



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/Georgia/91

4 July 2025

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on follow-up on concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the sixth periodic report of Georgia, at the Committee's eighty-fourth session, held in February 2023. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/GEO/CO/6](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 48 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Georgia to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12 (b), 18 (c), 26 (a) and 44 (c) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/GEO/CO/6](#)) received two months early on 27 December 2024 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its ninety-first session, held in June and July 2025, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 12 (b)** of the concluding observations that the State party **"revise the 2010 Law on Gender Equality to comply with recent constitutional amendments in order to accelerate the realisation of de jure (legal) and de facto (substantive) equality of women and men"**:

The Committee takes note of the legislative amendment to the Gender Equality Law approved by Parliament on 6 October 2022, which stipulates that the State should stimulate de facto equality of men and women. It expresses grave concern, however, that the legislative amendment package passed by Parliament between February and April 2025 is fundamentally inconsistent with the Convention and proposes to systematically remove the words "gender" and "gender equality" from all legislation and replace them with "woman and man" and "equality between woman and man," resulting in 16 laws being amended accordingly. The Committee is deeply concerned that this deliberate elimination of gender terminology constitutes a retrogressive measure that inevitably leads to an erasure of the gender perspective from the State party's legal framework and represents not only steps contrary to the essence of the recommendation but a direct contradiction of the State party's binding obligations under the present Convention, the Istanbul Convention and other international human rights instruments.

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The Committee considers that the State party has not taken steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is limited and does not address the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 12 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Revise the 2010 Law on Gender Equality to comply with recent constitutional amendments in order to accelerate the realisation of de jure (legal) and de facto (substantive) equality of women and men.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 18 (c)** of the concluding observations that the State party "**strengthen its national machinery for the advancement of women by clearly defining and institutionally elevating its mandate and responsibilities, providing it with adequate human, technical and financial resources and enhancing the integration of local government mechanisms, so that it may effectively coordinate and monitor the promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming at all levels of government**":

The Committee takes note of the amendments made to the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CGE) in March 2024, expanding its composition and increasing state agencies with deliberative voting rights. It notes the establishment of a new Human Rights Department within the Government Administration in September 2023, combining functions of the former Human Rights Secretariat with a newly created division for analysis and research. The Committee further notes the institutionalization of Gender Impact Analysis in 2022, the allocation of a budget of 50,000 GEL to the Parliamentary Gender Equality Council from 2022, and the establishment of gender equality councils in all 64 municipalities with appointed civil servants responsible for gender equality. The Committee welcomes the integration of gender equality principles into regional development policy and municipal budgeting processes, noting that 44 municipalities had gender budgeting in 2023, up from 22 in 2022.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken substantial steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **been substantially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive and that it relates directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 26 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party "**expedite its efforts to harmonize national legislation with the recommendations of the Committee and align it with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and, in particular, amend**



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the Penal Code to base the definition of rape on the absence of free consent and define crimes committed in the name of so-called honour as well as economic violence":

The Committee takes note of the various amendments made to harmonize Georgian legislation with the Istanbul Convention, including the abolition of "victim status" prerequisites for using state asylum in 2023, legal recognition of gender-based violence as grounds for refugee status, new criminal offenses such as stalking, female genital mutilation, and forced marriage, and the definition of economic violence in the Law on Prevention of Violence Against Women and/or Domestic Violence. The Committee notes that a working group has been created to work on amending the definition of rape, with consultations ongoing with various stakeholders. The Committee regrets, however, that the definitions of rape and other sexual violence offenses in the State party's Criminal Code continue to require the use of force, threat of violence, or the victim's helplessness, falling short of Istanbul Convention standards, and that the definition of rape has not yet been amended to base it on the absence of free consent, as specifically recommended. It further regrets that no information has been provided on defining crimes committed in the name of so-called honour.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps to harmonize legislation with the Istanbul Convention but has not completed the core amendments requested. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party relates to the recommendation but demonstrates limited progress on the specific amendments requested. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 26 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, in its next periodic report, information on further actions taken to:

Complete the amendment of the Penal Code to base the definition of rape on the absence of free consent and define crimes committed in the name of so-called honour, and expedite legislative review and adoption of the drafted amendments submitted in September 2023.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 44 (c)** of the concluding observations that the State party **"prioritize deinstitutionalized living arrangements for mothers with disabilities pursuant to the Strategy on the Independent Living of Persons with Disabilities and Deinstitutionalization 2023–2030 and its action plan 2023–2025 and improve support services so that mothers with disabilities and their children enjoy their right to privacy and family life"**:

The Committee takes note of the ongoing implementation of deinstitutionalization as part of the reform of social protection systems, including the completion of the deinstitutionalization process in Martkhopi with 34 beneficiaries relocated to new facilities. It notes the 2023-2025 Action Plan for Independent Living and Deinstitutionalization of Persons with Disabilities and the operation of various support services, including six shelters for mothers and their children providing 24-hour services with individual service plans created within 30 days. The Committee regrets, however, that the information provided does not specifically address deinstitutionalized living arrangements for mothers with disabilities, as recommended. The Committee notes that while general deinstitutionalization efforts and support services for mothers are described, there is no specific information on how mothers with



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disabilities are prioritized in these arrangements or how support services have been improved to ensure their right to privacy and family life.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps related to deinstitutionalization but has not specifically addressed mothers with disabilities as recommended. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party relates partially to the recommendation but lacks specific focus on mothers with disabilities. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 44 (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Prioritize deinstitutionalized living arrangements for mothers with disabilities pursuant to the Strategy on the Independent Living of Persons with Disabilities and Deinstitutionalization 2023–2030 and its action plan 2023–2025 and improve support services so that mothers with disabilities and their children enjoy their right to privacy and family life.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jelena Pia-Comella'.

Jelena Pia-Comella
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women