



**GEORGIA:**  
**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' JOINT SUBMISSION TO THE 51th SESSION  
OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

Main Submitting Organization

**Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)**

Other Submitting Organizations:

**Human Rights House Foundation (HRHF)**

**Democracy Research Institute (DRI)**

**The Georgian Center for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (GCRT)**

**Human Rights Center (HRC)**

**Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)**

**International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)**

**Partnership for Human Rights (PHR)**

**Rights Georgia (RG)**

**Social Justice Center (SJC)**

**Women's Initiatives Supporting Group (WISG)**

30 May, 2025

## **Summary**

1. This submission was prepared for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Georgia in May 2025. Signatory organizations evaluate the implementation of recommendations made to Georgia in its previous review and existing human rights situation.
2. Since previous UPR review, Georgian Dream (GD) party has accelerated a systematic crackdown on human rights and democratic freedoms. Key civil and political rights, especially freedom of assembly, association, and expression have been severely restricted through violent protest dispersals, repressive laws, and police brutality. Systemic torture and ill-treatment have become a tool for repressing peaceful protests. Impunity for perpetrators remains widespread. The judiciary lacks independence and acts as an instrument of the crackdown.
3. Civil society organizations and human rights defenders face state-led smear campaigns, criminal investigations. New laws targeting civil society and media impose stigmatizing labels, harsh fines, and prison sentences, aiming to silence dissent.
4. LGBTQI persons face systematic rollback of rights and state-sponsored hostility. Measures supporting political participation of women have been revoked, while the state enabled gender-based abuse by police through impunity.
5. The worsening situation reflects a broader authoritarian shift, in defiance of international standards and despite repeated calls for reform from global institutions.
6. The submission includes a set of recommendations to Georgia which, if implemented, would contribute to improving the human rights situation.

## **The National Human Rights Framework**

7. Since 2024, the GD Parliament has been actively using legislative powers for the rapid deterioration of the national human rights framework and the creation of repressive tools through the legislative amendments, directed against freedoms of assembly, association and expression, completely ignoring the international and national human rights standards,

criticism from such international institutions as Venice Commission<sup>1</sup> and OSCE ODIHR<sup>2</sup>, and disregarding important elements characteristic of the democratic legislative process.<sup>3</sup>

## Freedom of Peaceful Assembly

8. In its previous UPR cycle, Georgia received number of recommendations to protect freedom of peaceful assembly, none of which have been implemented.
9. Since 2021, the overall human rights environment in Georgia has deteriorated with the authorities responding to peaceful demonstrations with unlawful and excessive force on especially in March 2023,<sup>4</sup> April-May 2024,<sup>5</sup> and November-December 2024.<sup>6</sup> These actions reflect a broader pattern of repression and disregard for fundamental rights under the Georgian Dream.
10. Georgia, as a party to the ECHR, as well as to the ICCPR, is under a binding obligation to respect, protect, and facilitate the right to peaceful assembly. This right is further

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<sup>1</sup> For instance, see Venice Commission, URGENT OPINION ON THE LAW ON TRANSPARENCY OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE, 21 May 2024, [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-PI\(2024\)013-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-PI(2024)013-e), [15.05.2025]; Venice Commission, OPINION ON AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTION CODE WHICH ABOLISH GENDER QUOTAS, 24 June 2024, [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD\(2024\)023-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2024)023-e), [15.05.2025]; Venice Commission, OPINION ON THE DRAFT CONSTITUTIONAL LAW ON PROTECTING FAMILY VALUES AND MINORS, 25 June 2024, [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD\(2024\)021-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2024)021-e), [15.05.2025]; Venice Commission, URGENT OPINION ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENCES AND THE LAW ON ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS, 3 March 2025, [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-PI\(2025\)004-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-PI(2025)004-e), [15.05.2025].

<sup>2</sup> For instance, see OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights - URGENT OPINION ON THE LAW OF GEORGIA “ON TRANSPARENCY OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE”, 30 May 2024, <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/b/d/569922.pdf>, [15.05.2025]; OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights - URGENT OPINION ON THE AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS, THE CODE OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENCES AND THE CRIMINAL CODE OF GEORGIA (AS ADOPTED ON 6 FEBRUARY 2025) 6 March 2025, <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/d/2/587466.pdf>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>3</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, pp. 128-137, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>4</sup> GYLA, PEOPLE AGAINST THE RUSSIAN LAW The Assessment of the 7-9 March Assembly Dispersal and Related Facts of Human Rights Violations, 2023, [https://gyla.ge/files/2020/%E1%83%99%E1%83%95%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%95%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%98/untitled%20folder/%E1%83%9C%E1%83%98%E1%83%A3%E1%83%A1%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%97%E1%83%94%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98/People%20Against%20the%20Russian%20Law\\_eng-2.pdf](https://gyla.ge/files/2020/%E1%83%99%E1%83%95%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%95%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%98/untitled%20folder/%E1%83%9C%E1%83%98%E1%83%A3%E1%83%A1%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%97%E1%83%94%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98/People%20Against%20the%20Russian%20Law_eng-2.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>5</sup> GYLA, Georgia: Human Rights Amidst the Russian Law, Human Rights 60 Days Following the Revival of the Foreign Influence Transparency Bill, 2024, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/rusuli%20kanoni.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/rusuli%20kanoni.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>6</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025].

guaranteed under other key human rights instruments, including the UDHR.<sup>7</sup> Georgia failed to uphold this right, neglecting the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, and non-discrimination in the context of repeated, violent crackdowns on peaceful protests.

11. Since 2023, there have been repeated instances of interference with the rights to freedom of assembly and expression using active special police means including tear gas, pepper spray, water cannons and rubber bullets.<sup>8</sup> The use of such less-lethal weapons often failed to comply with international human rights standards of being employed only as a last resort and strictly in accordance with necessity, proportionality, legality, and accountability.<sup>9</sup> The legal grounds for dispersals stated by law enforcement were unsubstantiated resulting in broad punitive actions against peaceful demonstrators, constituting a disproportionate restriction on fundamental freedoms.<sup>10</sup>
12. In 2022, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) worsened existing standards allowing simultaneous use of the several active special means.<sup>11</sup> This often involved mixing various chemicals in water cannons or combining tear gas, pepper spray, and water jets. Chemical agents were deployed excessively, in a targeted manner, and without allowing protesters to leave the territory.<sup>12</sup>
13. Despite the legislative requirement to ensure proportionality and minimize harm, protesters suffered serious injuries requiring substantial medical care. Reported health issues included skin burns, eye irritation, respiratory distress, and in some cases, long-lasting damage. Healthcare professionals warned of risks of long-term health issues such as lung damage and chronic inflammation, accumulation of dust and chemical particles in the lungs, cancer risk, long-term allergic reactions.<sup>13</sup> Despite calls on the Ministry of Health, the chemical composition of the substances remains undisclosed hindering adequate medical care.

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<sup>7</sup> Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 20. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 21.

<sup>8</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, p. 31, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>9</sup> Law of Georgia "On Police", Article 31, paragraph 4.

<sup>10</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, p. 28, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>11</sup> GYLA, CIVIL RIGHTS FACING INCREASED POLICE TERROR, 2024, p. 14, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/CIVIL%20RIGHTS%20FACING%20INCREASED%20POLICE%20TERROR.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/CIVIL%20RIGHTS%20FACING%20INCREASED%20POLICE%20TERROR.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>12</sup> Radio Tavisupleba, The Ministry of Internal Affairs says that "there may have been something mixed in the water cannon", 30.11.2024, <https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33221645.html>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>13</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, pp. 36-37, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025].

## Torture and Ill-treatment

14. Torture and ill-treatment have become especially grave concern in Georgia since November 2024. Instances of ill-treatment, sometimes reaching the threshold of torture were also observed during April-May protests of 2024.<sup>14</sup> However since November 2024 the state has systematically used torture and other forms of police violence to suppress the protests in Tbilisi.
15. According to the public information requested from the Public Defender's Office of Georgia, from 28 November 2024 to 28 January 2025, the Public Defender's Office has identified a total of 282 alleged ill-treatment cases.<sup>15</sup> According to the annual report of the Public Defender, out of 343 people visited by the Public Defender's Office from 28 November 2024 to the night of 3-4 December, and on the night of 6-7 December, as well as on 2 February 2025, 242 (70.5%) were victims of alleged ill-treatment.<sup>16</sup>
16. As part of the documentation undertaken by 11 Georgian CSOs, interviews have been conducted with 117 respondents.<sup>17</sup> 77.7% of the respondents (91 out of 117) have indicated that they had been subjected to violence and ill-treatment by the police during the period from 19 November to 28 January, in the context of the ongoing protests.<sup>18</sup> The available evidence and statements of the victims of violence demonstrate that systematic torture has taken place—the use of severe physical and psychological violence to intimidate and punish the protesters.
17. The scale of the violence, the coordinated involvement of the various MIA units, the matching of the statements of the torture victims, identical actions taken on different dates, the lack of response to the violence by the state and, in some cases, its encouragement, indicate the systemic and organized nature of torture and ill-treatment.<sup>19</sup> The following behavioral patterns are evident in relation to torture and ill-treatment:<sup>20</sup>
18. Typically, in parallel with the dispersal of the demonstrations, the special forces would arbitrarily arrest the protestors, beat them on the spot, often in groups, and then take them behind a police cordon, away from the media cameras, where the violence would become even more intense.

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<sup>14</sup> GYLA, Georgia: Human Rights Amidst the Russian Law, Human Rights 60 Days Following the Revival of the Foreign Influence Transparency Bill, 2024, 8, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/rusuli%20kanoni.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/rusuli%20kanoni.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>15</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, 41, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>16</sup> 2024 Report of the Public Defender of Georgia on the Situation in Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia, 2025, 89, <https://www.ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2025040121291438156.pdf>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>17</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, 41, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, 11-12.

19. The violence would typically continue in the punishment minibuses. Members of the special forces, wearing special gloves and using their feet and, in some cases, batons or other tools, would beat the victims in groups.
20. Physical violence, both after the arrest and in the minibus, was accompanied by the seizure of belongings, insults, humiliation and threats, including threats of rape. Typically, the special forces would deliberately hit the victims in the head and face.
21. After being beaten in a minibus, which often occurred in several episodes, the victims would be handed over to the patrol or the criminal police officers, who would take them to the police stations and write up false arrest reports.
22. Often psychological abuse and, in some cases, physical abuse would continue during the transportation, as well as at the police station. It is noteworthy that the physical and psychological abuse would be accompanied by the anti-European and homophobic rhetoric characteristic of the GD government narrative. Moreover, beside the use of direct physical force, ill-treatment would often be constituted by the practice of using the active special means by the police forces, which, instead of restoring order, was aimed at punishing or harming the protest participants.
23. In parallel with the physical violence, the following forms of psychological violence would actively be used against the victims: Threats of death, threats of rape, threats of rape of a family member, threat of criminal prosecution; Humiliation - swearing, using homophobic and anti-European hate speech, mocking, spitting; Intimidation/terrorization - locking people up in a dark minibus and turning the lights on/off, shouting from the outside the minibus, intimidating people before placing them in the minibus, saying they would now be put in the "magic bus", victims of violence often had to watch violence against others in the minibuses; Accusation - Among the cases of psychological pressure, it is noteworthy to mention the fact of accusing the protest participant of actions that they had not committed, for example, during the beatings or transportation, some respondents were accused of cursing at the police officers and throwing things at them.

## **Freedom of Association**

24. A number of alarming laws have been adopted in Georgia in recent years against independent civil society and media organizations, which unduly intrude into their freedom of association. The list includes the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence<sup>21</sup>, the Foreign Agents Registration Act<sup>22</sup> and the Amendments to the Law on Grants<sup>23</sup>.
25. The Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence, adopted in May 2024, is similar to the draft Law on Foreign Agents, initiated in the Georgian Parliament in March 2023, which back in 2023 was ultimately not passed by the Parliament, as a result of active protest of Georgian society<sup>24</sup>.

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<sup>21</sup> Also known as the Russian Law, The Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence, 28.05.2024, <https://matsne.gov.ge/document/view/6171895?publication=0>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>22</sup> Also known as the Georgian FARA, The Foreign Agents Registration Act, 01.04.2025, <https://matsne.gov.ge/document/view/6461578?publication=0>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>23</sup> The Amendments to the Law on Grants, 16.04.2025, <https://info.parliament.ge/file/1/BillReviewContent/386799>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>24</sup> Social Justice Center, 9.05.2024, <https://socialjustice.org.ge/ka/products/ratom-etsinaaghmdgeba-rusuli-kanoni-adamianis-uflebata-evropul-konventsias-da-kanonis-uzenaesobis-printsipebs>, [15.05.2025].



26. The Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence envisages overly burdensome requirements of registration, reporting and public disclosure for non-profit and media organizations, which receive more than 20% of their funds from foreign sources, accompanied with strict oversight/monitoring mechanism, high fines in case of non-compliance and stigmatizing label. The law was assessed to be failing to meet international human rights standards by OSCE ODIHR<sup>25</sup> and Venice Commission<sup>26</sup>.
27. On April 2025 the GD Parliament adopted new law - the Foreign Agents Registration Act<sup>27</sup>. The statements of GD officials and the explanatory note of the law indicate that the Georgian Dream intends to instrumentalize it against CSOs and independent media.<sup>28</sup> It requires individuals and entities to register as “foreign agents” if they are acting under the authority of a “foreign principal” to engage in a broad set of covered activities, including vaguely defined “political activities”. Such persons are required to submit detailed reports of their activities and finances to the authorities, as well as mark their public statements as produced by a “foreign agent”, a stigmatizing term indicating that they are not acting independently. It introduces severe criminal penalties, including a maximum five-year prison sentence for non-compliance<sup>29</sup>.
28. Another repressive legislation, violating freedom of association of Georgian civil society and media organizations is the amendments to the Law on Grants, adopted in April 2025, which prohibit the receipt of foreign grants without a consent of the GD government. Receiving a prohibited grant will result in the recipient being fined an amount equal to twice the value of the grant in question<sup>30</sup>.
29. GD authorities have also intensified repressive actions against independent trade unions. In April 2025, the financial police conducted unsubstantiated searches at the offices of the “Labor” union and the home of its leader,<sup>31</sup> following its unjustified expulsion from the Georgian Trade Union Confederation. The Ministry of Justice also refused to register the public servants’ union “Article 78,” which defends those dismissed on discriminatory

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<sup>25</sup> OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights - URGENT OPINION ON THE LAW OF GEORGIA “ON TRANSPARENCY OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE”, 30 May 2024, <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/b/d/569922.pdf>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>26</sup> Venice Commission, URGENT OPINION ON THE LAW ON TRANSPARENCY OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE, 21 May 2024, [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-PI\(2024\)013-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-PI(2024)013-e), [15.05.2025].

<sup>27</sup> Explanatory Note on the Draft Law - the Foreign Agents Registration Act: <https://info.parliament.ge/file/1/BillReviewContent/381088>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>28</sup> Social Justice Center, FARA Does Not Apply to Civil Society and Media Organizations, 09.03.2025, <https://socialjustice.org.ge/en/products/ratom-ar-vrtseledeba-fara-sinamdvireshi-samokalako-da-media-organizatsiebbe-ashsh-shi>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>29</sup> International Center for Not-for-profit Law (ICNL) – Brief “Georgia: The Foreign Agents Registration Act”, 09.04.2025, [https://www.icnl.org/wp-content/uploads/ICNL\\_Brief-on-Georgia-FARA\\_fv.pdf](https://www.icnl.org/wp-content/uploads/ICNL_Brief-on-Georgia-FARA_fv.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>30</sup> Social Justice Center, Amendments to the Law on Grants Aim to Destroy Georgian Civil Society, 17.04.2025, <https://socialjustice.org.ge/en/products/grantebis-shesakheb-kanonshi-gatarebuli-tsvlilebebis-mizania-kartuli-samokalako-sazogadoebis-ganadgureba-shefaseba>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>31</sup> Social Justice Center, May 1st is Marked with Growing Authoritarianism and a Crisis of Workers' Rights”, 01.05.2025, <https://socialjustice.org.ge/ka/products/mshromelta-uflebebi-krizishia>, [15.05.2025].

grounds.<sup>32</sup> Workers' rights to organize and bargain collectively remain restricted, as seen in the suppression of mass protests by miners in Chiatura.<sup>33</sup>

## Freedom of Expression

30. Since November 28, 2024, Georgia has witnessed unprecedented repressive policies against media. Systematic violations include direct violence and abuse of legislative powers. These actions directly contravene international standards for media freedom as journalists fulfill their essential "watchdog" role in democratic society.
31. Documentation identifies 108 cases of violations against journalists during November 2024 - February 2025.<sup>34</sup> Journalists were specifically targeted by both law enforcement officers and informal groups ("Titushkies") with apparent state support.<sup>35</sup>
32. Georgian Dream politicians have restricted journalists from working in Parliament, while media representatives covering peaceful assemblies have faced verbal abuse, physical assault, and equipment seizure specifically targeting critical coverage.<sup>36</sup> The early release of convicts who committed violence against journalists on 5 July 2021, further strengthens impunity.<sup>37</sup>
33. Media pluralism is threatened by systematic persecution of journalists, including administrative proceedings initiated against journalists for covering protests.<sup>38</sup> Politically motivated criminal proceedings have been initiated against prominent Georgian journalist and founder of media outlets, Mzia Amaghlobeli.<sup>39</sup>
34. Editorial independence has been severely compromised with documented cases of deliberate interference. The dismissal of Public Broadcaster journalists represents another

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<sup>32</sup> Social Justice Center, We Call on the International Labour Organization to Establish a Commission of Inquiry into the Ongoing Mass Dismissals in the Georgian Civil Service, 17.02.2025, <https://socialjustice.org.ge/ka/products/movutsodebt-shromis-saertashoriso-organizatsias-shekmnas-sagamodziebo-komisia-sakartvelos-sajaro-samsakhurshi-mimdinare-sakadro-tsmendastan-dakavshirebit>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>33</sup> Social Justice Center, Chiatura Miners Should be Given Opportunity to Participate in the Working Group Created for Addressing Chiatura Crisis", 29.03.2025, <https://socialjustice.org.ge/ka/products/chiaturel-magharoelebs-chiaturis-krizisis-shesakheb-shekmnil-samushao-jgufshi-monatsileobis-shesadzlebloba-unda-mietset>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>34</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, p. 71, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>35</sup> Ibid. see also GYLA, Informal punitive groups operate with the tacit support or direct consent of state institutions and high-ranking officials, 08.12.2024; see, <https://www.gyla.ge/results/8473> [15.05.2025].

<sup>36</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, p. 59-69, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>37</sup> Ibid, 72.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid, 71.

<sup>39</sup> GYLA, The Prosecutor's Office Must Terminate the Unlawful Criminal Prosecution of Mzia Amaghlobeli, 20.01. 2025, <https://gyla.ge/en/post/mziaamaghlobeli-ukanonodevna-GYLA>, [15.05.2025].



direct attack on broadcasting independence, related to their public positioning and solidarity with detained journalists.<sup>40</sup>

35. Amendments to the law on broadcasting were adopted on April 1, 2025, undermining freedom of media and increasing control over it.<sup>41</sup>
36. These legal mechanisms appear instrumentalized to silence diverse media voices, with law enforcement agencies obstructing journalists' movement and reporting, significantly impeding the public's right to receive comprehensive information about ongoing events.

## **Equality and Non-discrimination**

### ***LGBTQI persons***

37. Since 2021, LGBTQI+ demonstrations have been systematically targeted by far-right groups, often in the presence of law enforcement. Instead of ensuring protection, authorities have consistently failed to prevent violence despite clear indications of imminent threats. In several cases, organizers were pressured to cancel events or subject to arbitrary restrictions.<sup>42</sup>
38. Georgia's "Protection of Family Values and Minors" law, enacted December 2024, dismantles LGBTQI rights through comprehensive restrictions on public assemblies and expression "aimed at popularizing" same-sex relationships or gender identities different from biological sex. The legislation prohibits gender reassignment surgeries, eliminates legal gender recognition mechanisms, restricts adoption rights for LGBTQI individuals, and establishes May 17 as "Family Sanctity Day" to conflict with the International Day Against Homophobia.<sup>43</sup>
39. During 2024 November-December protests, Homophobic language was actively used against ill-treated demonstrators. The protesters recall that the violence by special forces

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<sup>40</sup> Ibid, 71. see also Social Justice Center, Another Wave of Political Persecution at the Public Broadcaster: Nino Zautashvili and Vasil Ivanov-Chikovani Were Unlawfully Dismissed by Management, 12.04.2025, <https://socialjustice.org.ge/en/products/nino-zautashvilis-da-vasil-ivanov-chikovanis-sazogadoebrivimautsqeblidan-gatavisufleba-rezhimis-mkhridan-politikuri-devnis-kidev-erti-ashkara-gamovlinebaa>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>41</sup> Social Justice Center, Proposed amendments to the "Law on Broadcasting" undermine freedoms of media and expression, 12.03.2025, <https://socialjustice.org.ge/en/products/mautsqeblobis-shesakheb-kanonshi-initsirebulitsvlilebebi-dzirs-utkhris-mediis-da-gamokhatvis-tavisuflebebs>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>42</sup> "The Ministry of Internal Affairs continues to have a tolerant policy towards hate groups", Statement by Civil Society Organizations, <https://socialjustice.org.ge/en/products/shss-sidzulvilis-jgufebis-mimart-kvlavshemtsqanarebel-politikas-atarebs>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>43</sup> Rule 9 (1) submission to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe concerning the implementation of Aghdgomelashvili and Japaridze v. Georgia (App. no. 7224/11) and Women's Initiatives Supporting Group and Others v. Georgia, (App. nos. 73204/13 and 74959/13) Rule 9 (2) submission to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe concerning the implementation of Identoba and Others v. Georgia group of cases (App. No 73235/12) by The European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC), the Women's Initiatives Support Group (WISG), the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), ILGA-Europe and Transgender Europe (TGEU), 14.01.2025, paras. 14-15; see, <https://wisg.org/en/publication/314/> [15.05.2025].

was especially intense against the men with dyed hair, long hair, or similar distinguishing marks, since law enforcement associated them with LGBTQI community.<sup>44</sup>

### ***Women***

40. In 2024, the parliament abolished gender quotas, resulting in a significant setback for women's political participation. This change was met with criticism from the Venice Commission.<sup>45</sup>
41. During demonstrations held in November–December 2024 and February 2025, law enforcement authorities actively used gender-based abusive language against women demonstrators.<sup>46</sup> Incidents of sexual harassment, as well as physical violence—such as pushing and hitting—by police officers have also been documented.<sup>47</sup>

### ***Children***

42. Numerous cases of police violence against children have been identified during 2024 November- December protests.<sup>48</sup> Minors were beaten in the face, various parts of the body, humiliated, cursed at, threatened, used homophobic language against, and had their personal belongings taken away. Despite the law enforcement agency's obligation to contact the minor's legal representative at the first opportunity, the children were not given the opportunity to communicate with their families.<sup>49</sup>

### ***People with disabilities***

43. At least three cases of violence and ill-treatment of persons with disabilities by police forces have been documented during 2024 November-December protests. The police attacked them when they were no longer at a protest or in crowded places. In such situations, they found it even more difficult to ask for help or avoid violence. This tactic deliberately made it difficult to record the violence, collect evidence, and publicize what had happened.<sup>50</sup>

### ***Public Servants***

44. Since December 2024 the Georgian Dream party has introduced number of legislative amendments and institutional changes (such as abolition of the Civil Service Bureau), weakening guarantees for civil servants, simplifying politically motivated dismissals and

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<sup>44</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, p. 51, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>45</sup> Venice Commission, OPINION ON AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTION CODE WHICH ABOLISH GENDER QUOTAS, 24 June 2024, [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD\(2024\)023-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2024)023-e), [15.05.2025].

<sup>46</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, pp. 51-52, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid, 53.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid, 53.

strengthening party interests in the civil service system.<sup>51</sup> The amendments worsen the current legislative framework and substantially contradict the spirit of Georgia's Constitution and the Law on Public Service. This contradiction violates the principles of justice, fairness and non-discrimination.<sup>52</sup>

45. Since late December 2024, large-scale employee dismissals have swept through the public sector. These staffing decisions target public servants who expressed their civic position in support of the country's European integration process after November 28.<sup>53</sup> These dismissals, carried out without any justification or transparent procedures, are clear sign of persecution and discrimination based on political grounds.<sup>54</sup>
46. The wave of dismissals has affected hundreds of public servants who were employed in multiple local and central state agencies.<sup>55</sup>

## **Civil Society and Human Rights Defenders**

47. The civil society organizations and human rights defenders are facing continuous pressure, as they remain under the looming threat of the Foreign Influence laws, which would impose heavy fines and burdensome obligations on them, further limiting their ability to operate freely and independently.
48. The campaign against CSOs and HRDs unfolded over the last years in four distinct phases: discrediting, intimidation, vandalism, and assaults. Initially, officials publicly undermined CSOs, labeling them as foreign agents and enemies of national values. This narrative fostered public distrust and set the stage for further hostilities. Subsequently, HRDs received anonymous threatening phone calls, and their offices and homes were defaced with derogatory graffiti and posters.<sup>56</sup>
49. The campaign culminated in physical attacks on activists, including beatings and other forms of violence. Notably, these incidents were met with impunity, as law enforcement agencies failed to conduct thorough investigations or hold perpetrators accountable.<sup>57</sup>
50. On March 17<sup>th</sup> the GD authorities froze the bank accounts of several funds, including Human Rights House Tbilisi, which had been crowdfunding to support protestors facing heavy fines.<sup>58</sup> This was part of a politically motivated criminal investigation into “sabotage and assisting a foreign organization engaged in hostile activities”. The crackdown further

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<sup>51</sup> Ibid, 102-104.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid, 104-106.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid. 13.

<sup>56</sup> Human Rights Center, PERSECUTION AGAINST CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, 2024, <https://www.hrc.ge/files/350346339Persecution%20of%20CSOs-eng.pdf>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> Human Rights House Foundation, Georgian authorities must lift all restrictions imposed on Human Rights House Tbilisi, 01.04.2025, <https://humanrightshouse.org/statements/georgian-authorities-must-lift-all-restrictions-imposed-on-human-rights-house-tbilisi/>, [15.05.2025].

escalated on April 29 with searches of the homes of fund representatives.<sup>59</sup> These searches were carried out in disregard of procedural safeguards.<sup>60</sup>

## Judiciary and Fair Trial

51. The administrative offense proceedings against demonstrators in Georgia has been systematically used as a repressive mechanism, weaponizing judicial structures to suppress protests and civic dissent. Judicial proceedings did not serve the aim of delivering justice, but rather of repressing demonstrators through formal legal means.
52. Judicial decisions overwhelmingly rely on police testimonies, even when it is contradictory or unsupported by other evidence. Video evidence is often general footage from demonstrations that do not depict specific administrative offense of the detained. This indicates the courts' unwillingness to ensure impartial adjudication.<sup>61</sup>
53. Sanctions imposed on demonstrators grew increasingly harsh and punitive. Demonstrations, especially since November 2024, resulted in a sharp rise in administrative detentions and disproportionate financial penalties. Legislative amendments introduced harsher sanctions, deliberately increasing the burden on demonstrators to deter participation.<sup>62</sup>
54. A number of criminal cases related to the activists arrested during the November-December 2024 protests and the April-May 2024 protests are/were being actively considered in court.<sup>63</sup> The use of criminal arrests related to the protest activities has effectively criminalized peaceful protest and restricted freedom of assembly. As of February 2025, more than 60 people face criminal charges; of these, 10 have been charged in connection with the spring 2024 protests, 52 in connection with the November-December 2025 protests.<sup>64</sup> Their charges, the measures taken against them and the strict criminal justice policy indicate political persecution.

## Rule of Law and Impunity

55. The European Institutions<sup>65</sup> have confirmed that Georgia's state institutions face significant challenges due to oligarchic influence. There are concrete signs of *de facto* control of all three branches of government, which, according to various assessments, is referred to as state capture.

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<sup>59</sup> GYLA responds to searches conducted at the homes of foundation representatives, 30.04.2025, <https://gyla.ge/post/GYLA-pondebis-warmomadgenelta-saxlebschichkhreka>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, p. 86, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>62</sup> Ibid, 87-88.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> See European Commission, Brussels, 17.6.2022, [COM\(2022\) 405 final](#), p. 16-17; European Commission, Brussels, 30.10.2024, [SWD\(2024\) 697 final](#), p. 25.

56. There is not a single state institution at the domestic level that performs meaningful steps for the protection of the victims of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, or other forms of repression.<sup>66</sup>
57. Following the abolishment of the State Inspector's Service, concerns over the independence and effectiveness of the Special Investigation Service (SIS) have intensified.<sup>67</sup> In the aftermath of the 2024 protests, SIS created a facade of investigative action while merging over 300 victim (activists and journalists) cases, avoiding key evidence, and shielding high-ranking, even identifiable, officials.<sup>68</sup> Investigations used less severe, in some cases incorrect legal classifications, despite indications of torture and inhuman treatment.<sup>69</sup> SIS also failed to investigate persecutions against individuals actively engaged in public or civic affairs, deferring the cases to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA).<sup>70</sup> As of May 19, the total abolishment of SIS (merging with the Prosecutor's Office) has also been announced by the Georgian Dream.<sup>71</sup>
58. The systematic, organized, and coordinated nature of the crimes committed from November 2024 could not have been achieved without the involvement of high-ranking officials and without reinforcing guarantees of impunity. These signs point to the alleged commission of crimes by senior officials of the MIA.<sup>72</sup> The Prosecutor's Office has not announced

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<sup>66</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, 111-137, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025];

<sup>67</sup> OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Warsaw, 18.2.2022, Opinion-Nr.:\_GEN-GEO/436/2022, para. 32, <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/d/1/512728.pdf>, [15.05.2025]; European Commission, Brussels, 17.6.2022, COM(2022) 405 final, 10, [https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a95905d5-9783-4a1b-ae2-1740a79eda49\\_en?filename=Georgia%20opinion%20and%20Annex.pdf](https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a95905d5-9783-4a1b-ae2-1740a79eda49_en?filename=Georgia%20opinion%20and%20Annex.pdf), [15.05.2025]; Venice Commission, Strasbourg, 18.12.2023, CDL-AD(2023)044, [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD\(2023\)044-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2023)044-e), [15.05.2025]; European Commission, Brussels, 30.10.2024, SWD(2024) 697 final, 24-25, [https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/7b6ed47c-ecde-41a2-99ea-41683dc2d1bd\\_en?filename=Georgia%20Report%202024.pdf](https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/7b6ed47c-ecde-41a2-99ea-41683dc2d1bd_en?filename=Georgia%20Report%202024.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>68</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, 122, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025].

<sup>69</sup> Ibid, 116-123.

<sup>70</sup> 2024 Report of the Public Defender of Georgia on the Situation in Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia, 2025, 79, <https://www.ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2025040121291438156.pdf>, [15.05.2025].

<sup>71</sup> GYLA, the abolition of the Special Investigation Service confirms that the Georgian Dream does not even formally intend to investigate torture and police violence, 23.05.2025, <https://www.gyla.ge/post/specialuri-sagamodziebos-gauqmeba>, [28.05.2025].

<sup>72</sup> GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, 124-125, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [15.05.2025].

information on the initiation of investigations, raising reasonable doubt that the actions of high-ranking officials of the MIA remain unaddressed.<sup>73</sup>

59. Widespread abuses—use of excessive force, arbitrary detentions, torture, and other inhuman and degrading treatment—persist unpunished. At the same time, repressive legislative changes further restrict civic freedoms<sup>74</sup> and state institutions coordinately reinforce systemic impunity and political repression against critical voices.

## **Recommendations For Action by the State Under Review**

### **Freedom of Peaceful Assembly**

60. Ensure full protection of the right to peaceful assembly in line with ICCPR and UDHR obligations as well as UN HRC recommendations.
61. Align law enforcement practice to international standards and commitments.
62. Refrain from the use of force during peaceful assemblies. Upholding the principles of proportionality, necessity and non-discrimination.
63. Refrain from the simultaneous use of chemical agents (including unknown agents) with water cannons and ensure disclosure of their composition for preventing further health risks.

### **Torture and Ill-treatment**

64. Eliminate all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and ensure that all allegations of torture, and ill-treatment by police are investigated fully, independently, and impartially.
65. Ensure that all survivors of ill-treatment are guaranteed access to justice, effective remedies, and full reparations for the harm they have suffered.

### **Freedom of Association**

66. Refrain from repressive actions against the civil society, media and unions, including the adoption of laws that violate their freedom of association.
67. Repeal the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence, the Foreign Agents Registration Act and the Amendments to the Law on Grants.

### **Freedom of Expression**

68. Ensure thorough investigation of all violations against media representatives.
69. Implement unified accountability framework addressing both law enforcement officials and informal punitive groups involved in media attacks, with clear sanctions and independent oversight processes.
70. Repeal amendments to the law on broadcasting adopted on April 1, 2025.

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<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid, 128-136.



## **Equality and Non-discrimination**

### *LGBTQI persons*

71. Rescind the legislative package on the “Protection of Family Values and Minors” and cease all further actions towards adoption of such anti-LGBTI laws.
72. Guarantee non-discriminatory access to public space for LGBTQI+ groups and ensure their safety during assemblies.

### *Women*

73. Investigate allegations of gender-based violence and abuse by law enforcement during protests, ensuring accountability.

### *Children*

74. Ensure the protection of children from violence and ill-treatment by law enforcement, and guarantee that the best interests of the child are upheld in all police actions.
75. Ensure independent, prompt, and effective investigations into all allegations of abuse and ill-treatment committed by law enforcement against children.

### *People with disabilities*

76. Ensure the protection of persons with disabilities from violence and ill-treatment by law enforcement.
77. Ensure independent, prompt, and effective investigations into all allegations of abuse and ill-treatment committed by law enforcement against people with disabilities.

### *Public Servants*

78. End politically motivated dismissals and reinstate affected public servants.
79. Repeal legislative amendments and institutional changes undermining principles of justice, fairness, and non-discrimination in public service.

## **Civil Society and Human Rights Defenders**

80. Refrain from attacks on civil society organizations and human rights defenders, and put an end to persecution and repressive measures against them.

## **Judiciary and Fair Trial**

81. Cease the misuse of administrative and criminal proceedings to target peaceful protest participants.
82. Release individuals arbitrarily detained and/or prosecuted for exercising their rights to freedom of assembly and expression

## **Rule of Law and Impunity**

83. Perform thorough and prompt investigations into the conduct of high-ranking officials, particularly those responsible for planning and supervising law enforcement activities.

## ANNEX 1.

### MATRIX OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS CYCLE, WITH COMMENTS ON PROGRESS

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<b><i>Theme: Legal &amp; institutional reform</i></b>			
148.30 Continue ongoing efforts to review and bring legislation into line with the commitment to the international human rights obligations of Georgia (Turkmenistan); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Legal & institutional reform - Constitutional & legislative framework - Scope of international obligations <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	<b>Not implemented</b>
<b><i>Theme: Equality &amp; non-discrimination</i></b>			
148.55 Continue efforts in ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights by all of its population without discrimination (Nigeria); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Equality & non-discrimination - Economic, social & cultural rights - general measures of implementation <b>SDGs:</b> - 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES <b>Affected persons:</b> - Vulnerable persons/groups	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.57 Implement educational and awareness-raising campaigns to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Uruguay); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Equality & non-discrimination - Human rights education, trainings & awareness raising <b>SDGs:</b> - 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION - 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES <b>Affected persons:</b> - Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI) - Minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	<b>Not implemented</b>

<p>148.58 Guarantee the protection of rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community and other marginalized groups, including the freedoms of expression and assembly (Australia);</p> <p><b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equality &amp; non-discrimination</li> <li>- Right to peaceful assembly</li> <li>- Freedom of opinion and expression &amp; access to information</li> </ul> <p><b>SDGs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <p><b>Affected persons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
<p>148.59 Continue to implement and expand measures to uphold the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, including by ensuring full investigations into abuses and addressing hate speech (Canada);</p> <p><b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equality &amp; non-discrimination</li> <li>- Access to justice &amp; remedy</li> </ul> <p><b>SDGs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES</li> </ul> <p><b>Affected persons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
<p>148.62 Fight against all forms of violence and discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation (France);</p> <p><b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equality &amp; non-discrimination</li> <li>- Violence against women</li> <li>- Rule of law &amp; impunity</li> <li>- Sexual &amp; gender-based violence</li> </ul> <p><b>SDGs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 - GENDER EQUALITY</li> <li>- 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES</li> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <p><b>Affected persons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)</li> <li>- Women &amp; girls</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
<p>148.67 Combat social stigmatization, hate speech, discrimination and violence motivated by sexual orientation and gender identity (Finland);</p> <p><b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1</p>	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equality &amp; non-discrimination</li> <li>- Right to physical &amp; moral integrity</li> <li>- Rule of law &amp; impunity</li> </ul> <p><b>SDGs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES</li> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <p><b>Affected persons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>

148.69 Take measures to combat social stigmatization, discrimination, hate speech and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Argentina); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equality &amp; non-discrimination</li> <li>- Right to physical &amp; moral integrity</li> <li>- Rule of law &amp; impunity</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION</li> <li>- 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES</li> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.78 Step up the fight against discrimination, in particular on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, religion or belief and disability, by combating stigmatization and hate speech and ensuring that related violations are thoroughly investigated (Belgium); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equality &amp; non-discrimination</li> <li>- Rule of law &amp; impunity</li> <li>- Human rights education, trainings &amp; awareness raising</li> <li>- Freedom of thought, conscience &amp; religion</li> <li>- Racial discrimination</li> <li>- Access to justice &amp; remedy</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION</li> <li>- 5 - GENDER EQUALITY</li> <li>- 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES</li> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)</li> <li>- Women &amp; girls</li> <li>- Minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups</li> <li>- Persons with disabilities</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
<b><i>Theme: Administration of justice &amp; fair trial</i></b>			
148.135 Continue to pursue the reform of the judiciary (Timor-Leste); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Administration of justice &amp; fair trial</li> <li>- Good governance &amp; corruption</li> <li>- Legal &amp; institutional reform</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Judges, lawyers and prosecutors</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>

148.136 Strengthen the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and law enforcement institutions to ensure the right to a fair trial in line with international human rights standards (Finland); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Law enforcement / police & prison officials - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.137 Strengthen respect for rule of law by fostering judicial independence through reforms to empower individual judges and prevent informal governance by an influential group of judges known as the “clan”, by depoliticizing the justice system, and by merit-based appointments (United States of America); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial - Good governance & corruption <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.138 Continue justice reform efforts with the goal of a fully independent and transparent judicial system, including the devolution of competencies and powers from the High Council of Justice to lower levels as well as further improvements in the selection procedures of judges to ensure transparency and merit-based appointments (Austria); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial - Good governance & corruption <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.139 Continue efforts to strengthen the independence of the judiciary and the transparency of judicial procedures (Belgium); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.140 Enhance the independence of the judiciary and ensure that the legislative framework and procedures governing the appointment of judges comply with international human rights standards (Brazil); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial - Constitutional & legislative framework <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>

148.141 Improve mechanisms to ensure the independence and impartiality of the judiciary to encourage greater public trust in the rule of law, including by prioritizing transparent and fair guidelines in judicial appointments (Canada); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial - Good governance & corruption <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.142 Ensure equal access to an independent, transparent and fair judiciary system; on the institutional level, strengthen independence and impartiality of judges, introduce a comprehensive system of evaluation and promotion of judges as well as a de-concentration of powers of the judicial council to other bodies (Czechia); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.143 Strengthen the impartiality of judicial bodies (France); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.144 Enhance the independence of the judiciary by continuing to reform the legal framework and system for the appointment and promotion of judges to ensure an open and merit-based approach, including at each point of entry to judicial training (Ireland); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.145 Continue and strengthen the reform and democratic development agenda, in particular with regard to the judicial system (Italy); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial - Good governance & corruption <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.146 Continue efforts aimed at improving the judicial system and guaranteeing its independence (Libya); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>



148.147 Strengthen the independence of the judiciary by ensuring the transparency of the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court (Lithuania); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial - Good governance & corruption <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.148 Guarantee the independence of the judiciary by reforming the system of appointment of judges, ensuring justification of decisions and merit-based appointments in line with the reforms under the Association Agreement with the European Union (Netherlands); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.149 Adopt and implement without delay the recommendations from the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) related to reforms in the system for appointments of judges (Norway); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial - Cooperation with international organizations <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.150 Consider undertaking reforms to strengthen the independence of the judiciary (Peru); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Administration of justice & fair trial <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not implemented</b>
<b><i>Theme: Freedom of opinion and expression &amp; access to information</i></b>			
148.120 Continue efforts to ensure freedom of the media on the basis of international standards (Uzbekistan); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Freedom of opinion and expression & access to information <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Media	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.121 Promote editorial independence in major print and online publications (Australia); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Freedom of opinion and expression & access to information <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Media	<b>Not implemented</b>

148.123 Ensure full enjoyment of freedom of expression and media pluralism, including full independence of public broadcasting, for example by developing specific regulations and by-laws to avoid the restriction of broadcasters' editorial independence; further strengthen guarantees of access to information (Czechia); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Freedom of opinion and expression & access to information <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Media	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.124 Ensure that journalists and media workers can exercise their profession in a free and secure environment (Ecuador); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Freedom of opinion and expression & access to information <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Media	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.125 Guarantee media freedom and media pluralism (France); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Freedom of opinion and expression & access to information <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Media	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.126 Protect and uphold freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including by respecting and supporting free and independent media, in line with international human rights standards (Iceland); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Freedom of opinion and expression & access to information - Right to peaceful assembly <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Media	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.127 Take the necessary steps to allow journalists and media professionals to work in a safe and free environment (Libya); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	- Freedom of opinion and expression & access to information - Right to physical & moral integrity <b>SDGs:</b> - 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS <b>Affected persons:</b> - Media	<b>Not implemented</b>

148.129 Intensify the prevention of attacks and defamation against human rights defenders in collaboration with civil society and ensure that such violations, when they occur, are promptly, independently and effectively investigated (Switzerland); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Freedom of opinion and expression &amp; access to information</li> <li>- Rule of law &amp; impunity</li> <li>- Access to justice &amp; remedy</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human rights defenders &amp; activists</li> <li>- Civil society</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.130 Further develop measures to ensure a safe environment for human rights defenders, including protection measures, as part of the national human rights action plan (Uruguay); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Freedom of opinion and expression &amp; access to information</li> <li>- Legal &amp; institutional reform</li> <li>- National Human Rights Action Plans (or specific areas) / implementation plans</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human rights defenders &amp; activists</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.133 Protect human rights defenders (France); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Freedom of opinion and expression &amp; access to information</li> <li>- Right to physical &amp; moral integrity</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human rights defenders &amp; activists</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.134 Increase the efforts of political leaders to publicly acknowledge and protect the important role of human rights defenders and independent human rights institutions in the democratization process (Norway); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Freedom of opinion and expression &amp; access to information</li> <li>- National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human rights defenders &amp; activists</li> <li>- Public officials</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
<b><i>Theme: Human rights education, trainings &amp; awareness raising</i></b>			

148.60 Adopt specific policies to promote tolerance towards diversity in matters of sexual orientation and gender identity in educational settings, and document and prevent bullying and discrimination based on these grounds (Chile); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human rights education, trainings &amp; awareness raising</li> <li>- Equality &amp; non-discrimination</li> <li>- Right to education</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION</li> <li>- 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)</li> <li>- Educational staff &amp; students</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.61 Undertake educational and awareness-raising campaigns to address stigma, dispel myths and combat stereotypes related to sexual orientation and gender identity (Denmark); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human rights education, trainings &amp; awareness raising</li> <li>- Equality &amp; non-discrimination</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.63 Promote public awareness through education and campaigns in order to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity that leads to the harassment and bullying of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (Israel); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human rights education, trainings &amp; awareness raising</li> <li>- Equality &amp; non-discrimination</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION</li> <li>- 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.64 Establish permanent educational and awareness-raising campaigns on the prevention of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including within the judicial and police apparatus (Mexico); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human rights education, trainings &amp; awareness raising</li> <li>- Equality &amp; non-discrimination</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION</li> <li>- 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Law enforcement / police &amp; prison officials</li> <li>- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)</li> <li>- Judges, lawyers and prosecutors</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
<b>Theme: Participation of women in political &amp; public life</b>			

148.189 Take steps to ensure the empowerment of women in Georgia by considering ensuring that women are well represented in senior and high-level decision-making positions and political bodies (Ghana); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participation of women in political &amp; public life</li> <li>- Advancement of women</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 - GENDER EQUALITY</li> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women &amp; girls</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.190 Improve the participation of women in decision-making positions and their representation in political and public life (Iraq); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participation of women in political &amp; public life</li> <li>- Equality &amp; non-discrimination</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 - GENDER EQUALITY</li> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women &amp; girls</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
<b><i>Theme: Cooperation &amp; consultation with civil society</i></b>			
148.31 Strengthen the representation of civil society in the decision-making processes of the country (Albania); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cooperation &amp; consultation with civil society</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civil society</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
<b><i>Theme: Rule of law &amp; impunity</i></b>			
148.102 Ensure prompt and impartial investigations into all incidents of excessive use of force by law enforcement authorities against protesters and journalists (Austria); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rule of law &amp; impunity</li> <li>- Right to peaceful assembly</li> <li>- Prohibition of torture &amp; ill-treatment (including cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Law enforcement / police &amp; prison officials</li> <li>- Media</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.122 Ensure effective and efficient investigations, prosecutions, sanctions and remedies in relation to all attacks against journalists or media workers as well as in relation to the excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies (Belgium); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rule of law &amp; impunity</li> <li>- Access to justice &amp; remedy</li> <li>- Prohibition of torture &amp; ill-treatment (including cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment)</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Law enforcement / police &amp; prison officials</li> <li>- Media</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>

148.131 Guarantee that attacks against human rights defenders, in particular defenders of the rights of minorities, are investigated, punished effectively, and receive public condemnation from State officials (Chile); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rule of law &amp; impunity</li> <li>- Administration of justice &amp; fair trial</li> <li>- Freedom of opinion and expression &amp; access to information</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human rights defenders &amp; activists</li> <li>- Minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.132 Ensure that attacks on human rights defenders are effectively investigated and, in consultation with civil society, identify best practices in policy protection for human rights defenders (Czechia); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rule of law &amp; impunity</li> <li>- Cooperation &amp; consultation with civil society</li> <li>- Freedom of opinion and expression &amp; access to information</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human rights defenders &amp; activists</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
<b>Theme: Right to peaceful assembly</b>			
148.65 Take measures to enable the safe and peaceful gatherings of LGBTIQI activists and to counter violence, hatred and discriminatory attitudes and behaviour against LGBTIQI persons, including by ensuring accountability (Netherlands); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Right to peaceful assembly</li> <li>- Right to physical &amp; moral integrity</li> <li>- Rule of law &amp; impunity</li> <li>- Access to justice &amp; remedy</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES</li> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human rights defenders &amp; activists</li> <li>- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>
148.128 Continue to allow and safely facilitate peaceful protests without discrimination (Australia); <b>Source of Position:</b> A/HRC/47/15/Add.1	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Right to peaceful assembly</li> </ul> <b>SDGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</li> </ul> <b>Affected persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human rights defenders &amp; activists</li> <li>- Civil society</li> </ul>	<b>Not implemented</b>



## ANNEX 2.

### List of Organizations



**Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)** – The Georgian Young Lawyers' Association is one of the largest and most trusted human rights organizations in Georgia, which has been fighting to protect human rights since 1994. Over the years, GYLA has played a significant role in the protection of human rights, strengthening democracy, and

establishing the rule of law.

GYLA actively monitors and scrutinizes the activities of all branches of government to ensure they adhere to human rights protection standards. The organization conducts studies, prepares reports, and develops recommendations, advocating for necessary reforms at both national and international levels. GYLA was the first organization in Georgia to offer free legal aid, significantly enhancing public access to justice. This service remains available throughout the country. Additionally, GYLA develops strategic litigation as a key tool for advancing human rights, advocating within domestic and international legal frameworks. A number of precedent cases won by GYLA have had a meaningful, positive impact on people's everyday lives.



**Human Rights House Foundation (HRHF)** - HRHF is an international non-governmental organisation that establishes and supports Human Rights Houses – coalitions of local independent civil society organisations working to advance human rights at home and abroad. Today 80+ CSOs are united in the Network of Human Rights Houses, active across Eastern

and Western Europe, the Balkans and the Caucasus.

In close partnership with the Network of Human Rights Houses, HRHF advocates at international and intergovernmental level to advance and protect fundamental rights that underpin independent civil society and make it possible to hold institutions and individuals accountable. HRHF advocates for inclusion and active participation of civil society, reports on human rights trends, and works to strengthen international human rights mechanisms and standards in order to influence the situation at the national level.



**Democracy Research Institute (DRI)** – Democracy Research Institute (DRI) was founded on February 7, 2018 by Ucha Nanuashvili the former Public Defender of Georgia (2012-2017) and his team. DRI is a public policy think tank that aims at: promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, establishment of the transparent and accountable governance system based on the rule of law and human rights, support to the establishment of free and fair elections and development of democratic institutions, establishment of free and fair society, protection of human rights in conflict-affected regions, development of the civil society, support the European integration policy. The organization has experience working on issues related to security sector, parliamentary oversight, corruption, occupied territories, disinformation, elections, European integration, and etc. In order to achieve the abovementioned goals, the DRI: Cooperates with national and international organizations and other partners, carries out advocacy campaigns for the protection of human rights and documents human rights violations, elaborates policy documents to present to international organizations and other partners, monitors fulfilment of state's international (human rights) commitments. In light of recent developments in the country, the organization's main focus has shifted toward monitoring the human rights situation and engaging in advocacy efforts with international stakeholders.



**The Georgian Center for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (GCRT)** - GCRT was founded in October 2000 with the support of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture victims (IRCT). The aim of the organization is to provide expert assistance to people suffering from the after-effects of trauma and those who have been subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment. Since our founding, the organization has brought together a team of experts with experience in working with individuals who have endured trauma and have been affected by war. The assistance provided includes establishing medical diagnoses, offering psychological, social and legal counselling and, where necessary, providing rehabilitation and treatment.



**The Human Rights Center (HRC)** – HRC was founded on December 10, 1996 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Human Rights Center is dedicated to protection and promotion of human rights, rule of law and peace in Georgia. Since its establishment, HRC has actively worked to monitor, document, and respond to human rights violations throughout the country. HRC engages in advocacy and lobbying to promote legislative and policy reforms at both national and international levels. It also provides free legal aid to victims of human rights abuses. The organization supports harmonization of national legislation with international human rights standards and promotes public understanding of legal rights and remedies. It plays an active role in supporting independent media, encouraging freedom of expression, and building the capacity of journalists and media professionals. HRC is also dedicated to fighting discrimination, protecting the rights

of minorities and vulnerable groups, and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. In the field of transitional justice, it documents conflict-related human rights violations, advocates for accountability and reparations, and contributes to peacebuilding and reconciliation. Additionally, HRC supports the development of civil society organizations, encourages citizen participation, and promotes transparency, good governance, and free and fair elections. It actively monitors and documents human rights violations across the country and regularly reports its findings to international institutions.



**The Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)** – IDFI is a Georgian non-governmental organization established in 2009. IDFI initially focused on watchdog activities by monitoring government actions, revealing violations, and disseminating information to the public. Starting in 2012, IDFI gradually shifted its focus from watchdog to think-tank activities.

Today, IDFI operates as a hybrid watchdog/think-tank organization, combining monitoring and analytical capabilities with evidence-based advocacy, strategic litigation, awareness raising, consulting, and a growing international impact. IDFI conducts high-quality, independent research and offers innovative, practical recommendations that strengthen democracy in Georgia and neighboring countries while fostering economic and social welfare. IDFI is internationally recognized for its expertise in promoting open and democratic governance. Accountability, integrity, and reliability have always been and will continue to be crucial elements of IDFI's work. IDFI adheres to strict professional standards of review and referencing, ensuring the accuracy of all facts and analyses in its work.



**The International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)** – ISFED is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization with one of the broadest regional networks in Georgia. It was established in 1995 to carry out citizen monitoring of

elections and related political processes.

Throughout these years, ISFED has monitored 27 elections and made an important contribution to improving the Election Code and the electoral and political environment in the country.

Having one of the largest domestic networks in Georgia, ISFED covers all municipalities of Georgia and operates through 6 regional offices and 73 regional representatives. As a membership-based organization, ISFED brings together 400 members and has a supreme governing body - the General Assembly that meets once a year. The General Assembly elects nine members of the Board for a three-year term. One-third of the Board Members are renewed annually during the General Assembly's meetings. The Executive Director is appointed by the Board and is charged with supervising strategic directions and overall activities of ISFED



**Partnership for Human Rights (PHR)** - PHR was established in 2012. Our mission is to support various social groups — including children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and others — to promote gender equality and to support women’s participation in civil and political life. This mission is achieved through:

- Preventing human rights violations and providing civic education;
- Representing cases of discrimination against social groups through strategic litigation;
- Supporting legislative reforms in line with international human rights standards, as well as human rights-based national and local policies;
- Strengthening cooperation and communication with civil society organizations working in the field of human rights;
- Facilitating the participation of representatives of social groups in decision-making processes;
- Conducting legal and social research that informs evidence-based advocacy campaigns.



**Rights Georgia (RG)** - Non-Entrepreneurial (Non-Commercial) Legal Entity Rights Georgia (formerly “Article 42 of the Constitution”) ([www.rights.ge](http://www.rights.ge)) is a voluntary, non-profit entity of people protecting and promoting human rights and freedom, supporting human rights awareness, contributing harmonization of national legislation with international HR standards and monitoring state activities in that regard.

The mission of the organization is: to assist promotion of rights guaranteed in different international agreements and support their implementation; to support establishment of rule of law; to develop the system of justice; to support the work of human rights defenders; to work on public awareness about human rights and tolerance; to support enhancing professional legal education.

Objectives of the organization are: strategic litigation at national and international level; educational activities; analysis of international experience in the field of human rights, particularly, focusing on IDPs and conflict affected population, prisoners, women and children; analysis of national legislation and making efforts for its improvement; cooperation with local and international human rights organizations, including professional unions of lawyers; delivering information campaigns on human rights’ issues and monitoring the activities of state institutions to ensure whether they are in line with human rights standards.

2020 was a year of significant changes for the “Rights Georgia”. One of the oldest human rights NGOs in Georgia, Article 42 of the Constitution, which has a history of 23 years, continues to

operate under this new name. The rebranding of the organization did not involve only a change of name – significant changes were made in the management and strategic directions of the organization; the team and communication platforms were largely renewed.



**Social Justice Center (SJC)** – SJC is a left-wing organization working on human rights and social justice, which aims to identify the structural reasons for economic, social, and political inequality, and to share critical knowledge while contributing to the transformation of the existing order via democratic means.

We acknowledge the explicitly unequal, unfair, and inhumane nature of the existing economic and political order and hold that its radical transformation is essential. We fight for creating an environment for all social groups, which will be fair, inclusive, and democratic on political, as well as economic and social levels. We act in line with principles, which are focused on bottom-up democratic organization, critical knowledge and the building of cohesive networks, and for this, we are using the radical potential inherent in the activist means of struggle and in individual and collective rights.

To accomplish these purposes, Social Justice Center works on the issues of social and equality policies, judicial matters and democracy. The Social Policy Program works on developing such social and economic policies, which are based on principles of social justice, solidarity, and human rights. The Equality Policy Program works on embedding an inclusive and fair understanding of citizenship and on developing a political and social environment for non-dominant groups, which will be truly equal and cohesive. One of the purposes of the Justice and Democracy Program is to strive for freeing the existing political system from a centralized power devoid of democratic control. The second purpose is to develop justice and law-enforcement systems, which will be accessible, socially sensitive and based on ideals of human rights.



**Women's Initiatives Supporting Group (WISG)** - WISG, established on June 29, 2000, represents a pioneering civil society organization in Georgia dedicated to addressing structural gender inequalities through feminist advocacy, strategic litigation, and empowerment initiatives. Founded by eight women with diverse professional backgrounds, the organization emerged as a response to systemic patriarchal constraints that limit women's equal participation

across societal domains. The organization maintains a distinctive position as Georgia's first advocacy entity specifically focused on the empowerment of lesbian and bisexual women and transgender persons. WISG has established itself as the preeminent knowledge producer regarding sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) issues in Georgia, developing foundational research and policy analyses that inform both national discourse and international engagement. WISG's organizational mandate centers on the dissemination of feminist

principles and the cultivation of women's activism through the establishment of inclusive spaces that recognize sexism and homo/bi/transphobia as structural social problems requiring intervention at cultural, social, legal, and political levels. The strategic vision encompasses the development of an organizational governance framework aligned with their strategic objectives, specifically designed to advance feminist ideologies and facilitate the social integration of LGBTI women through multi-dimensional approaches including personal development programs, policy advocacy initiatives, strategic litigation proceedings, and grassroots activist mobilization. Through its evidence-based approach, legal interventions, and credibility among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, WISG continues to serve as a critical catalyst for gender equality and LGBTI rights advancement in Georgia.



### **ANNEX 3.**

#### **Human Rights Crisis in Georgia**

*For the detailed account of systemic human rights violations, taking place in Georgia since November 2024, please see the documentation report prepared by 11 Georgian CSOs:*

GYLA, SJC, PHR, DRI, GDI, GCRT, HRD, RG, ISFED, IDFI, WISG, HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 November 2024 – 28 February 2025, 2025, [https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads\\_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf](https://admin.gyla.ge/uploads_script/publications/pdf/HUMAN%20RIGHTS%20CRISIS%20IN%20GEORGIA%20-%20final.pdf), [28.05.2025].