



REFERENCE: CERD/112th session/2024/FU/CS/AKB/ks

26 April 2024

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 112th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Permanent Mission of Georgia, pursuant to article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 10 (a) and (b) (Racist hate speech and hate crime), 14 (a), (b) and (c) (Roma), and 16 (Persons forcibly resettled by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the 1940s) of the Concluding Observations ([CERD/C/GEO/CO/9-10](#)), adopted following the consideration of the State party's 9th and 10th reports, at its 112th session, held in April 2024.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its combined 11th to 12th periodic reports, which is due for submission, in a single document, by 2 July 2026.

Paragraph 10 (a) of the Concluding Observations

The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party on the expansion of the mandate of Special Investigation Service of Georgia as of 1 March 2022, so as to include investigations of violent crimes committed by representatives of law enforcement bodies while off-duty.

While the Committee notes the information provided on the number of cases monitored by the Human Rights Protection and Investigation Quality Monitoring Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as on the number of persons prosecuted for crimes motivated by discrimination, the Committee regrets the lack of information on cases concerning racial discrimination, hate speech or hate crimes. The Committee invites the State party to provide specific information on cases concerning racially-motivated crimes, hate speech and hate crimes.

H.E. Mr. Alexander Maisuradze
Permanent Representative of Georgia
to the United Nations Office
Geneva
geomission.geneva@mfa.gov.ge

The Committee regrets the lack of information provided on steps taken to establish a specialized unit within the police to investigate hate speech and hate crimes. It therefore considers the response of the State party to this recommendation unsatisfactory and reiterates its recommendation.

Paragraph 10 (b) of the Concluding Observations

The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party on the oversight and collection of statistical data by the Civil Service Bureau, including on the total number of civil servants subjected to disciplinary measures between 2019 to 2023. The Committee invites the State party to provide further information on the mandate and methodology of the Department of Professional Development and Integrity, recently established within the Civil Service Bureau, as well as statistical data on the number of civil servants subjected to disciplinary measures, in accordance with article 11 (3) of the General Rules of Ethics and Code of Conduct in Civil Service, concerning the use of hate speech and discriminatory statements.

The Committee notes the information provided on the efforts of the Civil Service Bureau to improve implementation of the Rules of Ethics and Code of Conduct for Public Institutions, including collaboration with the United Nations Development Program to raise awareness of the Code of Ethics among civil servants, the launch of a digital learning course on ethics in the civil service, the Ethnicity Mentorship Program, and the Integrity Awareness Program. The Committee invites the State party to provide information on the impact of these efforts on hate speech in the media and online by high-level officials.

The Committee regrets that the Ethics Council has been unable to fulfil its function to ensure the effective implementation of the Code of Ethics for Members of Parliament as a result of challenges relating to the election of Co-Chairs, responsible for decisions on the admissibility of complaints and for convening sessions of the Ethics Council. The Committee invites the State party to provide further information on the outcomes of the forthcoming 10th Convocation.

The Committee considers the response of the State party to this recommendation partially satisfactory.

Paragraph 14 (a) of the Concluding Observations

The Committee notes the information provided on steps taken to reduce the number of Roma children out of school, including the establishment in 2020 of a monitoring system for out-of-school children between the ages of six to sixteen. The Committee, however, reiterates its recommendation to the State party to facilitate access, effectively integrate and ensure sufficient knowledge of the Georgian language of Roma children in pre-school.

While the Committee welcomes the adoption of Resolution No. 27-43 of 30 June 2023 of the Tbilisi Municipality City Assembly (on the Rule of Funding a Voucher Allocated for Per Child/Pupil at the Public Institutions of Preschool Care and Education Managed by the Municipality, Introduction of the State Standard of Preschool

Education, Registration and Enrollment/Exclusion of a Child/Pupil at the Public Institutions of Preschool Care and Education Managed by the Municipality), the Committee regrets the lack of information on the means by which this measure may facilitate access of Roma children to pre-school.

In view of the lack of information on steps taken to facilitate access of Roma children to preschool, the Committee considers the response of the State party to this recommendation unsatisfactory.

Paragraph 14 (b) of the Concluding Observations

The Committee welcomes the information provided on steps taken by the State party to support the provision of extracurricular classes and clubs that are accessible to Roma children in primary and secondary education, in particular the active engagement of parents of Roma adolescents under the 'A Second Chance for Education with Social Inclusion' program implemented by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. The Committee welcomes that clubs and classes funded under the program established with the objectives to improve state language knowledge among children belonging to minority groups and to increase tolerance and acceptance of different cultures.

The Committee notes that clubs are developed based on the needs of each school, that eighteen public schools in total implement such clubs, and that as of 28 December 2023, seventy-eight Roma children are participants. The Committee invites the State party to provide updated statistics in its next periodic report.

The Committee considers the response of the State party to this recommendation as satisfactory.

Paragraph 14 I of the Concluding Observations

The Committee notes the introduction by the Ministry of Education and Science in 2021 of a new model of social work in schools as well as the employment of sixty social workers by the Office of the Resource Officers of Education Institutions, deployed to sixty public schools. The Committee notes the adoption of new regulations in 2021, which require teachers to report the absence of students before their tenth day of absence and engage social workers following their twentieth day of absence.

The Committee notes that under the Decree of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, adopted on 11 January 2017, students may be suspended following a decision of the Psychosocial Service Center of the Office of Resource Officers of the Education Institution following consideration of risks, the impact of both implemented and non-implemented measures, family visits, action plans, and identification of the reasons for each student's absence.

The Committee notes the Information on the Providing Shelter for Homeless Children sub-program, which supports the provision of protection, integration and education of children living and/or working on the street through activities and the deployment of mobile groups, comprised of social workers, psychologists, and equal educators. The Committee notes that as of 28 December 2023, four mobile groups, three 24-hour shelters, and three day-care centres were in operation in Tbilisi, the State

party's capital. The Committee also notes that one mobile group, one 24-hour shelter, and one day-care centre were in operation in both Rustavi and Kutaisi. The Committee regrets the lack of information provided on the number of Roma children who are beneficiaries of such services, or on the operation of such services in the remaining cities of the State party.

The Committee invites the State party to provide further information in its next periodic report on the implementation of measures to support schools and municipal child protection services to address high absence and dropout rates among Roma children, including in cities outside of the capital. The Committee considers the response of the State party to this recommendation as partially satisfactory.

Paragraph 16 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee notes the information that prior to the period under review, the State party established a legal framework to address the repatriation of persons from Georgia who were forcibly resettled by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the 1940s, including the Law on Repatriation of Persons on 11 July 2007.

The Committee notes that as of 1 January 2020, 5,841 adults applied to the State party for repatriate status. 1,998 applicants met the requirements of the law and received repatriate status. The Committee also notes that under the established legal framework, individuals with repatriate status were able to apply for Georgian conditional citizenship, initially within two years of receipt of repatriation status, later extended to within five years. The Committee notes that of the 494 individuals who obtained conditional citizenship, none of the applicants renounced their existing citizenship in order for their Georgian citizenship to take effect. The Committee remains concerned that this low number of persons who have been repatriated and granted citizenship reflects the extent of the challenges faced by applicants and their descendants. The Committee therefore reiterates its recommendation to facilitate the obtainment of citizenship for all those who have returned to Georgia, including with regard to administrative and language requirements.

The Committee regrets the lack of information provided on the steps taken to facilitate the obtainment of citizenship by Meskhetian Turks and to support their integration into Georgian society. The Committee also regrets the lack of information provided on measures to renew efforts to facilitate the voluntary return of forcibly resettled persons who remain outside of Georgia.

The Committee considers the response of the State party to this recommendation unsatisfactory, reiterates its recommendation and requests the State party to provide updated information of its implementation in its next periodic report.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Georgia, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Michał Balcerzak
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination