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Equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people in Europe

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Georgia

UPR third Cycle, 37th Working Group Session, January 2021

Joint Stakeholders' submission of 8 July, 2020

Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in Georgia

This joint stakeholder's submission is submitted by **Women's Initiative's Supporting Group (WISG)** and by **European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA-Europe)**, in the framework of the third Universal Periodic Review of Georgia. **WISG** is a non-governmental, non-profit-making organization advocating for the rights of lesbian, bisexual and trans women in Georgia. **ILGA-Europe** is the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association working for equality and human rights for LGBTIQI people at the European level.

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Introduction

WISG with ILGA-Europe has been involved in CSO submissions during the previous cycle, as well as submitted mid-term reports to the UPR. In addition to the UPR mechanism, CEDAW, Beijing +25, Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy within OHCHR are among the mechanisms used by WISG for advocating LGBTQI person's rights in Georgia.

Accordingly, the following report focuses on rights of LGBTQI persons in Georgia and the challenges faced while exercising their rights. The report also evaluates the implementation of the recommendations received by Georgia during the second cycle of UPR review in 2015. Respectively, the period of 2015-2020 is being herewith covered.

Methodology

The aim of this submission is to draw the attention to violations of the human rights of LGBTQI people in Georgia. The report is based on materials collected and documented by WISG: cases of human rights violations of LGBTQI persons in Georgia, interviews and focus groups conducted with community members and health care specialists, NGOs working on LGBTQI rights and other related issues, a representative of the Public Defender's Office in Georgia and other experts, WISG's discrimination studies (2018), results of monitoring of CM/rec(2010)5 recommendation in Georgia (2018) and other reports by international stakeholders.

Introduction to the National UPR context

In November 2015 Georgia was under review for its second Cycle of UPR. In total 203 recommendations have been received by Georgia; out of which 191 were accepted and 12 – noted. Specifically on the theme addressed in this submission, Georgia received 9 recommendations in regard to sexual orientation and gender identity. Even though 8 recommendations out of these 9 have been accepted, the following report will evaluate the gaps, shortfalls and challenges while implementing them.

I. Hate crime against LGBTQI people

1. The majority of II cycle recommendations were directed to eliminate social stigma towards LGBTQI individuals. As far as no positive measures have been taken by the State, existing social stigma against LGBTQI people continues manifesting itself in institutional homophobia, which results in homo/bi/transphobic hate crimes: under the 2019's statistics, criminal prosecution has been started on 32 homo/transphobic hate crime cases.[i] Correspondingly, 27 hate crime cases have been prosecuted on the grounds of SOGIE in 2018, and 15 in 2017.[ii] Notwithstanding the figures, the victims usually refrain from reporting to law enforcements because of the fear of forcible outing and re-victimization that results in a gap between the official and NGO statistics.[iii] The latter exceeds multiple times to the former (for instance N=226 respondents of the research have been the victim of hate crimes/incidents during the time period of 2015-18).[iv] The gap between NGOs' statistics as well as discrimination studies'results and official statistics affirm that the majority of such incidents remain undocumented and unreported because of the ineffectiveness of police, fear of forcible "coming out" and homo/bi/transphobic treatment by police officers, etc.[v] Giving that non-existence of the unified statistical data on hate crimes, it is impossible to determine the real number of the SOGIE based hate crimes, which is far higher than the official statistics.
2. Combating hate crimes, Ministry of Internal Affairs has created the Human Rights Protection and Investigation Quality Monitoring Department,[vi] which inter alia monitors investigation on hate crimes.[vii] Establishment of the new department has to be welcomed, however, it has different remit than the unit proposed by Sweden under the UPR II cycle. Moreover, it's centralized, coordinating body, giving rise to concerns that it may not be sufficient due regard problems at the local level, nor, for example, detailed issues arising in the investigatory process**.** In its Conclusions on the Implementation of the Recommendations in Respect of Georgia subject to Interim Follow-Up, ECRI noted: *"More importantly, such a department is not a substitute for a specialized investigative unit within the police, as recommended by ECRI. The new department was created to review hate crime investigations, not to carry them out. It therefore does not constitute a dedicated reinforcement of hate crime investigation capacity at law enforcement level".*[viii] This recommendation has been also addressed by the UN Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity.[ix]
3. Among the challenges faced by the LGBTQI persons is intimate **partner violence** and **domestic violence.** As far as the preventive measures against IPV and DV, including public campaigns performed by the state, are set on heteronormative bases and lack to coverage the needs of LGBTQI persons and same-sex couples.
4. For the setback, in 2018 a Constitutional amendment entered into force, - by defining marriage as the union of the woman and the man. That dramatically impedes implementation of the rights to private and family life of LGBTQI persons, also linked to the Yogyakarta principles 6 and 24; in addition, Georgian legislation does not recognize any form of civil partnership. According to the opinion of the Venice Commission the new Constitutional provision should in no case be interpreted as prohibiting same-sex partnerships.[x] Despite this recommendation, mentioned provision is now an integral part of the Constriction that excludes possibility of same-sex marriage.
5. Under Switzerland's recommendation (117.66.) of the UPR second cycle Georgian government should have implemented the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of

Discrimination against Women for better observance of its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. However, while the Istanbul Convention outlines that the measures protecting the rights of victims shall be secured without discrimination on any ground, *inter alia*, SOGIE,[xi] related Georgian mechanism, the law of Georgia on "Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection and Support of Victims of Domestic Violence," doesn't guarantees such clause. In contrast, while the law doesn't consider an intimate partner as family member, it does not prohibit intimate partner violence, especially among same-sex partners. This situation significantly impedes an access of LB women and trans persons to the mechanisms of protection. The law defining "victim" as "a woman or other family member," in the light with unregulated LGR mechanism, precludes transgender women from the access to the national mechanism of violence against women.[xii]

6. However, according to WISG's study, intimate partner violence is one of the most widespread forms of violence among LB women and trans persons. Research conducted by WISG illustrates that during the last three years 81.2% of lesbian and bisexual respondents (N=95) had experienced some form of violence by the intimate partner, psychological violence being the most widespread form.[xiii]
7. On the other hand, in regards to domestic violence, the same 2018 study showed that among the LGBT respondents, 67.2% (N=172) have experienced some form of abuse by family (family of origin) members since 2015,[xiv] however, hate motive has not been documented in any domestic violence cases against LGBTQI individuals. Official statistics in regard domestic violence based on SOGIE has not been collected. Additionally, the government does not address the specific forms of violence against LGBTQI individuals (minors are at a major risk), such as different forms of coercive therapies, psychological pressure and violence, attempts of forced marriages of lesbian women. It is also worth noting that in most cases LGBTQI victims of domestic violence do not report to the police because of the fear of outing and secondary victimization, which is why they choose to leave their homes or are obliged to continue living in the cycle of violence.[xv]
8. All the systematic barriers has been once again revealed during the Covid-19 pandemic, - related social and economic oppression highlighted the risks of losing homes, being victimized by homo/bi/transphobic violence and discrimination, while the complex needs of the community have been overlooked by the anti-crisis plans.

Recommendations:

9. In order to ensure awareness rising on SOGIE issues, the State should organize permanent educational campaigns. For that, the State should integrate SOGIE issues to all programs working on policing, the criminal justice system and/or civil society.
10. In line with the Sweden's recommendation under the UPR second cycle, as well as ECRI and Independent Expert's[xvi] guidance, before the next UPR review the State should establish without delay hate crime investigation units within the law enforcement system in order to strengthen the investigation/prosecution/prevention of hate crimes based on SOGIE.
11. The State should redouble efforts to guarantee the adequate identification and processing of domestic violence and intimate partner violence cases based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and the collection of the relevant statistics.

12. To revise Criminal Code of Georgia and the law on Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection and Support of Victims of Domestic Violence in a way that it included definition of Intimate Partner in order to advance accessibility of LGBTI persons to the mechanisms preventing domestic violence.
13. Ensure the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated unified statistics in regards to hate crimes that shall enclose data of Ministry of Internal Affairs, Prosecutors Office of Georgia and General Courts in a way that the processing of the single case was visible.

II. Homo/bi/transphobic hate speech

14. Hate speech and political homophobia remain a challenge in Georgia. Myths and stereotypes impacting the sharply negative societal attitudes towards issues related to equal rights have demonstrated that these issues are largely being considered through the lens of morals and traditions, rather than in the context of equal rights. Representatives of anti-gender far-right groups[xvii] are using social media actively to spread hate propaganda against LGBT persons. A significant role in the above is played by politicians, whose assessments and comments on cases of discrimination and violence are frequently saturated with anti-LGBTQI rhetoric; instead of embracing the issue within a legal framework and examining it in the human rights context, they continue to appeal to the dominant cultural, traditional and religious values.[xviii] Open homophobic statements made by the public figures, even by the Members of Parliament, are dramatically reflected to the societal attitudes towards LGBTI persons and their rights.[xix]

15. Under the UPR II cycle recommendation (117.49.) issued by Brazil, Georgia should had supported educational campaigns to combat hate speech related to sexual orientation and gender identity. However, the situation in this regard has worsened since the recommendation was made.

16. Since 2016, members of ultranationalist far-right groups have emerged forcefully in the public sphere, using hate speech against members of minorities, including LGBTQI persons. These groups are actively using social media to spread the hate and to blackmail or address violent online attacks against individuals. On 14 May, 2019 the WISG Facebook page was cyber-attacked,[xx] allegedly by extremist groups. Facebook removed several of WISG's videos and the organisation was unable to post anything for a week, hindering their 17 May work.

17. During the Pride March 2019 those groups had manifested gatherings, where they addressed members of the community with open homophobic treats and violence (discussed below in the chapter of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly).

18. In December 2018, the Code of Ethics for Members of Parliament was adopted, which prohibits inter alia, sexist and discriminatory statements and usage of hate speech. In case the code is violated, the recommendation shall be issued against parliamentarians. Thus, it's doubtful that the mechanism is efficient.

Recommendations:

19. Establish prompt mechanism that holds public persons to account that violate a codes of ethics for the public figures that itself envisages any form of discrimination, inter alia, hate speech. The mechanism shall underwrite disciplinary actions held against the violator of the Code, as well as monitor to prevent such practice.

Advanced questions:

20. What measures has been taken by the government to fight homo/bi/transphobic hate speech (including, incitement of violence) and actual violence directed from hate groups in Georgia?

III. The right to freedom of peaceful assembly

21. Despite the fact that the Georgian legislation fully guarantees freedom of assembly for all persons without discrimination, in fact LGBTQI persons in Georgia are not free to examine following rights. In regard to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, the LGBTQI community always faces high risks and obstacles. The full enjoyment of freedom of assembly and expression of the LGBTQI community has been always opposed through threats coming from third party forces.

22. Due to IDAHOT on 17 May 2019, LGBTQI activists once again refused to hold a rally, because the community refuse to allow the government and police to laud themselves in front of the international community for their efforts in protecting queer people's freedom of expression on May 17, 2019, while throughout the year, these agencies remain inept at improving the queer community's livelihoods, eliminating deep-rooted homophobic societal attitudes, and ensuring timely and adequate response to and effective investigation of homo/transphobic hate crime.[xxi]

23. Attempts to hold a Pride March in Tbilisi in June/July 2019 failed when the authorities refused to guarantee the safety of participants in the face of threats of a violent counter-demonstration organised by a vigilante group.[xxii] On 14 June, the Orthodox Church published a statement calling LGBT people sinners.[xxiii] Pride supporters protested[xxiv] outside the Government's Administrative Building and urged the Prime Minister and the Minister of Internal Affairs to support the march. The demonstration was disturbed by extremists, who threw eggs at the activists. 28 counter-protesters were detained.[xxv] On 17 June, Public Defender Nino Lomjaria called on[xxvi] the authorities to ensure LGBT people's freedom of assembly. Lomjaria received several threats afterwards. The mobilization of anti-democratic groups which started on June 14 continued on June 16 by means of a large rally in downtown Tbilisi, at which a leader of the group, Levan Vasadze made statements regarding the creation of "people's legions" equipped with wooden clubs to attack participants of the peaceful Tbilisi Pride march. Mr. Vasadze stated that if the police interfered with their activity, they would not obey the law enforcement officers.[xxvii] On 17 June, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia launched an investigation into "the establishment of illegal formations,"[xxviii] but the organizers were not detained. Accordingly, due to safety reasons, the absence of guarantees from Ministry of Internal Affairs and threats directed from far-right groups, Tbilisi Pride was not able to hold the gathering at the planned place and time. However, on July 8, Tbilisi Pride, without prior

announcement, gathered before the Ministry of Internal Affairs office in the evening[xxix]. The half-hour event took place without any incidents. It was attended by 20 people. The rally ended when participants were informed that extremists were on their way to disrupt it.[xxx]

24. All these illustrated events highlight the infringement of LGBTQI people's rights in Georgia.

Recommendations:

25. Together with civil society actors, the State should establish measures necessary to enable the safe and peaceful gatherings of LGBTQI activists and take preventive measures to deter violence, hatred and discriminatory attitudes and behavior.
26. In case violence occurs State authorities should properly address the case and investigate incidents directed from far-rights groups.

IV. Discrimination based on SOGI

27. As the positive change in 2019, the anti-discrimination legislation was finally amended[xxxi] following years of delays in Parliament. The amendments are to strengthen implementation and the Public Defender's role. Private actors will now be obliged to cooperate with the Public Defender in discrimination cases, or will be fined otherwise. The Public Defender will also be able to file a lawsuit against state and non-state actors (excluding individuals) if they fail to implement its rulings. The amendment prolongs the period for admissibility in discrimination cases from three to 12 months, with the exception of labour disputes. Sexual harassment was also added to the law as a form of discrimination.
28. Under the Public Defender's Office's report LGBTI community is one of the most vulnerable groups, the members of which face discrimination in almost every sphere of life.[xxxii] The cases examined by the PDO, included taxi driver's refusal to provide service to a trans woman,[xxxiii]an incident where the same sex couple was thrown out of a night club,[xxxiv] and discontinuation of a rental agreement due to discrimination by perception.[xxxv] In these cases discrimination on the ground of SOGIE was ruled
29. According to Netherland's recommendation (117.33.) under the UPR second cycle the State should had increased tolerance and social inclusion in Georgian society. However, according to the WISG's 2018 research 64.5% of the respondents have experienced discrimination on the grounds of SOGIE.[xxxvi]The study shows that LGBTI community members are mostly discriminated while receiving access to goods and services (46.0%), followed by the field of employment (33.6%). During the 2 year period, 16.4% of respondents were discriminated in the sphere of education; 8.6% speak about the ill treatment of law enforcements and 4.7% underlines the problem in regard services within the healthcare system. Respondents, whose gender expression are in line with the social expectations, are less likely discriminated (58.1%), however, respondents who describe their gender expression as non-conforming or neutral tend to be more discriminated (78.0% and 66.1% respectively). In regard gender non-confirming persons, the most hostile environment is meet in the field of

education, which corresponds to their level of education and their employment. Respectively, low level of formal education, unemployment and low economic status reflect the vulnerability of the group and discriminates them even more. According to the survey, the lower the socio-economic status of the respondent is, the higher is the chance that they became the victim of secondary discrimination [xxxvii]

30. WISG has documented many cases of discrimination against transgender and gender nonconforming persons while receiving service. However, providing service is not the only sphere where transgender persons face discriminatory treatment. Unenviable and improper treatment based on gender identity and expression is frequent at state jobs, workplaces and educational or medical establishments. In the majority of the cases, transgender or gender non-conforming persons, who are the victims of discriminatory treatment, refrain from appealing to court or to the Public Defender due to the fear of repeat victimization, or "forced coming out." However, in particular cases the Ombudsman's anti-discriminatory mechanisms are still utilized.[xxxviii]
31. As alerted by the UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on SOGI, without urgent measures to address discrimination based on SOGI, Georgia will fail to comply with its international human rights obligation and to deliver on the promise to leave no one behind in the implementation of the SDG goals.[xxxix]

Recommendations:

32. As addressed by the SDG goal 16, State shall craft an educational campaign on SOGI with a view to addressing stigma, dispelling myths and combating stereotypes that create obstacles to the enjoyment of fundamental rights.
33. State should adopt specific policies to promote tolerance towards diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity in educational settings, and regularly document with regards to bullying based on these grounds.

V. Rights of trans and intersex people

34. Legal gender recognition (LGR), one of the most fundamental issues for to trans persons still remains unregulated in Georgia. As of today, trans people have been forced to undergo unwanted, medically unjustified, expensive and life-threatening procedures in order to change gender marker in their IDs. Namely, under the current practice, new ID and birth certificate can be issued only after a person undergoes multiple medical procedures, including hormonal therapy and gender reassignment surgery. Thus, according to the existing practice, irreversible sterilization, hormonal treatment and preliminary surgical procedures are mandatory to change gender marker in IDs. Despite the second cycle recommendations were not specifically directed to the issue, in its report, Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity recommends Georgian government to ensure that the process of legal

recognition of gender identity was based on self-determination by the applicant, is a simple administrative process that is exempt from the abusive requirements, recognized non-binary identities and was accessible to minors.[xl] Moreover, after the second cycle three cases against Georgia on LGR has been communicated by ECtHR.[xli]

35. Additionally, the right to access qualified medical services, which is regulated by the Georgian legislature as well as by the ethical and medical standards, is also infringed in case of trans people: in spite availability of trans-specific services in Georgia, there are no clinical guidelines or protocols that underwrites procedural rules in regard to trans persons.[xlii] Georgian legislation neither prohibits nor regulates gender reassignment surgery. This gives absolute discretion to medical institutions to decide who is eligible for the gender reassignment surgery; also to make decisions on the existing procedures for the reassignment process. Such a gap may result arbitrariness, lack of consistency and create obstacles for people willing to undergo the procedure.

36. Moreover, the services at the individual medical facilities, where they are available, remain inaccessible for trans persons. The problem of accessibility is conditioned by the price of procedures that the members of the community cannot often afford; on the other hand, they do not have equal possibilities like other citizens to use financial support on the medical procedures available through the public health care programmes and the costs the procedures have to be fully borne by the patients.

37. On behalf of medical professionals they often violate appropriate norms when working with LGBTI patients and show homophobic/transphobic attitude. LGBTI persons repeatedly reported that medical personnel display homophobic attitudes towards them.[xliii] The study of practice, knowledge, practice and attitudes of medical staff towards patients representing the LGBTI group, in which 352 respondents took part, showed that 13.8% of the respondents think that bisexuals are persons with "double biological sex" (e.g. due to genetic, hormonal, or anatomic characteristics). Only 73.8% of the interviewed medical professionals were able to select the correct definition of "transgender". Hereby, 15.1% believe that a "transgender"/"transsexual" individual is "a person who has an unrestrained sex life and has simultaneous sexual relationships with several people of different sexes." According to 39.3% of respondents, homosexuality is a disease, which can be cured. More than half of respondents either agree with this statement or do not have a fixed position: 27.7% believe that homosexuality can be cured; 33.0%do not know whether this is possible.[xliv]

38. Another issue concerning healthcare is that there are no regulations which are in line with international standards to protect intersex children and infants from unnecessary "sex normalizing" medical interventions Intersex persons face multiple challenges which are related both to legal regulations and the medical sphere.

39. Georgian healthcare legislation does not prohibit genital-normalising treatment, involving both surgery and hormone therapy. However, such medical inventions are often medically unnecessary, not always consistent with the person's gender identity, poses severe risks for sexual and reproductive health and is often performed without free and fully informed consent.[xlv]It is imperative that legal and medical personnel shall be better informed about the fundamental rights and needs of intersex persons, especially intersex children, and states shall try to avoid cases of "sex

normalization" in intersex persons, without person's consent.[xlvi]No study has been conducted in Georgia which would examine the medical needs of intersex children and would assess against the international standards of "sex normalisation" surgeries conducted on them in infancy or at later stages.[xlvii]

Recommendations:

40. According to Independent Expert's recommendation[xlviii] and SDGs goal #10, the State should regulate the process of LGR that is quick, accessible, transparent and based on self-determination. States should simplify the administrative process, repeal abusive requirements and recognize non-binary identities, and make it accessible for minors as well. The State should eliminate abusive requirements as prerequisites for gender marker change, including forceful sterilization, medical procedures related to transition, surgery and hormonal therapies, and mandatory medical diagnosis, psychological appraisals or other procedures or treatment.
41. Amend the State Strategy on Healthcare to include needs and specificities of LGBTQI persons.
42. The State should adopt clinical guidelines on trans-specific medical procedures in line with international standards, such as the WPATH Standards of Care. Respectively, under the SDG goal #3, the training for the healthcare providers has to be held in order to understand the needs of LGBTQI persons and respond effectively.
43. To protect rights of intersex children it is vital that their medical needs were properly examined and the relevant guidelines for the medical personnel were developed. Special trainings is required for the relevant medical staff in order to avoid discrimination against intersex persons and to provide them with necessary services.

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[i] Response letter of 31.01.2020 from the Office of the Prosecution General of Georgia.
[ii] Response letter of 19.02.2020 from the Office of the Prosecution General of Georgia.
[iii] According to the recent study of 2018, among the LGBT respondents, 88.3% (N=226) have been victim of hate crimes/incidents since 2015. The psychological/emotional violence has been experienced by 85.5% of respondents, 61.7% sexual violence and harassment, while 29.7% of respondents reported experience of physical violence. Despite such destructing number, only 16.8% of hate crime victims have reported to the police. (submission to the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity available online at: https://women.ge/en/publications/194/)
[iv] Ibid.
[v]Aghdgomelashvili E., From Prejudice to Equality (part II): LGBTQI persons in Georgia, WISG, 2018.
[vi] Order of the Minister of Internal Affairs N1 of January 12, 2018, see: https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/3999709
[vii] Details about the department: https://police.ge/en/adamianis-uflebata-datsvis-departamentis-mandati-gafartovda/12477
[viii] see: https://rm.coe.int/ecri-conclusions-on-the-implementation-of-the-recommendations-in-respe/1680934a7e?fbclid=IwAR3LpX9rD6dS9J8MZwZ-ZGq_eS0LDaRrVYO8kxFPR6gnTKU7D04r_czH3yA
[ix] Report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity on Georgia, A/HRC/41/45/Add.1, para 99.
[x] European Commission for Democracy through Law —The Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, available online at: https://bit.ly/2LSiKOy
[xi] Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, Article 4(3).
[xii] Tbilisi City Court does not take the claim of transgender woman who requested protective order Case of NGO SAPARI: №3/605-18. 5/02/2018.
[xiii] Aghdgomelashvili E., "From Prejudice to Equality (part II): L(G)BTQI persons in Georgia," WISG, 2018.

[xiv]Aghdgomelashvili E., "From Prejudice to Equality (part II): LGBTQI persons in Georgia," WISG, 2018.
[xv]ibid., p.17.
[xvi] Report of the Independent Expert on Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, https://undocs.org/a/hrc/41/45/add.1, para. 99.
[xvii] Neo-Nazi groups the Nationalist Socialist Movement — National Unity of Georgia, available online at: https://bit.ly/2L4ukGy [accessed 25.07.2018]
[xviii]Aghdgomelashvili E., From Prejudice to Equality (part II): LGBT persons in Georgia, WISG, 2018.
[xix] Homophobic remarks by the MPs: Available online at: https://bit.ly/2IN3xB8;https://bit.ly/2z2ksuY [accessed 25.05.2018]
[xx] Details available online at: https://women.ge/en/news/newsfeed/235/
[xxi] WISG's statement for May 17, 2019: https://women.ge/en/news/newsfeed/237/WISG-s-Statement-for-May-17
[xxii] Details available online at: https://police.ge/ge/shinagan-saqmeta-saministros-gantskhadeba/12775
[xxiii] Details available online at: https://www.rferl.org/a/georgia-s-gay-pride-parade-cancelled-after-threats-received/30043630.html
[xxiv] Details available online at: https://agenda.ge/en/news/2019/1566
[xxv] Details available online at: https://police.ge/ge/shinagan-saqmeta-saministros-gantskhadeba/12817
[xxvi] Details available online at: https://agenda.ge/en/news/2019/1609
[xxvii] Threats from L. Vasadze, see: http://go.on.ge/14kv also see: http://www.tabula.ge/ge/story/150531-vasadze-praidis-tsinaaghmdeg-razmebs-vqmnit-iaraghi-iqneba-qamrebi-amit-shevukravt?fbclid=IwAR2Bu4S4rAjPYihg5W4NQ-RldyuoZW-3IILeAuQZ8L6R4633ckvnLjk-Qsg
[xxviii] See Ministry of Internal Affairs statement: https://police.ge/ge/shinagan-saqmeta-saministros-gantskhadeba/12818?fbclid=IwAR1S2uS-Na6Z0KYby4KuXug1gdt4PEkU-B41zlcPj4z-fgZtlH0_faSoFD4#section
[xxix] Details available online at: https://civil.ge/archives/312596?fbclid=IwAR0F6ZFmaynT0jqScsH2DfY38WQKQR77kdrV_S4vvr5Y5vvC_eD2SLI2ayA
[xxx] Details available online at: http://go.on.ge/15of
[xxxi] Details available online at: https://emc.org.ge/ka/products/koalitsia-tanastsorobistvis-antidiskriminatsiul-kanonmdeblobashi-gankhortsielebul-tsvlilebebs-ekhmianeba
[xxxii] Special Report on the Fights against Discrimination, its Prevention and the Situation of Equality, 2017, available online at: https://bit.ly/2xdz8GK [accessed 23.05.2018]
[xxxiii] The details of the case available online at: https://bit.ly/2sCyXjp [accessed 06.06.2018]
[xxxiv] The details of the case available online at: https://bit.ly/2kU1n46 [accessed 06.06.2018]
[xxxv] The details of the case available online at: https://bit.ly/2HvxobP [accessed 06.06.2018]
[xxxvi]Aghdgomelashvili E., From Prejudice to Equality (part II): LGBT persons in Georgia, WISG, 2018.
[xxxvii] Ibid.
[xxxviii] Bakhtadze K., Intersectional Discrimination and LGBTQI People, Litigation Report, WISG, 2018.
[xxxix] Report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity on Georgia, A/HRC/41/45/Add.1, para 65.
[xl] Report available online at: http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/41/45/Add.1
[xli] Details available online at: https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{"itemid":["001-186564"]} and http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-200161
[xlii]Aghdgomelashvili E., Gvianishvili N.,, Todua T., Ratiani T., Health Care Needs of Trans persons in Georgia, Policy Paper, Tbilisi, 2015, WISG.
[xliii] CEDAW shadow report concerning LBT women's situation in Georgia, WISG, 2012.
[xliv]Serebriakova L., Study of Knowledge, Practice and Attitudes of Medical Staff towards LGBTI patients, 2015.
[xlv] UPR, Joint Stakeholders' mid-term report, 30 May, WISG, 2018.
[xlvi] FRA, The fundamental rights situation of intersex people, 04/2015.
[xlvii] Report on the Implementation of the Georgian Government's Human Rights Action Plan for 2016-2017, WISG.
[xlviii] Report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity on Georgia, A/HRC/41/45/Add.1, para 90.