



Georgia – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 29 November 2023

Treatment of LGBT including available state protection

A report issued in November 2023 by the *European Commission* comments on:

“...challenges faced by certain persons in vulnerable situations, such as LGBTIQ persons...” (European Commission (8 November 2023) *Commission Staff Working Document, Georgia 2023 Report*, p.37).

In October 2023 the *Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights* comments on

“...the failure of the authorities to provide adequate protection against, and in some instances official acquiescence and connivance in, inhuman and degrading treatment inflicted by private individuals on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) activists...” (Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (24 October 2023) *Rule 9 submission by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (in the Identoba and Others v Georgia group of cases)*, p.2).

A report published in July 2023 the *Human Rights House Foundation* states that:

“Over the years, the Georgian authorities have failed to live up to their international commitments and adequately protect the LGBT+ community and their supporters and defenders in the exercise of their human rights” (Human Rights House Foundation (13 July 2023) *Georgia's authorities must protect, without discrimination, the universal and fundamental rights of all people*, p.1).

In July 2023 the *Guardian* states that:

“Up to 2,000 anti-LGBTQ+ protesters broke up a Pride festival in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, on Saturday, scuffling with police and destroying props including rainbow flags and placards” (Guardian (9 July 2023) *Anti-LGBTQ+ protesters break up Pride event in Georgian capital Tbilisi*).

This document also states that:

“Georgia has passed laws against discrimination and hate crimes, but LGBTQ+ rights groups say there is a lack of adequate protection by law enforcement officials and homophobia remains widespread in the socially conservative South Caucasus nation” (ibid).

BBC News in July 2023 points out that:

“Homophobia remains rife in Georgia” (BBC News (9 July 2023) *Georgia Pride festival in Tbilisi stormed by right-wing protesters*).

In June 2023 the *Council of Europe* comments on:

“...high level of anti-LGBTI hate crimes, including violence against persons, which remains a major problem” (Council of Europe (22 June 2023) *ECRI Report on Georgia*, p.14).

In April 2023 the *Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity* comments on:

“...physical and verbal insults, beatings and threats of deprivation of life, as well as attacks on an office of the organization representing the interests of LGBT+ people” (Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity (14 April 2023) *Legislative analysis related to SOGI and HIV in Georgia*, p.7).

This document also states that:

“Georgia is an independent, constitutional and democratic state, the only one in the region that has adopted anti-discrimination legislation that includes sexual orientation and gender identity in order to bring its legislation and practices in line with the minimum standards of the Council of Europe and the European Union” (ibid, p.3).

In March 2023 the *United States Department of State* points out that:

“Consensual same-sex sexual conduct is not criminalized for men or women...” (United States Department of State (20 March 2023) *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Georgia*, p.32).

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses are compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Report Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

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