

**Input on the human rights situation of LGBT persons in Georgia for country visit of The United Nations
Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation
and gender identity (IE SOGI) - Victor Madrigal-Borloz**

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About EMC

“Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center” (EMC) is a non-governmental organization working on human rights issues, which aims to promote the protection of the rights of marginalized and discriminated groups, including rights of workers, homeless individuals, people with disabilities, religious minorities, LGBTQI persons, etc., through research, advocacy and strategic litigation. The organization also monitors the ongoing institutional reforms in Georgia and supports the improvement of legal protective mechanisms and strengthening of the legislative framework. EMC is not a traditional human rights organization, it represents an open platform for human rights activists, and aims to create alternative spaces, empower civic activists and support their inclusion in civic initiatives. Since 2015, the organization systemically works on LGBTQI issues through documenting violations of their rights and advocacy on national and international level. By criticizing state policy and engaging in legislative initiatives, the organization tries to support the elimination of homophobia and transphobia in the country.

For more, please visit: <https://emc.org.ge/en/home>

Background information on the Human Rights Situation of LGBT persons in Georgia

As historically traditional society, Georgia have come a long way since its independence in terms of certain aspects of development. However, numerous challenges persist towards the achievement of equal rights for all groups. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) persons represent one of the most marginalized, least visible and discriminated against groups in Georgia. Despite a degree of success achieved in recent years, members of the group continue to face violence, oppression, and harassment from the general public, families as well as specific institutions, including law-enforcements, medical facilities and the workplace. Bias-motivated violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) frequently goes unreported and, hence, remain without proper investigation and retribution. Deep-rooted homo/bi/transphobia permeating virtually all segments of society is reinforced by traditional values, as well as binary, heteronormative gender roles, which, in turn, fuel the discriminatory culture prevalent in these two countries and prevent LGBT persons from fully enjoying their rights and freedoms.¹

In recent years, several significant legislative and policy reforms were implemented that covered important issues of equality policy and made the institutional environment more comprehensive in Georgia. However, the wave of reforms was mainly responsive reaction toward implementing international obligations rather than understanding existing problems in the country and expressing the political will to solve these problems. Georgia has become part of almost all major international and regional agreements on the protection of human rights, moreover, implementation of international obligations has become institutionalized in the last decade.

For LGBT groups, the first major achievement on the level of policy was the decision of the Constitutional Court of Georgia on the provision of Article 14 (the right to equality) of the Georgian constitution, which did not separately define sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) as protected grounds, thus confirming its nonexhaustive nature by finding the discrimination based on sexual orientation.²

Another major achievement was the adoption of “the law on elimination of all forms of discrimination” on May 2, 2014, which, regardless of substantial resistance from the side of certain groups of society (including the Patriarchate of Georgia and some clerics), explicitly stated sexual orientation and gender identity and expression as the guaranteed principles protected from discrimination.³ However, the law should be considered as part of the visa liberalization process with EU and not the expression of the clear will of the state.

It should be mentioned that Georgia has also actively participated and taken part in SOGI-related international/regional agreements and monitoring mechanisms. For example, in the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Georgia has received many important recommendations related to

¹ “Legal Situation of LGBTI persons in Georgia”, EMC, 2016, see: <https://emc.org.ge/uploads/products/pdf/LEGAN-SITUATION-OF-LGBTI-PERSONS-IN-GEORGIA.pdf>

² Constitutional Court case on Asatiani, Vacharadze, Buchashvili, Gabodze v. MoLSHA, N2/1/536, February 4, 2014

³ Georgian law on Elimination of all forms of discrimination, Article 1

SOGI⁴ that were accepted by Georgia.⁵ Additionally, Georgia has agreed on the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE to member states on measures to combat discrimination based on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity—CM/Rec(2010)5.⁶ Also, Georgia voted in favor of the resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council of the UN on June 30, 2016, on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.⁷ In 2012, Article 53.3¹ (currently, 53¹) was added to the Criminal Code of Georgia, which has determined hate motives based on, inter alia, SOGI as an aggravating circumstance for all crimes, due to the general policy recommendation made in 2010 by the ECRI to determine discriminatory motive as a burdensome matter.⁸

However, it should be taken into account that with regard to SOGI-related issues, implementation of neither international obligations nor legislative guarantees that are based on them is properly ensured, recommendations made by international human rights institutions regarding SOGI issues are recognized only on the level of declaration, and state institutions do not take steps to ensure their implementation in practice. Even though the state has implemented a number of reforms regarding the issues of violence towards women⁹ and domestic violence¹⁰, its adopted mechanisms are not genuine because they are mostly directed toward implementing of international obligations. The reform wave carried out by the state, which is empty from a preventive approach and gender perspective, cannot ensure transformation of historically and materially established unequal treatment towards LGBT people and cannot dissolve gender hierarchy. The above-mentioned situation has supported legitimization of discrimination toward persons who have a non-normative sexual orientation and gender identity and has formed the practice of obstructing full self-determination of non-dominant groups.

The existing patriarchal system and structures that are reproduced by the state is accompanied by ineffective policies. In addition isolated focus on the concrete incidents and ignoring the systemic and structural basis of oppression completely excludes identifying homophobia and transphobia as social problems and does not implement effective policy against the above-mentioned issues. The Government does not take effective and long term steps to prevent fundamental basis of negative attitudes towards LGBT individuals, by focusing only on institutional reforms without educational and awareness raising activities.

According to Public Defender's Office's (PDO) report "*despite the fact that during the last decade a number of legal amendments have been adopted in the country, the practical implementation of the relevant laws is insufficient and ineffective. Homophobic attitudes remain prevalent...The above factors are reflected in the diminished legal status of the LGBTI community. LGBTI persons in Georgia are victims of systemic*

⁴ EMC has submitted shadow report together with SRHR coalition of Georgia, supported by RFSU.

⁵ A/HRC/31/15/Add.1

⁶ Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity (adopted by the Committee of Ministers on March 31, 2010, at the 1081st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies).

⁷ A/HRC/RES/32/2. See: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/RES/32/2

⁸ ECRI Report on Georgia, CRI (2010)17, fourth monitoring cycle, adopted on April 28, para. 11. See:

<http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/country-by-country/georgia/>

⁹ CEDAW/C/GEO/4-5, July 24, 2014

¹⁰ A/HRC/32/42/Add.3, Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences on her mission to Georgia, June 9, 2016

abuse, harassment, persecution, intolerance, and discrimination in all aspects of life. Violence and discrimination against them often occurs within the family, in public spaces, and in various institutions and is manifested in physical and psychological abuse, marginalization, bullying, and social exclusion. Unfortunately, LGBTI persons are preventing from developing an agenda for promoting their rights and legal status.”¹¹

According to the recent study conducted by NDI LGBT people remain one of the least supported groups, with only 23% of the Georgian population stating that the protection of their rights was important.¹² By ignoring and empowering the existing oppressive reality of LGBT persons in Georgia and the essentially high rate of homophobia and transphobia in the society, the state’s loyalty towards dominant discourses deters implementation of the legislative framework and effective policy. Research conducted in 2016 on societal attitudes towards LGBTQ persons and their equal rights illustrated that the society expresses a very negative attitude towards the issues of equality rights of the LGBT community. Homo/transphobic attitudes are significantly influenced by the societal views on gender roles, as well as prevailing right-wing authoritarianism and religious fundamentalism.¹³ The fight against such hate crimes requires a comprehensive approach and an examination/awareness of the needs and challenges of the community.

1. Anti-discrimination policy and legislative reforms

a. Progress achieved

From 2016 significant legislative and policy reforms were implemented by government of Georgia to fight against discrimination, state has introduced different human rights mechanisms and has improved legislative framework in order to fight against unequal treatment including on SOGI grounds.

Government has created the Human Rights Strategy for 2014-2020 years and Human rights action plans for 2014-2015, 2016-2017, 2018-2020 years¹⁴ which covered SOGI issues among others. Alike to government the parliament of Georgia has created gender equality council with its action plan. Government has adopted the law on elimination of all from the discrimination on May 2, 2014, which, regardless of substantial resistance from the side of certain groups of society explicitly stated sexual orientation and gender identity and gender expression as the guaranteed principles protected from discrimination.¹⁵ On 2017 government of Georgia has ratified the Istanbul convention (2011) and has made important changes in the national legislation. This measures should be assessed as positive and welcomed, however there exists important challenged which need to be addressed.

b. Remaining Challenges

¹¹ Report of the Public Defender’s Office of Georgia, 2016, pg. 398-399, see:

<http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/4/4882.pdf>

¹² See: <http://oc-media.org/only-23-of-georgians-think-queer-peoples-rights-are-important-poll-shows/>

¹³ E. Aghdgomelashvili, From Prejudice to Equality, 2016

¹⁴ See: <http://myrights.gov.ge/en/Policy%20Documents/action-plans-1/>

¹⁵ Georgian law on Elimination of all forms of discrimination, Article 1

Governments Human Rights Strategy for 2014-2020 years and Human Rights Action Plans

The Governments Human rights action plan for 2014-2015 years and 2016-2017 years has contained the activities directly connected to SOGI under the gender equality chapter to be executed by the government of Georgia.¹⁶ No effective measures to combat SOGI based discrimination were implemented under the 2014 – 2015 action plan.¹⁷ The 2016 – 2017 action plan contained only five main tasks addressing directly SOGI discrimination, copied from the previous action plan. None of them were fully implemented.¹⁸ A recent report by three civil society organisations on the 2016 – 2017 action plan expressed concern that the criteria proposed for quantifying the effectiveness of the planned measures were not such as to allow for direct assessment of their impact on the situation of LGBT persons.¹⁹

The “gender identity and equality” chapter of the action plan for 2018-2020 is still under preparation²⁰, so that at present it cannot be assessed.

The law on Elimination of the all forms of Discrimination

The law on elimination of all forms of discrimination adopted in 2014 has important practical gaps hindering its effective implementation, *inter alia*, the mandate of the Public Defender’s Office (PDO) as the enforcements mechanism of the law is rather limited in reviewing the cases of discrimination and the actions taken against private individuals, and the enforcement of its decisions and recommendations with effective legal instruments is not ensured due to lack of sanctioning mechanism. Thus, PDO’s recommendation are not legally binding. Awareness and sensitivity of judges on discrimination-related topics remains poor.²¹

According to PDO from 2016 to 2017 they have received 201 cases of possible discrimination, in 2015-2016 it has received 113 applications. It should be noted that only 11% of all cases is concerned of the discrimination based on SOGI²² and on relatively few cases PDO has found the act of discrimination.²³ According to its special report *“representatives of LGBT community often refrain from publicising alleged discriminatory incidents that take place against them. Unfortunately, negative attitudes towards representatives of LGBT community are still firmly rooted in the society that prevents them from exercising*

¹⁶ Currently the human right action plan for 2018-2020 years has been developed, however “the gender equality chapter” is expected to be ready for summer.

¹⁷ DH-DD (2016) 1303 – paras 31 - 32.

¹⁸ The Human Rights Action Plan of the Government of Georgia for 2016-2017, section 13.2, focuses on 5 main tasks: to introduce the legislative guarantees ensuring prohibition of discrimination – no implementation; preparation of the anti-discrimination policy and ensuring its effective implementation – no implementation; effective implementation of legislative norms concerning hate crimes – partially implemented; effective investigation of the domestic violence cases against LGBT persons – no implementation; ensuring the availability of shelters for victims of domestic violence – partially implemented.

¹⁹ GYLA, EMC, WISG, Assessment of the Government Human Rights Action Plan, 2018, Page 93

²⁰ The Government Decree N182, April 17, 2018 on the approval of the Government’s Human Rights Action Plan for 2018-2020 years, chapter 15. See only in Georgian: <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/4153833>

²¹ Annual report of the Coalition for Equality, 2017, pg. 9-10, see: https://emc.org.ge/uploads/products/pdf/The_Right_to_Non-discrimination_in_Practice_for_Various_Groups_in_Georgia.pdf

²² The report of the public defender’s office of Georgia, Special Report On The Fight Against Discrimination, Its Prevention, And The Situation Of Equality, September, 2017, pg. 7, see: <http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/4/4826.pdf>

²³ Report of the Coalition for Equality on the litigated cases, 2017- 2018

a number of their rights and incites intolerance and violence against this community."²⁴ It means that the information of the discrimination is not disseminated properly, and society does not see PDO as an effective mechanism to fight against discrimination due to its limited executive instruments under the abovementioned law.

Irrespective of the legislative proposal initiated by the Public Defender to strengthen existing procedural standards and public promises made by Members of Parliament (MPs), regarding the submitted proposal, amendments have not been made to the Law of Georgia on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, thus preventing the creation of effective institutional and procedural guarantees of equality mechanisms.²⁵

2. Fighting against Hate Crimes based on SOGI

Progress Achieved

Since 2016 government has made positive steps to fight against hate crimes in Georgia, including the introduction of the recommendation for prosecutors on "Using of Article 53.3¹ of Criminal Code of Georgia as aggravating circumstances in practice" on 22 January 2016 by Division of Human Rights of Prosecutors Office of Georgia (POG). However, the recommendation is closed for CSO's and was not discussed within the national experts and community organizations, in order to assess its effectiveness and relevance²⁶ in the contrary to ECRI's report on Georgia in the fifth cycle which noted that Georgia should "take steps to combat intolerance and discrimination against LGBT persons. This should be done in close cooperation with the LGBT community and the Public Defender."²⁷

In order to fight against hate crimes effectively ECRI recommended Georgian authorities "to set up a specialized unit within the police to deal specifically with racist and homo-/transphobic hate crime. When establishing this unit, the authorities should seek expert advice from the Public Defender, relevant NGOs and international organizations."²⁸ It is worth to note, that according to abovementioned recommendation as well as recommendation received from UPR and as a result of SCO's advocacy locally²⁹ **Ministry of Internal affairs has created the Human rights Department within its system on 12th of January 2018³⁰**, which would monitor the investigation of the domestic violence, hate crime cases and crimes committed by minors and against them, which should be welcomed.

²⁴ Special report of the public defender's office, September 2017, pg. 21, see: <http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/4/4826.pdf>

²⁵ ibid

²⁶ Operational Guideline On Investigation and Prevention of Crimes based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, EMC, 2017, pg. 21, see: https://emc.org.ge/uploads/products/pdf/Operational_Guideline_On_Inveastigation_and_Prevention_of_Crimes_based_on_Sexual_Orientation_and_Gender_Identity.pdf

²⁷ ECRI REPORT ON GEORGIA (fifth monitoring cycle) Adopted on 8 December 2015 Published on 1 March 2016, Para. 108

²⁸ ECRI REPORT ON GEORGIA (fifth monitoring cycle) Adopted on 8 December 2015 Published on 1 March 2016, Para. 68

²⁹ EMC, WISG and IDENTOBA has been advocating the creation of the specialized unit within ministry from 2015 under UPR process, supported by RFSU.

³⁰ The decree of Minister of Internal Affairs N1 on the approval of the provision of the Human Rights Department under the Ministry of Internal affairs, See: <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/3999709>

Remaining challenges

a. Institutional reforms

Despite positive changes, on the institutional level, measures taken by the state in terms of fighting hate crimes are incidental and ineffective both for the investigation and eradication of the structural causes of hate crimes. In recent years, crimes based on SOGI in Georgia have become systematic. However, responses of the government have not complied with the standards of effectiveness, promptness, adequacy, and impartiality.³¹ To this day, the state has not become aware of the negative effects of hate crimes³².

Despite essential improvements of the legislative framework, which considers **criminal acts based on SOGI to be an aggravating circumstance (Article 53¹ (former 53.3¹))**, the norm has been hardly put into practice. In numerous hate crimes against LGBT individuals, a bias motive is still not identified properly or recorded and perpetrators are not appropriately punished.³³ The declaratory nature of the new provision is further indicated by the fact that the state had not carried out an informational campaign on such crimes that could be helpful for stressing the principled policy of state against hate crimes and fostering trust of victims towards law enforcement authorities.³⁴

Despite the fact that newly created **Human Rights Department within MiA** system should be assessed as a very positive measure taken by the state to institutionalize the work towards fighting against discriminatory crimes, it has rather wide mandate, working as centralized, coordinative body, which creates objective risks that it would not eradicate challenges existing at the local level, and would create challenges in addressing the specific issues in the investigation process. Department does not have a preventive approach, focusing only on the monitoring of the investigation process of the crime. Department does not use interdisciplinary method which underlines the gaps in its understanding of the nature of the hate crimes seeing it only as a matter of criminal law, not the intersection of the issue of education, social wellbeing, health and level of tolerance in the society.

b. Motive Identification, Statistical data and lack of analytical approach

In 2014 the Minister of Internal Affairs has adopted under its decree the instruction on the “Implementing special measures for the aim of prevention of discrimination and providing effective responses to the offences committed on such grounds” (December 23, 2014) which foresees a direction to relevant

³¹ Bakhtadze K. “Unrecognized violence – litigation report”, WISG, 2017

³² Operational Guideline On Investigation and Prevention of Crimes based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, EMC, 2017, pg. 21, see:

https://emc.org.ge/uploads/products/pdf/Operational_Guideline_On_Inveastigation_and_Prevention_of_Crimes_based_on_Sexual_Orientation_and_Gender_Identity.pdf

³³ Intersectional Discrimination and LGBTI people – litigation report, WISG, 2018, pg. 8

³⁴ Operational Guideline On Investigation and Prevention of Crimes based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, EMC, 2017, pg. 21, see:

https://emc.org.ge/uploads/products/pdf/Operational_Guideline_On_Inveastigation_and_Prevention_of_Crimes_based_on_Sexual_Orientation_and_Gender_Identity.pdf

employees of the ministry with respective authorities to indicate the “possible” existence of a bias motive and a specific discrimination ground under article 53¹ in corresponding field of electronic system of case management – “facts of the crime”, in case of crimes based on alleged discriminatory motives. However, the instructions has never put into practice³⁵, **Till 2016 in the official statistical database of the Ministry of Internal Affairs no single hate crime has been registered that was committed based on SOGI.**³⁶ According to the previous official position of the MiA, the “article 53¹ belongs to the general part of the Criminal Code, and sets the prerequisites for imposing criminal sanctions, thus, this circumstance is taken into account by court when the sanction is imposed and therefore it would be not advisable to include it in the electronic case management system”.³⁷ Accordingly, state did not took positive steps to introduce relevant legislative changes to ensure the effective implementation of the norm in practice, which showed that the problem was not technical, but rather problem lied in the lack of the political will of the state.

However, there can be observed the signs of changing this practice after establishing the Human Rights Department within MiA in 2018, which has started the collection of some data on homo/transphobic crimes, **according to the department during 2018 MiA has detained 10 persons possibly committed hate crimes based on SOGI.**³⁸

Before 2016, the Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia (POG) maintained the same approach as MiA. It did not keep records of hate crimes. However, **according to the POG, in the first half of 2016, article 53¹ was explicitly indicated in the resolution on charges of the presumed perpetrators in 4 criminal cases. All four cases were related to alleged hate crimes based on sexual orientation.**³⁹ The report of the **Chef Prosecutor of Georgia has indicated that during 2017 possible motive based on sexual orientation has been investigated in 12 cases and gender identity in 37 cases. However prosecution has starts in total on 8 cases based on SOGI based crimes.**⁴⁰

Despite the positive steps taken towards collection of data on hate crimes, these cannot be considered adequate in view of the number of cases documented CSO’s. for ex. EMC was involved in the criminal proceedings of 8 cases⁴¹ related hate crimes/incidents against LGBT persons during 2016-2017⁴², WISG has documented 30 cases during 2016. During 2017 WISG has provided legal consultancy on 105 cases. Consultancy was provided on the cases of homo/transphobic hate crimes including treat/blackmailing (5), violence (5), beating/bodily injury (7), domestic violence (7), harassment by the police (7), damaging property/stealing (6), distribution of personal data without permission (7), discrimination (8) and others.⁴³

³⁵ Response letter from Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs N1189435, 03.06.2015

³⁶ Registered Crime in Georgia 2012-2015, MIA Information Center of Information-Analytical Department.

³⁷ Response letter from Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs N1189435, 03.06.2015

³⁸ See only in Georgian: <http://police.ge/en/shinagan-saqmeta-saministrom-2018-tsels-sidzulvilis-motivit-chadenili-danashaulis-braldebit-53-piri-daakava/11660>

³⁹ Response letter from Georgian Prosecutor’s Office N13/63344, 03.10.2016

⁴⁰ Report of the Chef Prosecutor of Georgia, February 6, 2018, pg. 46, see: <http://pog.gov.ge/res/docs/6tebervalimtavarioprokurorisangarishi.pdf>

⁴¹ EMC is working only on strategic cases.

⁴² The preliminary result under the monitoring process of the Government’s human rights action plan for 2016-17 years, Gyla, WISG, EMC, 2018, pg. 130

⁴³ Intersectional Discrimination and LGBTI people – Litigation Report, WISG, 2018, pg. 33

In total during 2017 WISG was working on 48 cases on the human rights violation of LGBT persons, majority of them is hate crime cases.⁴⁴

This discrepancies between official and CSO's data identifies the problems of knowledge and sensitivity while identifying the hate motive in the homo/transphobic hate crimes.

It is worth to note that the negative attitudes from the policeman and even from prosecutors has been documented in the practice of the EMC, which shows the lack of sensitivity and knowledge by police officers towards LGBT groups. **In the case of G.Ch. who was a victim of the domestic violence based on his sexual orientation, investigator was reluctant to identify discriminatory motive if the victim would not indicate his sexual orientation in the testimony.**⁴⁵ **In the case of T.J. who was also a victim of the domestic violence based on her sexual orientation, police was trying morally discourage the victim to not to proceed the case against her father.**⁴⁶

It is also noteworthy that the lack of information of the sentencing cases remains still problematic, since the national court of Georgia does not have coherent approach to comprehensively collect the data and to create analytical documents, thus statistical data received from the national court remains to be zero.⁴⁷

c. Domestic/Family Violence against LGBT People

Government does not address the human rights violations of LGBT individuals in the domestic sittings. **Despite the fact that DV from family members based on SOGI is most widespread and invisible crime against LGBT community and takes specific forms⁴⁸, such are different forms of coercive therapies⁴⁹ (minors are in a major risk), psychological, economic and physical violence, controlling personal life and others, government does not recognize the need to address this issue as a hate crime. Hate motive has not been documented in any DV cases against LGBT individuals.**⁵⁰

On May 4 2017, government has amended about 30 normative acts under the ratification process of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (2011), while this changes is welcomed, measures taken by the government to eradicated the violence against women and domestic violence as well as victims supportive system is set on heteronormative base, focusing mainly on domestic violence and Intimate Partner violence between heterosexual couples. Accordingly, preventive measures against IPV and DV, including public campaigns performed by the state⁵¹ does not cover LGBT persons and same-sex couples.

It is crucial to underline, that domestic violence is extremely underreported in Georgia, LGBT victims does not report to the police because of fear of outing and secondary victimization, which is why they choose

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ Litigation practice of EMC, 2017

⁴⁶ Litigation practice of EMC, 2018

⁴⁷ Received letter from the Tbilisi City Court, No1-01121/10442, 25.04.2018

⁴⁸ Litigated cases by EMC, 2017-2018

⁴⁹ Intersectional Discrimination and LGBTI People – Litigation Report, WISG, 2018, 19

⁵⁰ Received letter from the MiA 03/08/2017, N: MIA 2 17 01852760; Received letter from POG 15/08/2017, N13/53925

⁵¹ E. g. <http://imoqmede.ge> and <https://sheachere.ge>

to leave the home or are obliged to continue living in the cycle of violence.⁵² Domestic violence is closely connected with social vulnerability and homelessness. The state fails to recognize this correlations, thus it takes no efforts to study and fight against root causes of social vulnerability, which in turn, condemns LGBT people to extreme marginalization and poverty. Therefore, the state needs to understand the causes of homelessness as a social problem for the LGBT community, and confront it with adequate, result-oriented measures.

It is also noteworthy that there is a lack of information on sentencing, since the national courts of Georgia do not have a coherent and comprehensive approach to collecting the data, nor to the publication of statistics. Indeed, the Tbilisi city court provides no information on sentencing for hate crimes based on SOGI.⁵³ This is part of a wider problem: according to the Public Defender, access to court decisions/judgments remains a challenge for the general public and CSOs, because of inadequate systems and insufficient human resources⁵⁴.

d. Secondary victimization and the lack of effective investigation of hate crimes committed by law enforcement

It should be noted that despite some efforts to fight against hate crimes from third parties, government has been reluctant to investigate cases against policeman or prosecutors, as indicated in the PDO's report for 2016 year: *"In a number of cases studied by the Office of the Public Defender, representatives of the LGBTI community referenced acts of alleged misconduct by police officers. In many cases that included humiliating treatment, homophobic attitudes, verbal and physical abuse, and indifference. In the applications indicating abuse of power by representatives of the police, the Public Defender's Office has appealed to the Prosecutor's Office to respond appropriately."*⁵⁵

In the PDO's report for 2017 year shows that the problem of insensitive conduct against LGBT individuals from the police remains problematic. *"In the cases studies by PDO LGBT+ groups are indicating the violence, homo/transphobic attitudes and ineffective measures taken against the crime committed against them. In Many cases applicant are reluctant to continue proceeding based on the fear and lack of the trust to law enforcement officials and the general inspection of Georgia, as they don't believe that those institution would investigate the cases objectively. In order to avoid the impunity it is important to use legislative measures to punish those perpetrators."*⁵⁶

On the 25 August 2017, the executive director of Equality Movement - Levan Berianidze and queer activist Tornike kusiani has been subjected to violent attack from third parties and police officers allegedly acting

⁵² Intersectional Discrimination and LGBTI People – Litigation Report, WISG, 2018, 17

⁵³ Received letter from the Tbilisi City Court, No1-01121/10442, 25.04.2018

⁵⁴ Report of the Public Defender's Office of Georgia on Human Rights situation, 2017, page 174-175, see: <http://ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/5/5139.pdf>

⁵⁵ Report of the Public Defender's Office of Georgia on Human Rights situation, 2016, Pg. 401

⁵⁶ Report of the Public Defender's Office of Georgia on Human Rights situation, 2017, Pg.148, see: <http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/5/5139.pdf>

on the basis of homophobia and transphobia.⁵⁷ Furthermore, they arbitrarily detained L. Berianidze and T. Kusiani and used obvious homophobic language towards them.⁵⁸ Despite the inhumane and derogatory treatment of the victims, investigation is still ongoing against third parties, however, police officers were not identified and victims still did not gain victims status, which creates the barriers for EMC (as a legal representative of the victims) to monitor investigation process and identifies reluctance from the state authorities to punish perpetrators.⁵⁹

It is important to note, that human rights violation from the law enforcement is rarely subjected to objective investigation from the general inspection of MiA, especially in the violations of the LGBT people's rights. For ex. PDO's office indicates that *"in 2017 there were 21 reporting to the GI of MiA about the possible misconduct and crimes committed by law enforcement against LGBT people, however, in 9 cases violations could not be found, 8 cases was transferred to other institution, 1 case was transferred to POG, and in 2 cases investigation is still ongoing"*.⁶⁰

3. Protection of the right to freedom of assembly and manifestation – Analysis of 17th of May(s)

Even though Georgian legislation fully guarantees freedom of assembly and manifestation, LGBT activist and groups cannot exercise this right as the dominant religious groups and states ineffective policy limits the freedom of assembly and manifestation for the LGBT community as any form of presentation in public spaces is "perceived as propaganda of homosexuality,"⁶¹ which results in the expulsion of the community members from public areas.

Till today, existing negative experiences regarding freedom of assembly and manifestation have provoked violence in public spaces, **In 2012**, on the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia, a peaceful demonstration planned by the organization "Identoba" was violently suppressed by opposition forces. "Identoba" filed a suit on the violation of the freedom of assembly and manifestation based on discrimination in the European Court of Human Rights. The corresponding ECHR ruling was published on May 12, 2015.⁶²

On May 17, 2013, manifestation on the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) organized by the non-governmental organization Identoba and the Women's Initiatives Supporting Group has been subjected to mob-violence from counter demonstrators that were organized by extremist groups, high-level clerics from the Orthodox Church, and big portion of clergy. For the purpose of holding the demonstration in a safe place for LGBT community members, police strategy and measures were

⁵⁷ Amnesty International Report 2017/18, The State of the World Human Rights, pg. 173

⁵⁸ OC Media, Queer rights activists 'abused by police' in Georgia, see: <http://oc-media.org/queer-rights-activists-abused-by-police-in-georgia/>

⁵⁹ Non-Governmental Organizations Respond to the Beating of Members of "Equality Movement" by the Police, 26 AUGUST 2017, see: <https://emc.org.ge/en/products/arasamtavrobo-organizatsiebi-politsiis-mier-tanastorobis-modzraobis-aktivistebis-tsemis-fakts-ekhmaurebian>

⁶⁰ Report of the Public Defender's Office of Georgia on Human Rights situation, 2017, Pg.149, see: <http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/5/5139.pdf>

⁶¹ Ekaterine Aghdgomelashvili "Homophobic Hate Speech and Political Processes in Georgia," Situation of LGBT Persons in Georgia", 2012, p. 10

⁶² The case of Identoba and others v. Georgia (Application no. 73235/12)

clearly ineffective.⁶³ Relevant state agencies, even though they had/should have had relevant information about the scale and intent of the participants of the possible counter demonstration, did not assess the possible risk and did not guarantee the possibility of holding the demonstration in a safe environment.

Notwithstanding the scale of the violence at the 2013 IDAHOT demonstration, in the end just **four individuals were charged with the criminal offence** of obstructing the right to freedom of assembly. Furthermore, in 2015 they were acquitted by the Tbilisi City Court on account of “insufficient evidence”, despite the perpetrators reportedly being identifiable on video and photo footage of the event.⁶⁴ States ineffectiveness and lack of political will to punish those perpetrators led to indirect legitimation of the homo/transphobic hate crimes in Georgia.⁶⁵

On May 17, 2014, LGBT persons and their supportive organizations were not given the opportunity to hold public assembly on the IDAHOT day due to the previous violent crackdown and police ineffectiveness. **On May 17, 2015**, LGBT activists held three small, peaceful demonstrations, including a central meeting organized by non-government organizations. During the demonstrations, LGBTQ community members mainly did not use the freedom of manifestation due to the previous violent experience and insufficient safety guarantees. Even though the above-mentioned symbolic demonstrations have had positive significance to some extent, it should be mentioned that all three demonstrations were planned secretly and were not known to the wider public. Therefore, we cannot refer to this case as a precedent where the state ensured the freedom of assembly and manifestation.

The practice of not being able to use the freedom of assembly continued **in 2016**. Out of loyalty to the dominant religious institution, the state continued to restrict the use of freedom of assembly based on the argument that they could not provide sufficient safety guarantees to the LGBT community and activists,⁶⁶ Additionally, The Orthodox Church managed to fully occupy public places in the city on the IDAHOT day⁶⁷.

In the communication with LGBT organizations with MiA deputy minister security guarantees were not given for main political area of the capital. Under abovementioned circumstances, on May 17, 2016, several LGBT activists tried to express their criticism at the building of the Patriarchate of Georgia by writing critical statements on the building. Their belief of total denial of security guarantees were sufficiently strong to compel them to resort to forms of expression risking administrative sanction of fine.

⁶³ Thomas Hammarberg, Georgia in Transition: Assessment and Recommendations, 2015, pg. 35.

⁶⁴ See DH-DD(2016)1303, paras. 12 and 24.

⁶⁵ L. Jalagania “Legal Situation of LGBTI persons in Georgia”, EMC, 2016

⁶⁶ Report of the Public Defender’s office of Georgia on Human Rights situation, 2016, pg. 399, see: <http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/4/4882.pdf>; also, See only in Georgian: <http://liberali.ge/news/view/22562/17maisi-ra-igegmeba-homofobiasa-da-transfobiastan-brdzolis-msoflio-dghes>.

⁶⁷ In turn, anti-gender groups affiliated with Orthodox Church led by Vasadze and leaders of the American and Russian Christian-right planned to converge in Tbilisi, Georgia on May 15, 2016 to attend a four-day summit called the World Congress of Families, perhaps the world’s biggest anti-gay symposium, which coincided with May 17, 2016. On May 3, 2016, Tbilisi municipality responded to the letter of April 28 N155475/12 of the activists stated that the territory from Tbilisi concert Hall in the direction of Freedom square was already booked for two other events and issued a recommendation for choosing an alternative venue (Received letter from City Hall , N6/111671, 03/05/2016).

On the morning of May 17, several people who were dressed in civilian clothes, but were actually the employees of the MiA, arrested the LGBT activists and some other persons who were with them while they were making stencils. Based on an administrative rule, these people were detained on the basis of defacing the self-governing unit's appearance and disobedience towards the lawful request of the policy officer. According to the explanations made by the detainees, during their administrative imprisonment as well as during their transfer to the Tbilisi City Court, there were the cases of police employees using homophobic language and violating religious neutrality, which disregarded the principles of non-discrimination, respect towards human rights, and religious neutrality⁶⁸ (this case has been brought to the ECHR by EMC).

It should be noted that IDAHOT day **on 17th of May 2017** LGBT organization and activists were able to hold an assembly.⁶⁹ While the protection provided by the authorities is to be welcomed, the event was subject to significant restrictions:

- The wish of the organizers to hold the event outside the Parliament building on Rustaveli Avenue as main political area of Tbilisi was refused on the grounds that it was a dangerous and geographically difficult place to protect. An alternative location in front of a nearby government administrative building was eventually agreed.
- All entrances to the assembly area were closed by a mass of police officers, and only individuals identified as participants were allowed to enter.⁷⁰
- The event was subject to major restrictions, including the timing and duration of the assembly - it was held at 10.00 in the morning, for just one hour, at one location.⁷¹
- It was a matter of concern that representatives of the MIA tried to control the content of the event, possible messaging and even the usage of the LGBT flag.⁷²

The security measures needed to protect the event show how limited is the enjoyment by the LGBT community of the right to freedom of assembly and how dangerous is the environment in which they live. Assemblies such as this can hardly be assessed as evidence that LGBT people in Georgia enjoy full and free access to the right to freedom of assembly.⁷³

2018 year was not an exception from the rule, despite the fact that MiA has expressed its readiness to protect the rights of members of the assembly and to ensure the full protection, LGBT activists and

⁶⁸ Report of the public Defender's office of Georgia on Human Rights Situation, 2016, pg. 399-400, see:

<http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/4/4882.pdf>. Also, See <https://emc.org.ge/2016/05/30/emc-66/>.

⁶⁹ OC.media, Queer rights activists mark 17 May in Tbilisi under heavy police presence; Church takes to streets, see: <http://oc-media.org/queers-in-tbilisi-mark-17-may-under-heavy-police-presence-church-takes-to-streets/>

⁷⁰ OC.media, Queer rights activists mark 17 May in Tbilisi under heavy police presence; Church takes to streets, see: <http://oc-media.org/queers-in-tbilisi-mark-17-may-under-heavy-police-presence-church-takes-to-streets/>

⁷¹ Report of the Public Defender's Office on Human Rights Situation in Georgia, 2017, page 148, see: <http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/5/5139.pdf>

⁷² Narrative reporting of the three meetings prepared by EMC

⁷³ It is noteworthy that the chair of the Human Rights Committee of the Parliament has refused to support and celebrate the IDAHOT day in 2018, contrary to their action plan prepared in 2017 explicitly stating that they would support it. See: <http://oc-media.org/ngos-call-on-human-rights-committee-head-to-resign-after-queer-activists-protest/>

community organization have decided to cancel⁷⁴ the IDAHOT demonstration following the threads directed from the ultra-conservative nationalist groups⁷⁵ and high risk of splitting the society and result mass violence in the future. However, some activist and supporters of LGBT community have participated at the assembly, which was protected by the mass mobilization of police forces.⁷⁶

Negative experience described above identifies whole scale of limitation of the fundamental human rights of LGBT people in Georgia. As recent survey shows, there is still widespread opposition to the exercise of this right by LGBT persons. According to a study by WISG the statement “LGBTI rallies should be banned by law” was fully (66.4%) or partly (14.1%) supported by 80.5% of respondents who answered the question (N=1938). 4.3% remained neutral. Only 15.1% of respondents did not agree with this statement.⁷⁷

4. Political Homophobia and Hate speech

Political Homophobia remained problematic during 2016 and 2017, for ex. During 2017 municipal elections according to Media Development Fund the content of over one half (139) of 270 comments made by political parties and media contained xenophobia against various groups in 47 comments, Turkophobia in 41, following homophobia in 32 cases, gender stereotypes 8, discrimination on religious grounds in 1 and racist in 2 statements⁷⁸. It is important to note that negative attitudes towards minorities intensifies during the elections, which is encouraged by the fact that it is not reprimanded publicly by the authorities.

5. Raise of Anti-Gender Groups in Georgia and their agenda

States ineffective and incidental policy against hate crimes, without prevention strategies results with major split between the societies. After 2016 in Georgia there can be observed the raise of anti-gender, anti-emancipatory groups, such are ultra-nationalists and far-right groups (Georgian Power, Georgian March, Georgian ultras, Bergman, White Racists etc.) in Georgia. This groups are attacking the rights of LGBT group, sexuality education, rights of migrants, rights of women and abortion rights in Georgia. Even though this groups are seem very offensive and powerful, government does not have any strategy to fight against those groups and to take adequate preventive measures, including long-term actions, against the radicalization of the society.

On September 29th 2016 the far-right groups Georgian Power attacked the Turkish cafes and restaurants, as well as passers who were wearing typical Islamic dress around central Tbilisi area.⁷⁹ Later in 2016, In

⁷⁴ Joint statement can be found here: <http://women.ge/en/news/newsfeed/177/JOINT-STATEMENT-REGARDING-IDAHOT>

⁷⁵ See: <http://oc-media.org/queer-rights-activists-cancel-17-may-demonstration-after-threats-from-far-right-groups/>

⁷⁶ For detailed information see: <http://oc-media.org/queer-rights-activists-hold-guerrilla-demonstrations-in-tbilisi-after-far-right-threats/>

⁷⁷ Aghdgomelashvili E. “From Prejudice to Equality: the study of societal attitudes, knowledge and information regarding the LGBT community and their rights.” WISG, 2016, page 251, see:

https://ge.boell.org/sites/default/files/wisg_study_on_homophobic_attitudes_final.pdf

⁷⁸ Monitoring of Hate Speech and Anti-Western Sentiments in Pre-Election Discourse, elections 2017, pg. 3, see:

http://mdfgeorgia.ge/uploads/library/73/file/eng/Monitoring_of_Hate_Speech_and_Anti-Western_Sentimentsin_Pre-Election_Discourse.pdf

⁷⁹ Georgian Ultrationalists Arrested After Rampaging Through Central Tbilisi, See:

<http://georgiatoday.ge/news/4755/Georgian-Ultrationalists-Arrested-After-Rampaging-Through-Central-Tbilisi>

June, a group of young nationalists attacked a vegan restaurant KiWi Café located in Tbilisi's historical center. The far-right extremists stormed into the small Kiwi Café and began hurling sausages and meat at both the staff and the cafe's customers, before rampaging through the cafe and attacking several of the people inside. It is important that the group had come to the neighbourhood a month earlier and asked a nearby shopkeeper whether foreigners or members of LGBT community frequented the cafe.⁸⁰ The assailants later said they were reacting to complaints by the café's neighbors, who claimed the owners and patrons of the café were "drug addicts and sodomites".⁸¹

Georgia's most radical ultranationalist group - the Georgian March, known for their xenophobic and homophobic demonstrations and protest rallies, Several thousand people marched along Agmashenebeli Avenue in the center of Tbilisi on 14 July 2017 in protest against what they said was the "uncontrolled migration" of citizens of Turkey and Near East countries to Georgia. Many held placards that said "We'll clear our streets of foreign criminals!", "What is Georgian is for Georgia alone", "Go back where you belong!"⁸²

Georgian March held another demonstration in Tbilisi on February 23th 2018 against Open Society Foundations (OSF) requested that the foundation stop financing projects of Georgian NGOs⁸³. Georgian March has held other rallies, too, against the Soros Foundation.⁸⁴ On February 11th 2018 Georgian March has announced of creation of a 'People's Patrol' which will monitor the actions of foreign migrants in Georgia.⁸⁵ Members of the organization also held a protest demonstration in front of the Georgian Football Federation where they burnt a LGBT rainbow-colored flag. They demanded that Guram Kashia be expelled from the national football team after he went out onto the field with an armband of the same colors⁸⁶.

It is crucial to note that the representative of anti-gender far-right groups are using social media actively to spread the hate propaganda against LGBT persons. From august 2017 queer activists Beka Gabadadze and Koba Bitsadze were subjected to violent hate speech and life threats, offences through social media based on their sexual orientation and their activist work from different far-right groups. Violent online attacks has been documented by EMC and had been appealed to the police. However prosecutor did not grant them even the victim status till April 2018. Investigation is still ongoing however possible offenders are not identified, which means that cyberbullying, hate speech and online threads against LGBT people is not taken serious by the law enforcement, does not considers properly the social significance of such offences and does not gives relevant legal and political assessment to the case.⁸⁷

⁸⁰Tbilisi vegan cafe appeal over meat-wielding 'extremists', see: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36416501>

⁸¹ Georgian vegan cafe attacked by 'sausage-wielding nationalists', See:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/31/georgian-vegan-cafe-attacked-by-sausage-wielding-nationalists>

⁸² Georgians march against "uncontrolled migration" in Tbilisi – a photo story, see: <https://jam-news.net/?p=49294>

⁸³ Georgian nationalists burn George Soros effigy in Tbilisi, See: <https://jam-news.net/?p=87886>

⁸⁴ Ultranationalist Georgian March Holds Anti-Soros Protest Rally, see: <http://georgiatoday.ge/news/9232/Ultrnationalist-Georgian-March-Holds-Anti-Soros-Protest-Rally>

⁸⁵ Georgian ultranationalists form national patrol, See: <https://jam-news.net/?p=85267>

⁸⁶ Georgian footballer's armband causes scandal, See: <https://jam-news.net/?p=66590>

⁸⁷ EMC responds to the threats of violence against LGBTQI activists Koba Bitsadze and Beka Gabadadze, See: <https://emc.org.ge/en/products/emc-lgbtqi-aktivistebis-koba-bitsadzisa-da-beka-gabadadzis-mimart-dzaladobaze-mukaris-faktebs-ekhmianeba>

In its 2016 Report on Georgia, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) emphasized the problem of homo/transphobic hate speech expressed online. According to the Report, such an expression not only restores stereotypes against LGBT groups but also includes calls for violence.⁸⁸ In addition, the Commission negatively assessed the State's ineffective response and unserious consideration of the past facts of violence towards LGBT organizations and individuals, regardless of its recurrence and relevance.⁸⁹

6. "No to Gender in Schools" – The Lack of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Georgia

Comprehensive Sexuality Education is not part of the official school curriculum in Georgia. Several subjects contain some general aspects of life skills education, such as "civic education" and biology, but it is by no means comprehensive.⁹⁰ According to a recent report commissioned by UNFPA, even in the course on biology, "teachers skipped the reproductive health related chapters, or discussed them very briefly."⁹¹ There appears to be no information provided in the educational material on eliminating gender stereotypes and promoting equality and non-discrimination regarding women and girls, nor on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. This is particularly problematic due to the stigma, taboos and stereotypes surrounding gender, sexuality, women and LGBTI persons in Georgia.⁹² For example, according to a study carried out in Georgia, "the level of formal education is not explicitly linked with homophobic attitudes – unlike in other countries, [meaning that] the formal education does not contribute to increasing tolerance towards LGBTI persons."⁹³

Apart of the lack of political will of the state and poor understanding of the role of educational system in building the equal society by the government, the barriers for introducing the school subject on SCE is also connected to its oppositional narratives. One of the target of the neo-conservative, ultra nationalist and far rights groups described above is comprehensive sexuality education. This groups together with "Union of Orthodox Mothers" are opposing the introduction of the any subject/curriculum within the school system connected to gender equality, women's rights, violence against women, identity and solidarity and of course, sexual life. This groups have organized protest against newly introduced school subject – "Me and Society" under the slogan "No to Gender in Schools"⁹⁴, the new subject aims to address issues related to family, society, state, school environment and citizenship.⁹⁵ A number of stakeholders

⁸⁸ ECRI report on Georgia, para. 38

⁸⁹ ECRI report on Georgia, para. 63

⁹⁰ PDO, "Human Rights In The Context Of Sexual And Reproductive Health And Well-Being In Georgia: Country Assessment", pg.74, see: <http://ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/5/5305.pdf>

⁹¹ Evert Ketting, "Possibilities for developing Youth-Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Georgia - A Situation Analysis", Report of a consultancy mission on behalf of UNFPA Country Office Georgia, 16-20 November 2015, p.22

⁹² See for example, Evert Ketting, Possibilities for developing Youth-Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Georgia – A Situation Analysis, Report of a consultancy mission on behalf of UNFPA Country Office Georgia, 16-20 November 2015, p. 22; 30.

⁹³ E. Aghdgomelashvili "From Prejudice to Equality – Study of Societal Attitudes, Knowledge and Information Regarding the LGBT Community and their Rights in Georgia, WISG, 2016, p.237, available at:

http://women.ge/data//WISG%20HomoBiTransPhobia%20Study_for%20web.pdf

⁹⁴ See only in Georgian: <http://www.ginsc.net/home.php?option=article&id=35923&lang=ge#.W4k-Q9UzblU>

⁹⁵ PDO, , "Human Rights In The Context Of Sexual And Reproductive Health And Well-Being In Georgia: Country Assessment", Pg.77, see: <http://ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/5/5305.pdf>

have worked on the content, including local teachers, various international organizations (UNFPA, UN Women), and local NGOs.⁹⁶ Opposition to the program by informal groups argued that it threatened the development of Georgian children and was “against the fundamental values of Georgian society.”⁹⁷ Despite this resistance, the Ministry of Education and Science has approved the curriculum, however, it should be noted that despite the existing resistance curriculum does not contains any information about sexual life and SOGI - the terms “Liberalism”, “Democratic values”, “Gender” and “Tolerance” underwent changes, and some of the terminology and explanations have been removed from the course after consultations with the Georgian Patriarchate and civil society organizations.⁹⁸

Comprehensive Sexuality Education is crucial not only for promotion of healthy sexual lifestyle in youth, but also to fight against root causes of social inequality, gender injustice and intersectional oppressions of different groups into the society, as LGBT people. Education should be the core bases to support critical thinking for creation of free, equal society based on solidarity, which still remains a critical challenge in Georgia.

⁹⁶ ibid

⁹⁷ See only in Georgian, Levan Vasadze’s 120 comments to Ministry of Education Available only in Georgian:

<http://liberali.ge/news/view/21238/levan-vasadzis120-shenishvna-ganatilebis-saministros>:

See also: <https://www.kvirispalitra.ge/public/28407-gangashis-zarebi.html>

⁹⁸ Levan Vasadze and society, Available only in Georgian: <http://netgazeti.ge/life/99457/> ; Also, see only in Georgian: <http://netgazeti.ge/news/72572/>

Additional sources assessing the situation of LGBTQI groups in Georgia:

Reports of the public defender's office, see: <http://ombudsman.ge/en/reports/specialuri-angarishebi/special-report-on-fight-against-discrimination-its-prevention-and-situation-of-equality3.page> Also, see: <http://ombudsman.ge/en/reports/specialuri-angarishebi/womens-rights-ang-gender-equality.page>

Report on the Activities of "The Coalition for Equality" for 2016 – 2017 years, see: http://www.osgf.ge/files/2018/Publications/CE_report_eng.pdf

Report on the Activities of "The Coalition for Equality" for 2015-2016 years, see: http://www.osgf.ge/files/2017/Publications/Report_ENG_WEB.pdf

Coalition for Equality, "The Right to Non-Discrimination in Practice for Various Groups in Georgia", 2017, see: http://www.osgf.ge/files/2018/Publications/Discrimination_Eng.pdf

Mid-Term Report on Georgia's Second Cycle of UPR – report of SRHR coalition, 2018, see: https://emc.org.ge/uploads/products/pdf/5_1530610466.pdf

EMC, Operational Guideline on the Investigation and Prevention of Crimes based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, 2017, see: https://emc.org.ge/uploads/products/pdf/Operational_Guideline_On_Inveastigation_and_Prevention_of_Crimes_based_on_Sexual_Orientation_and_Gender_Identity.pdf

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WISG, Unidentified Violence – Litigation Report, 2017, see: <http://women.ge/en/publications/133/Unidentified%20Violence%20%E2%80%93%20Litigation%20Report>

WISG, Litigation Report - Intersectional Discrimination and LGBTI people, 2018, see: <http://women.ge/en/publications/184/Litigation%20Report%20-%20Intersectional%20Discrimination%20and%20LGBTI%20people>

WISG, From Prejudice To Equality: study of societal attitudes, knowledge and information regarding the LGBT community and their rights, 2016, See: <http://women.ge/en/publications/87/From%20Prejudice%20To%20Equality%3A%20study%20of%20societal%20attitudes%2C%20knowledge%20and%20information%20regarding%20the%20LGBT%20community%20and%20their%20rights>