state bodies, are the problems that exist.

Thus, to conclude, several laws have been adopted and respective institutional mechanisms have been created to lay down the legal basis for gender equality in Georgia, nevertheless, a lack of political will and low gender awareness of the society still impede the process of overcoming existing obstacles. However, certain steps forward have been made in this direction and we need to build upon them.

**Annex 1 - NGOs working in the field of protection of women's rights, who took part in the process of preparation of this report:**

**Advisory Centre for Women "Sakhli":** Advisory Center for Women "Sakhli" was founded in 1997. The aim of the Center is to promote combating domestic violence (DV) and to assist victims of DV. Since its establishment the organization is continuously working on the problem of domestic violence. "Sakhli"'s work is carried out in two main directions:

Service Provision to DV victims in the form of free psychological consultation-rehabilitation, legal and medical, social consultations, DV shelter (2007-2012) and crisis centre services;

DV prevention - promoting legislative reforms and adequate public opinion on DV issue, trainings, research work and networking.

**"Amagdari":** "Amagdari" is working on the issues of protection of women's labor rights and promoting the conditions for their employment. It was created in 1996 for women's adaptation on the labor market in the conditions of transitional economy in Georgia. *Areas of activities:* socio-economic rehabilitation of women and promotion of productive employment; protection of labor rights, gender equality; increasing women's participation in decision making; re-socialization of victims of domestic violence, eradication of violence against women at the workplaces. Organization is actively involved in the legislative activities, conducts surveys, submits to the state authorities the professional recommendations on the measures supporting the employment; submits to the international organizations the reports on discrimination of women and their socio-economic conditions.

**Association "Hera XXI":** Association "Hera XXI" is Georgian non-governmental, non-commercial, educational legal entity, based on volunteering. Association provides the population of the country with comprehensive and qualified information in the field of reproductive health and healthy lifestyle. Association "Hera XXI" aims mainly at increasing access to the information and services in the field of reproductive health for any individual, regardless their sex, origin, social or health status.

**Association "Imedi":** IDP women movement for Peace was founded in 1999 in Zugdidi: organization's mission is to promote women's participation in conflict resolution and peace building processes and psycho-social and economic rehabilitation of internally displaced people.

**Association "Leaders for Democracy":** Association "Leaders for Democracy" (LFD) was established in 2008 in Georgia by the graduates of the National Democratic Institute's "Future Women Leaders". The mentioned courses aimed at enhancing women's role and developing their professional skills. Members of the organization are represented in different executive governmental structures and NGO sector. They are qualified experts in different fields.

The aim of LFD is - to encourage women for taking an active part in political and social processes, - to rise awareness about woman's, as decision makers', role and importance in society, - research of women's actual problems and make the proper arrangements to overcome them, - to make an active role in democratic development of the country.

The NGO has conducted various workshops and events together with partner organizations. It intensively collaborates with local women's non-governmental organizations, Gender Equality Council of the Parliament of Georgia, the Council of National Minorities within Public Defender's Institution, etc.

**Association of Azerbaijani Women:** Association of Azerbaijani Women was founded in 2000 and works on issues of minorities. Association supports integration of Azerbaijani population in Georgia, their education. Moreover, promotes leadership and self-socialization trainings of minorities as well as education in the field of learning Georgian language and computer technologies.

**Coalition for Women's Political Engagement:** Coalition was created in the framework of the joint project of Women's Information Center and UK charity organization Oxfam "Sustaining Gender Justice through Enhancing Women's Political Participation" and is directed to increasing women's engagement in Georgian politics and local government elections of 2014. Coalition brings together up to 40 women of Shida Kartli region. Goals are the following: \*Increasing women's political engagement on local self-government level; \*Timely response to regional problems; \*Increasing public awareness of gender issues; \*Increasing women's role in politics.

**Cultural-humanitarian foundation "Sukhumi":** NGO of women IDPs from Abkhazia, Kutaisi, Georgia. Mission of the organization: developing women's activism in order to enhance women's role in the process of building democratic society and peaceful settlement of conflicts, through educational, legal, economical, social and cultural activities. Main directions of the organization: women and peace-building; women and politics; women and nonviolent society; and working with youth.

**Gender Equality Network (GEN):** Gender Equality in Political Processes. The Gender Equality Network in 2012 has started its activities for gender equality in political processes. The project "Gender Equality in Political Processes" developed in several directions: Parliament of Georgia and the Gender Equality Network of gender equality and women rights in support of the country; mutual respect and support in the work for gender equality and women's political enhancements.

**"Gender Justice":** NGO "Gender Justice" (GJ) was registered by the group of experts who have introduced and started implementation of the Gender Equality Policy in Georgia. One of the founders was the member of Gender Equality Parliamentary Council; regarding this, GJ conducts surveys and trainings, takes part in public hearings and law drafting process in the field of human rights and gender equality, is actively involved in UNSCR 1325 implementation process.

**Kakheti Regional Development Foundation (KRDF):** Kakheti Regional Development Foundation (KRDF) was founded at the end of 2008 through the support of Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to proceed with its activities after the phase-out of the agency from Kakheti region in 2009. Vision is to encourage social and economic equity and high level of legal awareness and civil responsibility of local population in Kakheti region (including IDP people and refugees). KRDF promotes community integration and socio-economic development as well as the integration of ethnic groups, and creating equal conditions and opportunities for them.

**Partnership for Human Rights (PHR):** "Partnership for Human Rights" PHR was founded in July 9, 2012 as a non-profit, non-commercial organization. Organization is working on the issues related to the vulnerable groups: persons with disabilities, women's rights and gender equality, children's rights, rights of the elderly etc. Its strategies imply Human Rights protection at the administrative and judiciary levels, human rights monitoring, harmonization of the domestic law in compliance with the international human rights and standards.

**The IDP Women's Association "Consent":** The IDP Women's Association "Consent" is working in the field of protection of rights of IDP women and members of their families since 1995, and since 2008 with conflict affected women and girls as well. The main directions of work: free psycho-social and medical rehabilitation; informal education for IDP leaders, women and youth; support initiatives of communities affected by war, advocacy at central and local level (during last two years - three legal initiatives); since 1996 organizing peace-building dialogues with women and youth from breakaway regions. Is a member of several regional and international networks working on the women's right issues.

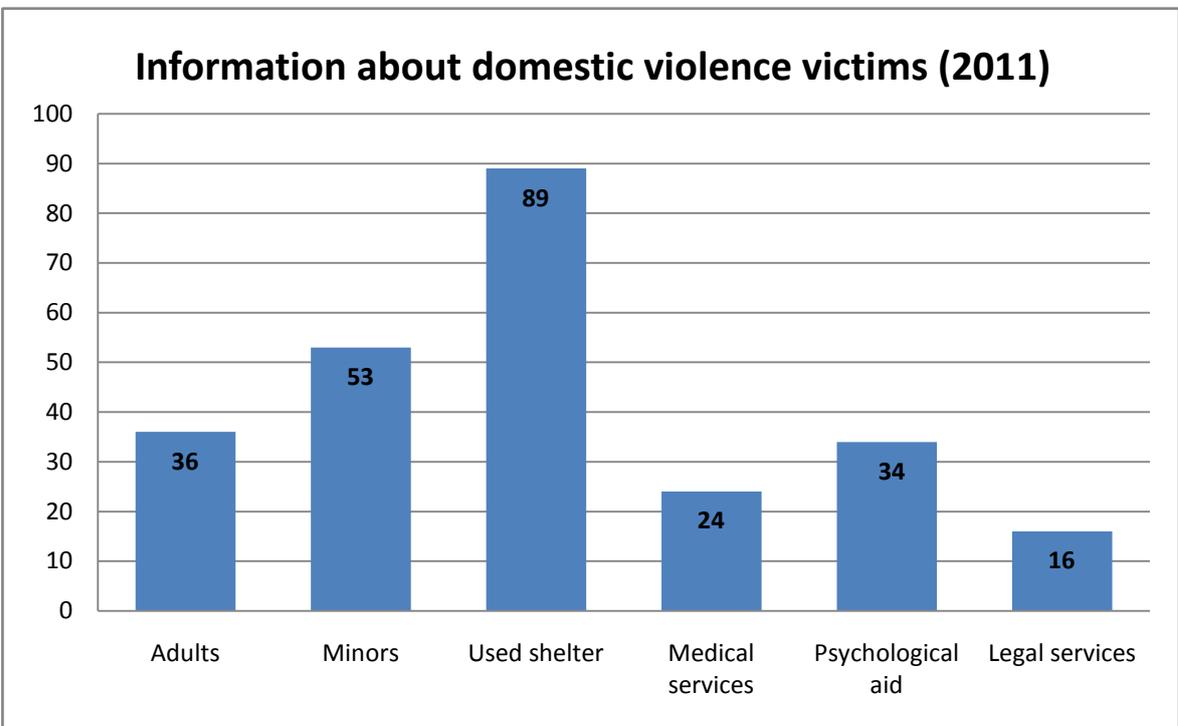
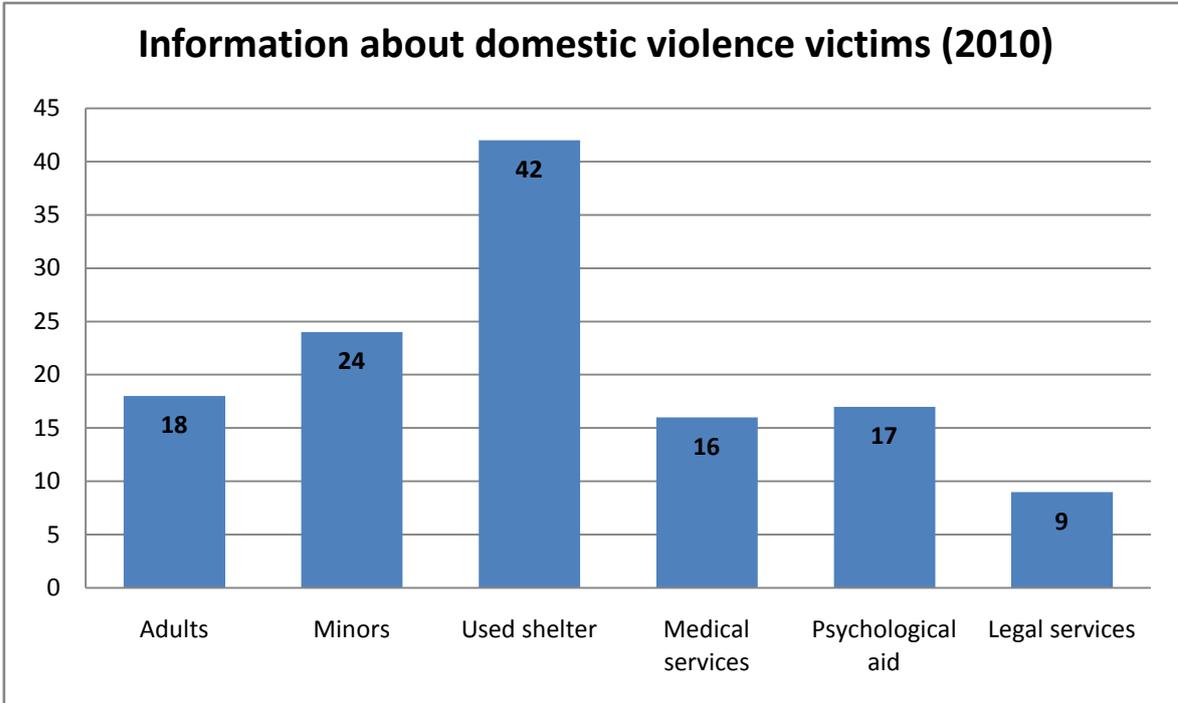
**The Samtskhe-Javakheti Media Center:** The Samtskhe-Javakheti Media Center, registered in Georgia on 1/3/2002, is a non-governmental organization in Borjomi, Georgia. The Center's mission is to promote and develop the democratic process by strengthening independent media and to empower civil society through the media. Our slogan is "Media for Development and Development for Media." The Media Center's partners

include: Akhalkalaki (ATV-12), Akhaltsikhe (9th-Line), Borjomi (TV-Borjomi), Marneuli (TV-Marneuli) and Ninotsminda (Parvana) regional TV stations. The web site is [www.mediacentri.ge](http://www.mediacentri.ge)

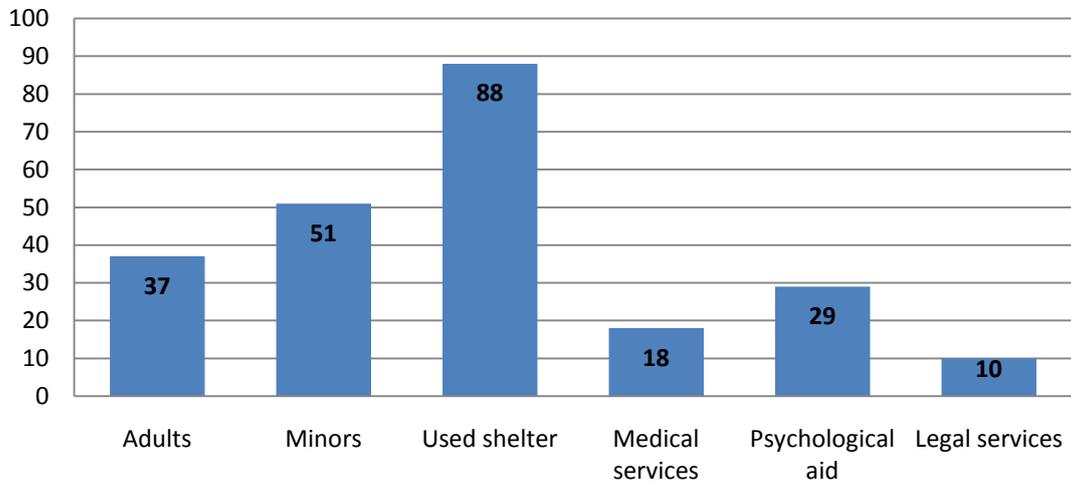
**Union of Pedagogy:** Union was found in 2002 and works on issues of trafficking in human beings, education, youth, gender modeling.

**Women's Information Center (WIC):** Women's Information Center keeps particular focus on the process of elaboration, lobbying and implementation of governmental action plans; participates in drafting of new laws and making amendments to the existing draft laws that regulate gender equality. WIC strives for making its own contribution to the formation of civil society and government and pro-actively co-operates with the existing institutional mechanisms. WIC was participating in coordination of preparing CEDAW shadow report in 2014.

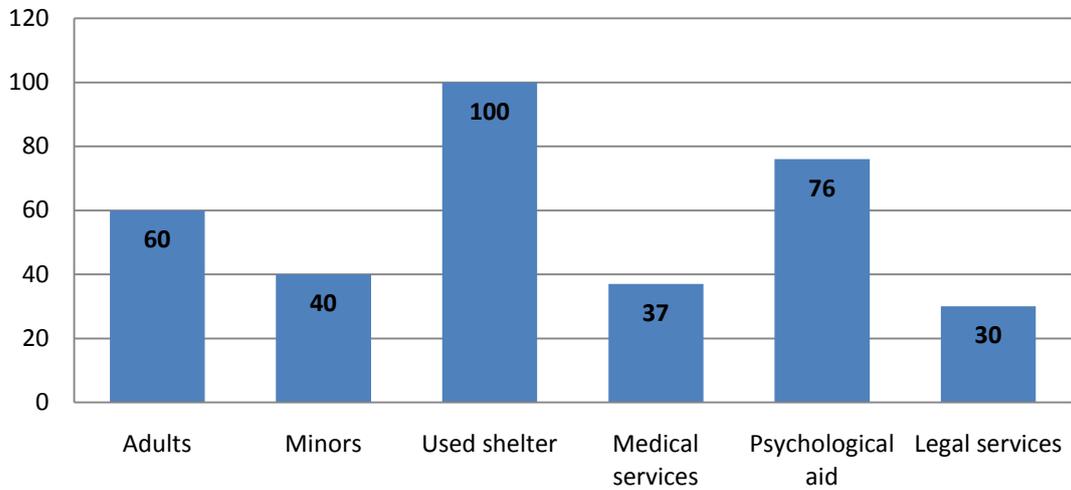
**Annex 2 - Statistic concerning Violence against Women**



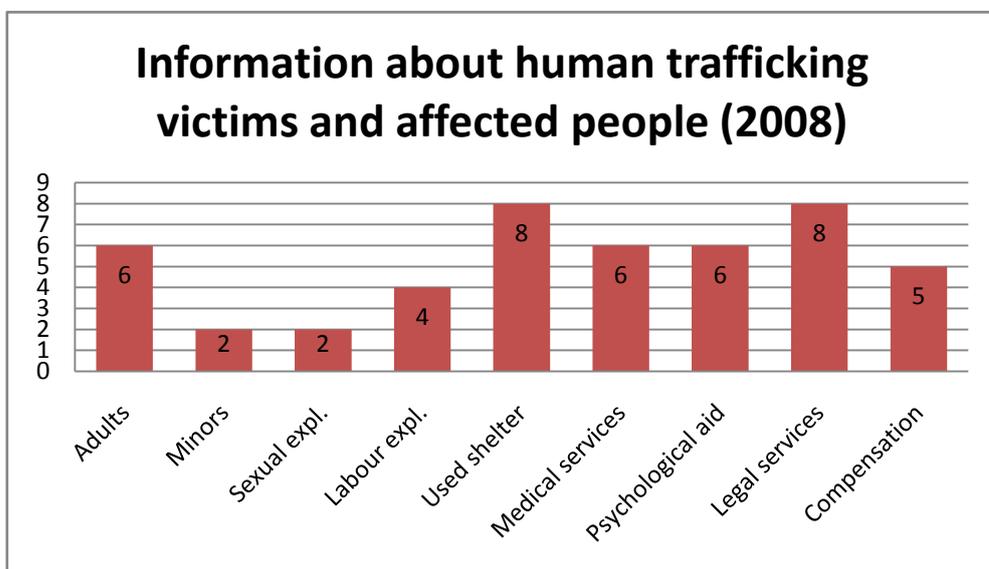
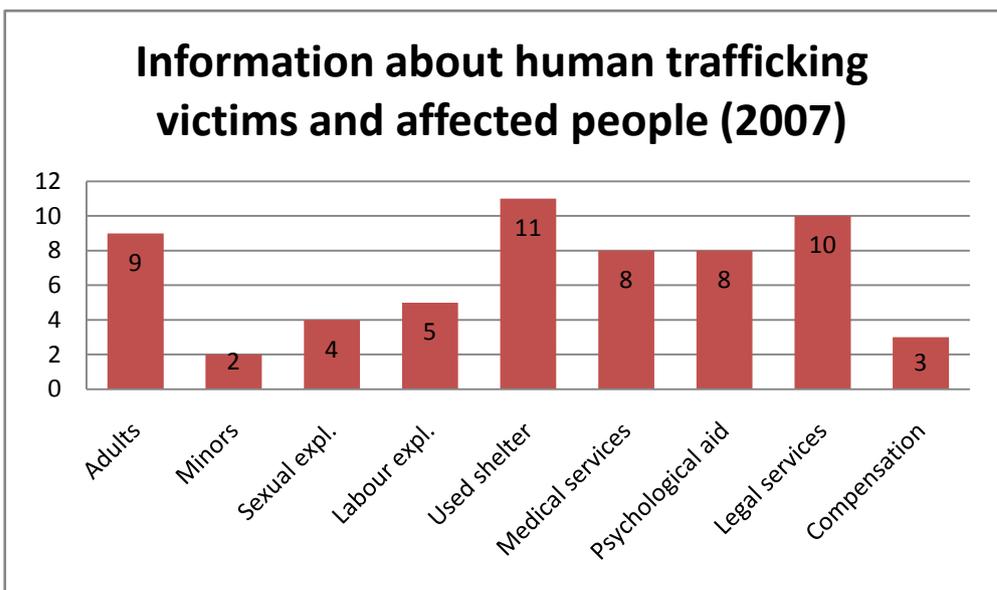
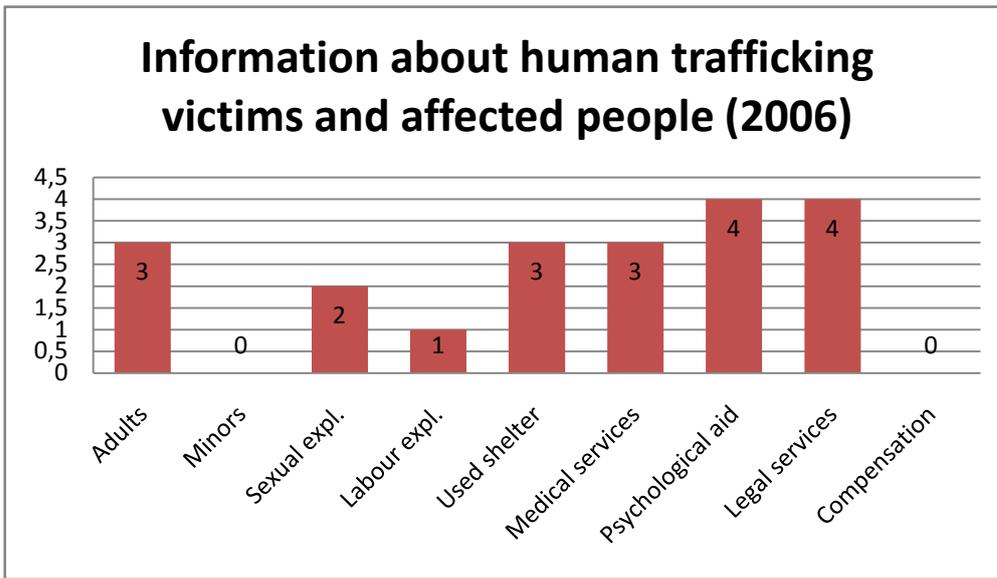
### Information about domestic violence victims (2012)



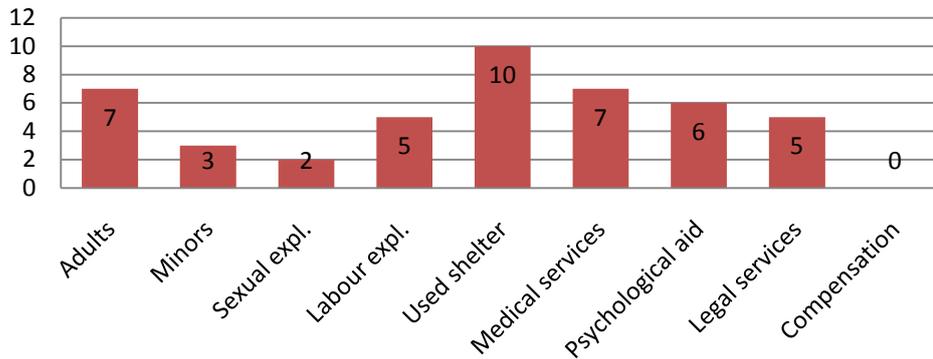
### Information about domestic violence victims (2013)



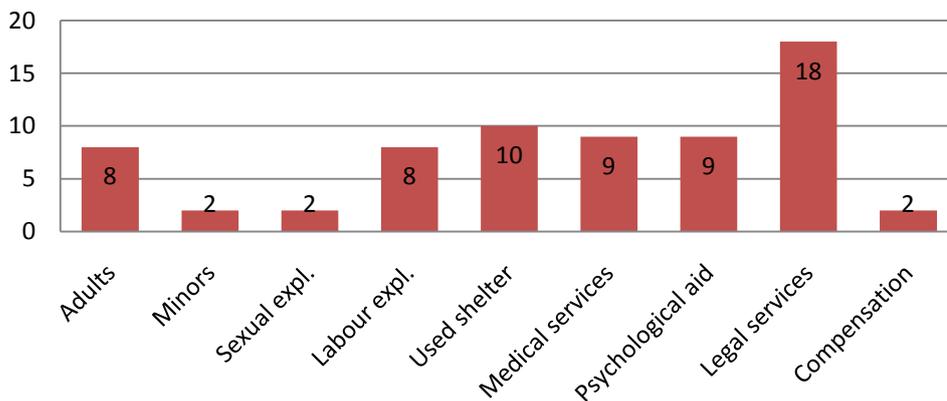
Annex 3 - Statistic concerning Trafficking



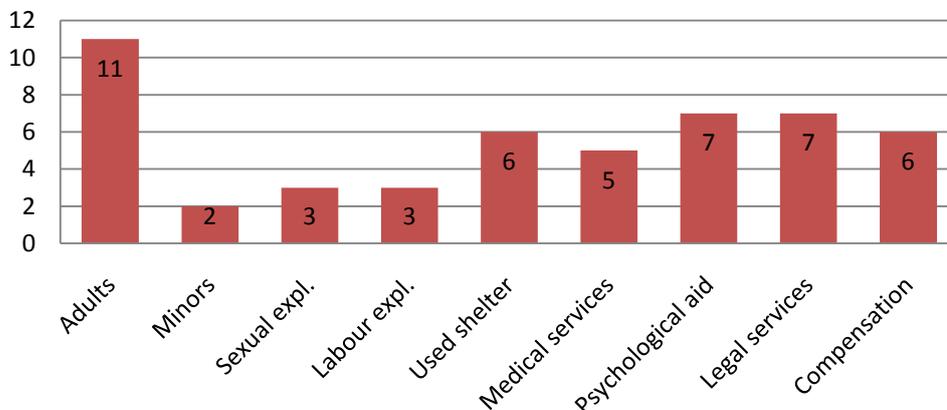
### Information about human trafficking victims and affected people (2009)



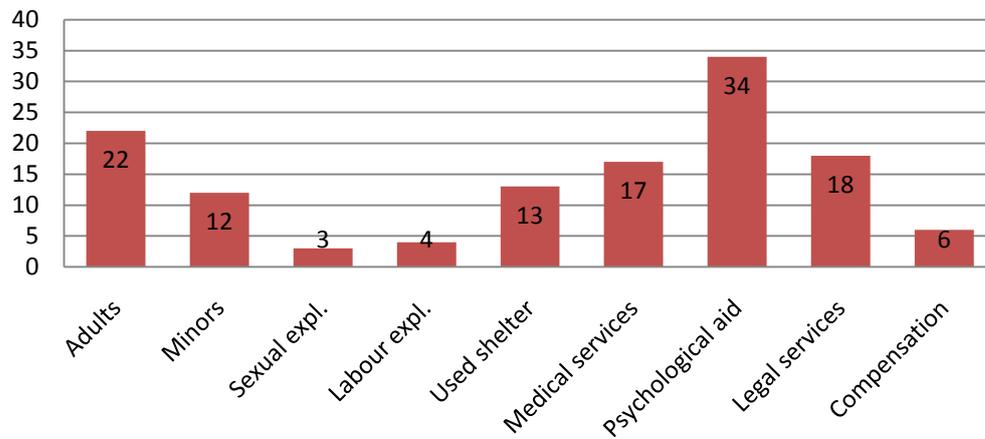
### Information about human trafficking victims and affected people (2010)



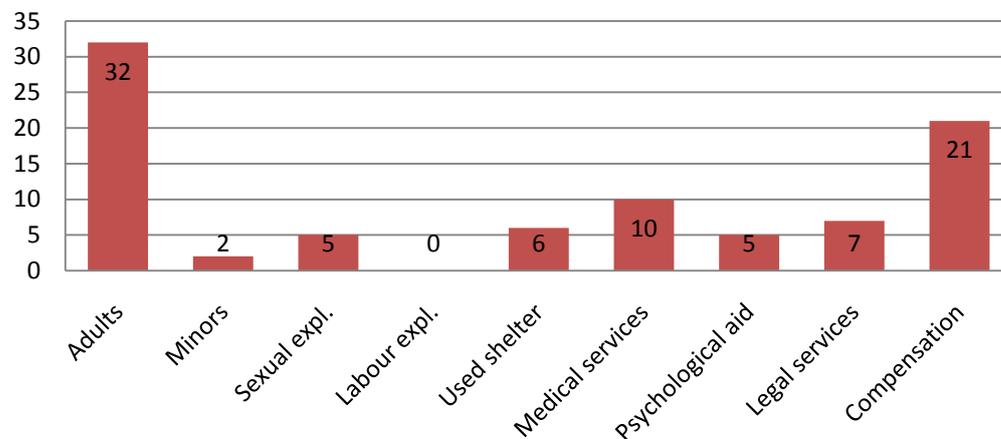
### Information about human trafficking victims and affected people (2011)



### Information about human trafficking victims and affected people (2012)



### Information about human trafficking victims and affected people (2013)



## List of Sources

---

- <sup>1</sup> Constitution of Georgia, Art. 6.
- <sup>2</sup> Constitution of Georgia, Art. 7
- <sup>3</sup> UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW MECHANISM AND THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE. Women's Information Center. 2011.
- <sup>4</sup> Summarized commentaries of Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women – Georgia, first periodic report, session N21, 7-25 June 1999. (CEDAW/C/SR. 427 and 439 Committee meeting, 8-11 June 1999; CEDAW/C/GEO/1, and Corr.1).
- <sup>5</sup> Final commentaries of Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women – Georgia on second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/GEO/2-3) session N36, 15 August 2006. (CEDAW/C/SR.747 and 748); Issues discussed by Committee and questionnaire was presented at CEDAW/C/GEO/3, response from Georgia was presented at CEDAW/C/GEO/1.
- <sup>6</sup> Journal "John&Jolie", 1(4), 2011 §. 17p. ; [http://www.ginsc.net/upload\\_files/docs/jonjoli%20sabooloo.pdf](http://www.ginsc.net/upload_files/docs/jonjoli%20sabooloo.pdf)
- <sup>7</sup> for example, in Economic and Social Council of UN.
- <sup>8</sup> UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review Mechanism and the Gender Perspective; 2011. [http://ginsc.net/upload\\_files/docs/upr.pdf](http://ginsc.net/upload_files/docs/upr.pdf)
- <sup>9</sup> 13 organizations working in the field of women's rights and gender and 2 women's networks participated in the preparation of the CEDAW Committee report. The list of organizations and information about their activities is presented in Annex1.
- <sup>10</sup> Labour Code of Georgia; Georgian law on Public Service; Civil Code of Georgia and part V of the Code – Family Law; Georgian Law on General Education; Georgian Law on Higher Education; Election Code of Georgia; Georgia Law on Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection of and Support to its Victims; etc. Criminal Code recognizes violation of human equality as a criminal offence (Art. 142.<sup>10</sup> Part XXII of Criminal Code is about crimes against sexual freedom and immunity)
- <sup>11</sup> Georgian Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of Georgia, Tbilisi 12 June 2012. N6434. [https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com\\_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=1683968#](https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=1683968#)
- <sup>12</sup> Issues regarding domestic violence will be discussed below.
- <sup>13</sup> Georgian Law on Gender Equality, 26 March, 2010.
- <sup>14</sup> Action Plan in 2007-2008; 2009-2010; 2011-2013; 2014-2016 for ensuring Gender Equality; Resolution of Parliament of Georgia, N1945; 24/01/2014.
- <sup>15</sup> Resolution of Parliament of Georgia N3488 on approval of the concept of gender equality, 24.07.2006 §. [https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com\\_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=44014&lang=ge](https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=44014&lang=ge)
- <sup>16</sup> Universal Periodic Review mechanism of UN Human Rights Council. Women's Information Center, Tbilisi 2011, 27-28p.
- <sup>17</sup> <http://www.weforum.org/reports/global-gender-gap-report-2013>
- <sup>18</sup> Bendeliani, N. (2012), "Beyond the Human Development Index: Assessing the Human Development in Georgia through International Indices and Rankings". Available at: [http://css.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=23&info\\_id=433](http://css.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=23&info_id=433). Accessed: July 24.2012.
- <sup>19</sup> Statement of Ombudsman of Georgia about women's homicide. Tbilisi 2014. [www.ombudsman.ge](http://www.ombudsman.ge)
- <sup>20</sup> Article, "Hard to investigate rape cases in Georgia", by Nino Ghvedashvili, 17 August 2012. <http://geo.regionalreporters.net/saqartvelosi-gaupatiure/>
- <sup>21</sup> For instance, amendments were made in Criminal Code of Georgia (Art. 11<sup>1</sup> and 126<sup>1</sup>), considering domestic violence as criminal offence and sanctions were incised.
- <sup>22</sup> Georgian Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of Georgia. Tbilisi 12 June 2012. N6434. <http://www.atipfund.gov.ge/legislation.aspx>
- <sup>23</sup> Art. 10 paragraph 2; 3 of Georgian Law on Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection of and Support to its Victims 25 May 2006 N3143.
- <sup>24</sup> "Gender Analysis of Legislation and the Judicial Practice in the field of Domestic Violence" – Inga Beridze, Elene Rusetskaia, Tbilisi 2011. The research was conducted by Women's Information Center in the framework of the project - "Response of the civil society to the violations of women's rights" with support of National Democratic Institute (NDI).
- <sup>25</sup> "Gender Analysis of Legislation and the Judicial Practice in the field of Domestic Violence" – Inga Beridze, Elene Rusetskaia, Tbilisi 2011.
- <sup>26</sup> Final commentaries Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women – Georgia on second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/GEO/2-3) session N36, 15 August 2006. (CEDAW/C/SR.747 and 748); Issues discussed by Committee and questionnaire was presented at CEDAW/C/GEO/3, response from Georgia was presented at CEDAW/C/GEO/1
- <sup>27</sup> Recommendation 3.3.2. monitoring and evaluation, collection of statistical data. Handbook for legislation on violence against women, 2009; UN publication. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for the Advancement of Women.
- <sup>28</sup> Georgian Law on Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection of and Support to its Victims 25 May 2006 N3143 [www.matsne.gov.ge](http://www.matsne.gov.ge)
- <sup>29</sup> Action Plan for 2007-2008 on implementing measures in terms of domestic violence prevention, adopted by Resolution of Government of Georgia on "Approval of the special plan on Domestic violence prevention and protection and assistance to victims of domestic violence", N406 30 July 2007
- <sup>30</sup> Action Plan 2009-2010 on Combating domestic violence and implementing measures to protect domestic violence victims. Resolution of President of Georgia N304, 12.04.2009. # 304. 12.04.2009 §. <http://www.atipfund.gov.ge/index.php/ka/legislation/action-plans>
- <sup>31</sup> Action Plan 2011-2012 on Combating domestic violence and implementing measures to protect domestic violence victims. Resolution of President of Georgia N27/04/02, 27.04.2011.

- <sup>32</sup> Action Plan 2013-2015 on Combating domestic violence and implementing measures to protect domestic violence victims. Resolution of President of Georgia N17/07/01, 17 July 2013 <http://www.atipfund.gov.ge/index.php/ka/legislation/action-plans>
- <sup>33</sup> Order of the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia on the rules for determining the required minimum standards for Structure and functioning of the Crisis Center. N153/n 31 May, 2010.
- <sup>34</sup> Problems of drug-user women in Georgia. The research was done by Georgian Harm Reduction Network. Tbilisi 2013.
- <sup>35</sup> <http://atipfund.gov.ge/index.php/ka/news>.
- <sup>36</sup> Quote from research by Inga Beridze, Elene Rusetskaia
- <sup>37</sup> Annual Report of Ombudsman of Georgia. 2013
- <sup>38</sup> Annual Report of Ombudsman of Georgia. 2013, 501p.
- <sup>39</sup> Women's Information Center has provided engagement of civil society in this process.
- <sup>40</sup> Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Thirty-sixth session 7-25 August 2006. CEDAWC/GEO/CO/3.
- <sup>41</sup> GPA company, Elit Electronics, [www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=555706394444644](http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=555706394444644)
- <sup>42</sup> Women's Opinion in Mass Media - Monitoring of national newspapers in countries of South Caucasus and Central Asia, GMC, Tbilisi 2005. [www.gmc.ge/images/PDF/MonitoringL.pdf](http://www.gmc.ge/images/PDF/MonitoringL.pdf)
- <sup>43</sup> [http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:Dx-40boX7OkJ:www.tbiliselebi.ge/%3Fmas\\_id%3D15205%26year%3D2012%26rubr\\_id%3D1%26jurn\\_id%3D31+%&cd=22&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=ge](http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:Dx-40boX7OkJ:www.tbiliselebi.ge/%3Fmas_id%3D15205%26year%3D2012%26rubr_id%3D1%26jurn_id%3D31+%&cd=22&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=ge)
- <sup>44</sup> Article "Single Mothers" Journal "Liberali" 16.01.2012 <http://liberali.ge/ge/liberali/articles/109211/>
- <sup>45</sup> Anti-Violence Network of Georgia
- <sup>46</sup> Research "Analysis of material and non-material obstacles in establishment of paternity by means of DNA test" was conducted by the Anti-Violence Network of Georgia, within the framework of project of Westminster Foundation for Democracy "Improving dialogue between non-governmental sector and the Parliament of Georgia on public policy". [http://www.avng.ge/index.php?id=1389173768&sub\\_id=8949](http://www.avng.ge/index.php?id=1389173768&sub_id=8949)
- <sup>47</sup> Amendment was prepared within the framework of EU supported joint project of AVNG and GYLA "Enhancement of the role of civil society to promote protection of women's rights, democracy reforms and supremacy of the law".
- <sup>48</sup> N. Samkharadze, research report "Determining needs for civil education for national minority women", 2012.
- <sup>49</sup> N. Samkharadze, research report "Determining needs for civil education for national minority women", 2012.
- <sup>50</sup> The International Center for Prison Studies - Walmsley, R., World Female Imprisonment List 2006, [www.prisonstudies.org](http://www.prisonstudies.org)
- <sup>51</sup> In Rustavi #6 prison, #5 women's and minor's prison, and Kutaisi #2 prison of the Ministry of Corrections of Georgia, is functioning psycho-social antidrug center "Atlantis". Methodology of the center "Atlantis" is based on "12 steps" principle, which is tested in other countries as well. In the framework of the project of organization "Peon", with the support of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and financial support of international organizations, in 2005, rehabilitation center for drug abuser prisoners "Atlantis" was opened in #5 women's and minor's prison. Since 2006 the center is functioning in Kutaisi #2 prison. Third "Atlantis" center started work in Rustavi #6 prison since December 2007. Since 2006, at the initiative of the organization "Peon" and "Anti-Violence Network of Georgia", with the support of Patriarchate of Georgia, drug abusers' rehabilitation center "Tabor" was opened in Feristsvaleba Monastery, where beneficiaries are able to continue rehabilitation program started in three abovementioned prisons after their release from.
- <sup>52</sup> A program is being carried out in prisons, funded by EU, and implemented by NGOs: "Women in business", "Association of professional psychologists", "Peon", and Penal Reform International (PRI).
- <sup>53</sup> "Status of LGBT people in Georgia", Women's Initiatives Supporting Group. Tbilisi 2012, [http://women.ge/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/WISG\\_situation-of-lgbt-persons-in-Georgia\\_GEO-www.pdf](http://women.ge/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/WISG_situation-of-lgbt-persons-in-Georgia_GEO-www.pdf)
- <sup>54</sup> Law of Georgia on combating human trafficking. Enactment #2944 of the Parliament of Georgia, 28.04.2006. [www.matsne.gov.ge](http://www.matsne.gov.ge)
- <sup>55</sup> Georgia joined Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking on 16 May 2005.
- <sup>56</sup> Criminal Code of Georgia, Articles 143<sup>1</sup> and 143<sup>2</sup>
- <sup>57</sup> <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210739.pdf>
- <sup>58</sup> Law of Georgia on combating human trafficking determines key aspects of identification of victims, which are then regulated in detail by "unified standards and rules for the identification of human trafficking victims", approved by the President of Georgia on 1 February 2007.
- <sup>59</sup> <http://www.weforum.org/reports/global-gender-gap-report-2013>
- <sup>60</sup> <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>
- <sup>61</sup> [http://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/CDL-AD\(2011\)043-e.aspx](http://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/CDL-AD(2011)043-e.aspx)
- <sup>62</sup> <http://www.ginsc.net/home.php?option=article&id=29530&lang=en#.U4b4enKSwoA>
- <sup>63</sup> WIC conference, February 2014 <http://www.ginsc.net/home.php?option=article&id=28706&lang=ge#.U4gxYHKSwoA>
- <sup>64</sup> In 2013, at the initiative and under the coordination of Women's Information Center, Gender Advisors were appointed in 49 municipalities. [http://www.ginsc.net/home.php?option=article&id=28734&lang=ge#.U5A0xnJ\\_vId](http://www.ginsc.net/home.php?option=article&id=28734&lang=ge#.U5A0xnJ_vId)
- <sup>65</sup> Constitution of Georgia, Article 35;
- <sup>66</sup> Constitution of Georgia, Article 26;
- <sup>67</sup> "Woman and man in Georgia" – Statistical publication, National Statistics Office of Georgia, Tbilisi, 2013, p.37
- <sup>68</sup> The same as above; p.37;
- <sup>69</sup> National Statistics Office of Georgia, [http://www.geostat.ge/?action=page&p\\_id=205&lang=geo](http://www.geostat.ge/?action=page&p_id=205&lang=geo)

- 
- <sup>70</sup>“ Gender equality issues in teaching social sciences” (gender analysis of textbooks). I. Khomeriki, M. Javakhishvili, T. Abramishvili, p.30
- <sup>71</sup>Report of the Public Defender of Georgia 2013, Early marriage, p.504, <http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/1/1563.pdf>
- <sup>72</sup>The Global Gender Gap Report 2013, <http://www.weforum.org/reports/global-gender-gap-report-2013>
- <sup>73</sup> Women and Men in Georgia. Tbilisi 2012
- <sup>74</sup>Labour Code of Georgia. 17.12.2010.#4113 [www.matscne.gov.ge](http://www.matscne.gov.ge)
- <sup>75</sup> Law of Georgia on civil service. 31.10.1997.#3110. [www.matscne.gov.ge](http://www.matscne.gov.ge)
- <sup>76</sup>„Research of women’s reproductive health in Georgia:.. National Center of Disease Control and Civil Health, 2011, p.88.  
<http://en.calameo.com/read/00071352971d029c95560>
- <sup>77</sup>Woman and Man in Georgia, 2013.[http://www.geostat.ge/cms/site\\_images/files/georgian/health/qali%20da%20kaci-2013.pdf](http://www.geostat.ge/cms/site_images/files/georgian/health/qali%20da%20kaci-2013.pdf)
- <sup>78</sup>Research - “ Social and gender aspects of natural balance of newborns’ sex in Georgia”, Hera XXI”, 2012, p. 6-7-8  
<http://hera-youth.ge/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/%E1%83%99%E1%83%95%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%95%E1%83%90.pdf>
- <sup>79</sup>Same: P.6-7-8.
- <sup>80</sup>„Research of women’s reproductive health in Georgia:.. National Center of Disease Control and Civil Health, 2011, p.88
- <sup>81</sup>UNFPA Guidance Note on Prenatal Sex Selection.  
[http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2010/guidenote\\_prenatal\\_sexselection.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2010/guidenote_prenatal_sexselection.pdf)
- <sup>82</sup> Council of Europe - Draft Resolution on Prenatal Sex Selection of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.  
<http://www.assembly.coe.int/CommitteeDocs/2011/ASEGAsélectionprenatalee.pdf>
- <sup>83</sup><http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-DocDetails-EN.asp?fileid=18020&lang=EN&search=MTgyOQ==>
- <sup>84</sup><http://iwpr.net/report-news/south-caucasus-selective-abortion-means-fewer-girls-born>
- <sup>84</sup> Preventing gender-based sex selection - An interagency statement - OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO  
[http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/gender\\_rights/9789241501460/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/gender_rights/9789241501460/en/index.html)
- <sup>85</sup> L. Gaprindashvili, N. Mchedlishvili, Research of women’s needs and priorities in high mountain regions of Georgia, Tbilisi, 2014.  
Research is implemented by the support of EU and UN Women.