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Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Georgia*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.[1] It is a summary of 29 stakeholders' submissions[2] for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

II. Information provided by the national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles

2. The Public Defender's Office of Georgia (PDO) stated that during the reporting period, Georgia had faced significant challenges in its administration of justice and law enforcement, marked by public protests, the use of excessive police force, and concerns over accountability. Particularly concerning had been the human rights violations observed during the spring and winter protests of 2024. The PDO noted that instances of alleged ill-treatment by law enforcement officers against protesters, including journalists and politicians, had appeared systemic and, at times, widespread.[3]

3. The PDO stated that one of the aspects that objectively hindered the investigation was that the police units dispatched to disperse the demonstrations had been unidentifiable as they did not carry any distinctive insignias.[4]

4. The PDO stated that amendments to the Administrative Offenses Code had significantly increased fines and penalties for various violations, particularly in relation to protests, had expanded the police's scope for arbitrary detention, and had reduced the possibility of criticizing government officials.[5]

5. The PDO stated that a legislative framework ensuring the realization of the right to adequate housing had yet to be adopted. Georgian legislation also still lacked a legal definition of homelessness.[6]

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6. The PDO stated that preventing gender-motivated killings of women and the effective implementation of justice and law enforcement functions in such cases continued to be a challenge throughout Georgia.[7]

7. The PDO stated that linguistic and informational barriers remained the primary challenges for the civic integration of members of national minorities for years across multiple areas. It was essential to strengthen the teaching of the state language at both the preschool and general education levels.[8]

8. With regard to Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, the PDO stated that residents of villages alongside the occupation line continued to suffer from the effects of ongoing "borderization", causing violations of their property rights and arbitrary detentions. Residents faced socio-economic hardship, including a lack of jobs, lack of irrigation, inadequate healthcare and infrastructure, and limited access to public services.[9]

9. The PDO stated that access to education in the native Georgian language, as well as poor medical services, inadequate infrastructure, and unqualified medical staff remained major challenges in Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia.[10]

III. Information provided by other stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

10. Human Rights Foundation (HRF) stated that regarding the accepted recommendations in the previous UPR, no meaningful reforms had been pursued since 2021. It noted that Georgia had largely ignored calls to, inter alia, ratify remaining human rights treaties, conduct legal, institutional, and democratic reform to ensure human rights compliance, combat discrimination, ensure freedom of expression and media freedom, and protect human rights defenders.[11]

11. The Social Justice Center (SJC) recommended that Georgia ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.[12]

12. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) urged Georgia to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Weapons.[13]

B. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

13. JS10 stated that in May 2024, Georgia had enacted the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence, widely referred to as the “foreign agent” law, despite mass public protests against the law. The law required non-commercial organizations and media outlets receiving more than 20 percent of their funding from a foreign source to register under the stigmatizing label of “organizations pursuing the interests of a foreign power.” Such organizations were subjected to burdensome reporting requirements and broad powers of monitoring and surveillance from the Ministry of Justice.[14]

14. JS3 stated that most NGOs had refused to register as ‘foreign agents’, prompting the authorities to enact increasingly draconian legislation in 2025.[15]

15. Human Rights Watch (HRW) stated that the Foreign Agent Registration Act, adopted in March 2025, obliged registered individuals or entities to submit to the authorities onerous annual financial declarations, with excessive required details, and two copies of any public statement within 48 hours of publication. Registered individuals and groups also had to mark their public statements with the “foreign agent” label. Failure to register as a foreign agent or to provide the required information would lead to criminal fines and/or to a maximum five-year prison sentence. It stated that the vague definition of “political activity” and “foreign influence”, and immediate criminal liability for non-compliance, impacted any individual or

group that was critical of the authorities and represented an existential threat to Georgia's civil society.[16]

16. JS3 urged Georgia to repeal the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence, the Foreign Agents Registration Act, and the Law on Protecting Family Values and Minors. It also urged Georgia to repeal repressive amendments to the Organic Law of Common Courts, the Law on Grants and the Law of Broadcasting, and repeal repressive amendments to the Law on Assemblies and Demonstrations, the Code of Administrative Offences and the Criminal Code.[17]

17. Broken Chalk (BC) recommended that Georgia review and align national education laws with the European Convention on Human Rights.[18]

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

18. JS10 stated that in 2022, Georgia had dissolved the State Inspector's Service and replaced it with two separate agencies, a move widely criticized by rights bodies and the United Nations. A new agency, the Special Investigation Service, had assumed the State Inspector's Service's duty of investigating abuses by law enforcement officials and had further been tasked with investigating alleged obstruction of journalistic activities. Despite having launched frequent investigations into attacks on journalists, its investigations had failed to lead to prosecutions, let alone convictions.[19]

19. The Council of Europe (CoE) stated that the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) had recommended that Georgia take measures to give the national preventive mechanism unrestricted access to all facilities and protect it from intimidation.[20]

C. Promotion and protection of human rights

1. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

Equality and non-discrimination

20. JS9 recommended that Georgia adopt and vigorously implement comprehensive measures to prevent and combat state-sponsored hate speech and stigmatisation against human rights defenders, civil society organisations, and vulnerable groups, particularly the LGBTQ+ community.[21]

Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

21. HRF stated that Georgia had engaged in a troubling pattern of torture and ill-treatment, particularly targeting protesters and opposition figures. It called on Georgia to immediately cease the torture and ill-treatment of all detainees, institute policies providing more resources for impartial and independent investigations into torture and ill-treatment claims, and mandate that responsible agencies fully abide by the standards of the Istanbul Protocol when determining whether evidence was sufficient for torture cases to be brought to court.[22]

22. The CoE stated that the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, following his country visit in January 2025, had expressed concern over the lack of accountability for allegations of unlawful arrests and excessive use of force by law enforcement during anti-government protests. He had highlighted the ongoing challenge of ensuring proper identification of masked police officers as an obstacle to accountability.[23]

23. JS13 recommended that Georgia eliminate all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and ensure that all allegations of torture, and ill-treatment by police were investigated fully, independently, and impartially. It also recommended that Georgia ensure that all survivors of ill-treatment were guaranteed access to justice, effective remedies, and full reparations for the harm they had suffered.[24]

24. JS14 recommended that Georgia improve the conditions in temporary detention centers and prisons, with a particular focus on conditions around pretrial detention.[25]

25. HRF called on Georgia to immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience and end systematic violations of due process, including arbitrary arrests and detentions and deprivation of legal counsel.[26]

26. JS14 recommended that Georgia ensure that the maximum pre-trial detention period was strictly enforced at 24 hours, and that any extension beyond that period was subject to judicial authorization with clear justifications, in order to uphold the rule of law and prevent arbitrary deprivation of liberty.[27]

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

27. JS12 stated that since 2022, Georgia had implemented a series of legislative and administrative measures that had significantly undermined judicial independence and weakened the system of checks and balances. Legislative changes adopted in 2025 had further strengthened the capacity of the High Council of Justice and its influential members to control judicial appointments, disciplinary proceedings, and suppress individual judges. The right to a fair trial for the victims of political repression did not exist in practice.[28]

28. Media Institute (MI) stated that the independence of the judiciary as well as public trust in the courts had been decreasing and that victims of human rights violations were not granted an effective remedy at the domestic level.[29]

29. JS12 stated that the criminal justice system had become a primary tool for suppressing protest participants and political opposition since November 2024, in particular. Courts had systematically violated fundamental fair trial principles, due process rights, and international human rights standards in their handling of protest-related criminal cases.[30]

30. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR) stated that it had recommended that Georgia undertake comprehensive judicial reform to increase the independence, accountability, and quality of the judicial system in a broad, inclusive and cross-party reform process, including effective participation of civil society and legal experts.[31]

31. Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L) recommended that Georgia take immediate action to guarantee due process and fair trial rights, including by providing lawyers with full access to their case files without undue delay or restrictions, both in law and practice.[32]

32. L4L recommended that Georgia take immediate measures to ensure that lawyers had full access to their clients and to restore and ensure full confidentiality of communication between lawyers and their clients, including when clients were held in pre-trial detention.[33]

33. L4L recommended that Georgia refrain from any actions that might constitute harassment, persecution, or undue interference in the work of lawyers, including their arrest or criminal prosecution on improper grounds such as the expression of critical views or the nature of the case that the lawyer was involved in.[34]

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

34. JS8 stated that since 2023 Georgia experienced an alarming decline in democratic development and the rule of law, marked by the ruling Georgian Dream party's consolidation of power and erosion of civic space. Protests and detention/oppression of activists continued, creating a climate of fear and repression, severely impacting freedom of expression and assembly.[35]

35. JS8 stated civil society organisations were increasingly stigmatized as "foreign agents," cut off from resources, and harassed at the local level, especially in regions. The operating environment for human rights defenders had never been more precarious.[36]

36. HRF stated that Georgia had escalated its attack on freedom of expression by targeting pro-democracy activists and independent voices. Georgia had systematically used detention to suppress dissent, often bypassing essential due process guarantees. It had also weaponized its justice system to suppress protests by denying due process to detained activists. It systematically denied detainees access to legal counsel.[37]

37. HRW recommended that Georgia ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and civil society organizations and ensure that attacks on civil society activists and human rights defenders were promptly, thoroughly and effectively investigated and that those responsible were held to account.[38]

38. JS1 stated that at protests, journalists and civic activists had suffered intimidation as well as criminal and administrative harassment. Media representatives covering peaceful assemblies had faced verbal abuse, physical assault, disproportionate use of special means, and equipment seizure in order to destroy critical coverage.[39]

39. MI stated that critical media were stigmatized as "foreign agents", and public officials from the ruling political party had labelled them as "traitors".[40]

40. HRW stated that in April 2025, Georgia had amended the Broadcasting Law, banning any foreign funding and in-kind assistance to broadcast media and expanding the power of the Communications Commission, a body dominated by ruling party appointees, to regulate broadcasters' content. Georgian civil society groups had criticized the changes emphasizing that they would stifle critical media.[41]

41. JS10 stated that in June 2025, Georgia had enacted amendments to the Law on Freedom of Speech and Expression, systematically removing legal protections that had historically safeguarded the media. The changes significantly facilitated successful defamation suits against journalists.[42]

42. JS10 recommended that Georgia ensure the safety and physical protection of journalists, camera operators and other media professionals, particularly during protests, end impunity for physical attacks, harassment, and intimidation of journalists, particularly by law enforcement officers, and end politically motivated prosecutions of journalists.[43]

43. HRF stated that Georgia had actively undermined the freedom of assembly by targeting protests through both legal and coercive measures. In 2024, it had amended the Law on Assemblies and the Code of Administrative Offenses to impose a blanket ban on face coverings during protests, expand police powers for search and seizure, and significantly increase fines for protest-related offenses.[44]

44. OSCE/ODIHR stated that the 2024 parliamentary elections had taken place amidst serious concerns about the impact of recently adopted legislation on fundamental freedoms and civil society, steps to diminish the independence of institutions involved in the election process, and pressure on voters, which had compromised the ability of some voters to cast their vote without fear of retribution.[45]

45. JS11 recommended that Georgia end the persecution and harassment of political parties and individuals expressing dissenting views, and repeal provisions of the Law on Political Associations that enabled the banning of political parties based on vague criteria and expedited procedures that failed to meet due process and democratic safeguards.[46]

46. JS2 recommended that Georgia review and amend all legislation that established hierarchies or granted preferential treatment to specific religious groups, to ensure equal legal recognition and protection of all religious minorities.[47]

47. Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI-IFOR) recommended that Georgia amend the relevant provisions to state explicitly that the right of conscientious objection to obligatory military service was accessible at all times, including in circumstances of war, general mobilisation, or national emergency.[48]

48. Connection e.V. recommended that Georgia provide all conscientious objectors with an alternative to military service that was not punitive or discriminatory in terms of its nature, cost or duration.[49]

Right to privacy

49. JS5 stated that the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence lacked robust safeguards to protect individuals against the misuse of collected data, particularly information relating to sexual orientation, gender identity, health status (including HIV

status), or political beliefs. There was no provision for independent oversight or redress in cases of abuse or coercion.[50]

50. JS5 recommended that Georgia strengthen data protection legislation to safeguard the privacy of individuals accessing healthcare, social services, or civil society organizations, particularly with sensitive information concerning sexual orientation and gender identity, HIV status, or political beliefs. It also recommended that Georgia establish independent oversight mechanisms to ensure accountability for data breaches or abuse.[51]

Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

51. The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) stated that despite improvements in combating human trafficking, Georgia had been unable to effectively investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking. Authorities lacked procedures to identify human trafficking victims, law enforcement agencies were understaffed and lacked the experience to investigate organized crime threats, such as human trafficking. Authorities had also not been adequately trained to investigate and collect evidence of cases of human trafficking.[52]

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

52. SJC stated that employees of state agencies, who had publicly protested against the government's decision to suspend Georgia's European integration process, including by publishing joint statements and participating in protest rallies, were being dismissed from their jobs allegedly on discriminatory grounds. As of April 2025, more than 800 individuals had been dismissed from positions within the central and municipal government bodies.[53]

53. SJC stated that the Labour Inspection Office operated in a non-transparent manner and had stopped disclosing information about inspections in specific entities, making it impossible to assess its effectiveness.[54]

54. SJC stated that the mining sector was characterized by a violation of occupational health and safety norms, inadequate remuneration of workers, unlawful processes of reorganization, ungrounded dismissals and lack of consultation with workers regarding the essential conditions of labour.[55]

55. SJC recommended that Georgia implement effective state inspection, supervision and enforcement measures to eradicate widespread violations of labour rights in the mining sector.[56]

56. JS11 stated that Georgia had undertaken repressive actions against independent trade unions, including unjustified protraction in registering new trade organizations, political persecution of trade union members, and non-representation in collective bargaining.[57]

Right to social security

57. JS8 stated that social protection mechanisms remained deeply inadequate. The State social package, a key support tool, continued to fall below the subsistence minimum.[58]

58. SJC stated pensioners had reported that their pension was inadequate to cover food and medication. The allowance for IDPs was even lower, i.e. five times below the already inadequate subsistence minimum.[59]

59. SJC stated that the social package for persons with disabilities was insufficient to cover disability-related costs and excluded persons who had been denied disability status due to the outdated medical model and older persons with disabilities who were denied the right to receive both a pension and a disability package.[60]

60. SJC recommended that Georgia develop a comprehensive social protection policy based on the population's needs, and ensure provision of universal benefits for key groups, including persons with disabilities and children.[61]

61. SJC recommended that Georgia introduce unemployment insurance.[62]

Right to an adequate standard of living

62. SJC stated that poverty remained among Georgia's most persistent challenges. In 2024, 9.4% of the population had lived below the absolute poverty line.[63]

63. SJC stated that the right to housing remained one of the most overlooked issues in Georgia. It was not recognized in domestic legislation or policy frameworks, and no reliable data existed on the scale, causes, or forms of homelessness, nor on the needs of homeless populations. Despite the urgent need, Georgia had neither adopted a national housing strategy nor an action plan. The 2022–2030 National Human Rights Strategy failed to mention the right to housing.[64]

64. SJC stated that social housing remained severely problematic and was often located in buildings not fit for habitation.[65]

65. SJC recommended that Georgia adopt a rights-based national housing strategy and action plan and ensure the availability of housing for all individuals in need, and amend eviction legislation to reflect safeguards before, during, and after evictions.[66]

Right to health

66. JS5 stated that there was mounting concern about the deterioration of mental health among LGBT individuals in Georgia, exacerbated by social isolation, exposure to state-sponsored stigma, and the erasure of community spaces.[67]

67. JS5 recommended that Georgia reinstate and expand access to gender-affirming healthcare services, and ensure that such services were accessible, non-discriminatory, and based on the informed consent of the individual and that medical professionals were protected from criminal or administrative sanctions for providing such care.[68]

Right to education

68. BC stated that services for children with disabilities were either scarce or non-existent. Consequently, many children were forced to drop out of education due to inaccessible infrastructure.[69]

69. BC stated that families of children with disabilities faced difficulties regarding the education of their children. They were in need of more funding from the Government to ensure that their children received a proper education. Additionally, schools and educational institutions needed to implement reforms to ensure inclusion of children with disabilities.[70]

70. BC stated that Georgia had adopted discriminatory restrictions for people belonging to the LGBTQ+ community, leading to stigmatisation and exclusion in education.[71]

71. BC stated that the law on "Family Values and Protection of Minors," imposed discriminatory restrictions in education towards the LGBTQ+ community.[72]

72. Unite for Rights (UR) recommended that Georgia increase funding and long-term support for civil society organizations specifically dedicated to delivering human rights education on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, especially those working with vulnerable populations and in remote areas.[73]

Cultural rights

73. JS3 stated that Government intimidation, harassment, and interference in the work of critical voices in the cultural sphere had increased significantly. Staff and leaders of national cultural institutions had been dismissed from their positions for political beliefs and free expression.[74]

74. JS7 recommended that Georgia guarantee and protect the right to produce and present artistic work without undue State or religious censorship, including ensuring that exhibitions, performances, and publications were not shut down for political reasons.[75]

Development, the environment, and business and human rights

75. SJC stated that mining activities had devastated local communities, particularly in Shukruti and Itkhvisi, where underground extraction had led to hazardous living conditions. Residents had demanded compensation for the destruction of homes, wells, agricultural land, and churches since 2019.[76]

76. SJC stated that environmental defenders in Georgia were often labelled as "enemies of national interests", particularly when opposing large-scale projects like hydropower plants. Georgia had used such narratives to discredit activists, painting them as threats to energy security and national sovereignty.[77]

2. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

77. JS6 stated that women continued to face serious barriers in access to justice, which was coupled with the recent removal of references to “gender” from all laws and abolishment of temporary measures to increase women’s political participation. Removing gender-related terminology and principles of gender equality from laws was likely to weaken protections of women’s rights across multiple areas, including effective criminal justice responses to violence against women and sexual violence.[78]

78. JS6 recommended that Georgia restore gender equality safeguards by reinstating the recently abolished term “gender” in legislation and reintroducing gender quotas for political participation.[79]

79. HRW stated that in April 2023, Georgia had abolished mandatory parliamentary and municipal council quotas for women. It recommended that Georgia ensure equal representation of women in politics and in public life.[80]

80. OSCE/ODIHR stated that it had recommended that Georgia initiate legislative amendments with a view of re-introducing the mandatory electoral gender quotas.[81]

Children

81. JS6 stated that efforts to prevent child and forced marriage were insufficient. It recommended that Georgia implement a comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to child and forced marriage, including multi-sectoral prevention measures, improved criminalization of all forms of forced marriage, accountability for perpetrators, and coordinated support across state and civil society actors.[82]

82. JS6 stated that sexual violence against minors remained a serious concern due to underreporting, challenges in prevention and criminal justice response, and limited availability of support services. Child and adolescent survivors in rural areas were especially vulnerable.[83]

83. Connection e.V. recommended that Georgia amend the Criminal Code by explicitly criminalizing the recruitment and use in hostilities of children below the age of 18 years by the armed forces and non-State armed groups.[84]

Persons with disabilities

84. JS8 stated that the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities failed to address a range of critical issues, including access to adequate housing, the process of deinstitutionalization, and the recognition of legal capacity for all. It lacked standards on social protection, which left essential challenges of persons with disabilities unaddressed.[85]

85. JS8 stated that one of the most concerning issues was the absence of a dedicated strategy specifically addressing the rights of persons with disabilities. Although the Human Rights Strategy (2021–2030) included a section on the rights of persons with disabilities, it failed to address key issues such as legislative harmonization, social protection, legal capacity, poverty reduction, and participation in decision-making, which were either missing or only vaguely referenced. The Human Rights Action Plan (2024–2026) faced the same shortcomings.[86]

86. JS8 stated that despite the urgency, a national accessibility plan had yet to be adopted, which hindered the development of effective measures.[87]

87. BC stated that children with disabilities were one of the most vulnerable groups in Georgia. They constantly faced social stigma, as well as restricted access to education, health, and social services. Consequently, they were more marginalised and isolated.[88]

88. JS8 stated that one of the most critical human rights concerns for persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities in Georgia was their ongoing institutionalization due to the lack of adequate community-based housing and support alternatives. Although a national deinstitutionalization strategy existed, its implementation fell short. Many individuals remained confined in psychiatric facilities, boarding homes, and large shelters, where they faced violence and inhumane treatment, including physical and chemical restraints.[89]

89. BC recommended that Georgia implement a national awareness campaign to promote inclusion and fight social stigma towards children and people with disabilities.[90]

Minorities

90. BC stated that ethnic minorities in Georgia, particularly Azerbaijanis and Armenians, who were the most numerous, and people from the Roma community, faced significant challenges such as language barriers, discrimination, and socioeconomic differences. Those factors collectively limited their access to healthcare, employment, and education.[91]

91. JS8 stated that minority engagement in political processes and their representation in electoral bodies had not improved.[92]

92. JS8 stated that amid social vulnerability, ethnic minorities often faced discrimination and land appropriation. Historically cultivated village lands were sometimes seized by local authorities or powerful groups, including the Georgian Orthodox Church, through unlawful decisions and resold to others.[93]

93. BC recommended that Georgia create bilingual education models that preserved minority languages while ensuring proficiency in Georgian.[94]

94. BC recommended that Georgia include ethnic minorities' histories and languages and cultural contributions in the national school curriculum to foster mutual respect and understanding.[95]

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

95. JS5 stated that Georgia continued to exhibit systemic patterns of discrimination against individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Social stigma, prejudice, and hostility toward LGBT persons remained deeply entrenched across public institutions and society at large. Those conditions were exacerbated by pervasive political rhetoric emphasizing so-called “traditional family values,” which were often instrumentalized to delegitimize the rights and existence of LGBT communities.[96]

96. L4L stated that the Law on Family Values and Protection of Minors had abolished nearly all rights for the LGBTQI+ community and that lawyers were no longer able to provide meaningful legal assistance to them.[97]

97. HRW stated that Georgia had banned gender-affirming medical care for trans people, same-sex marriage, and adoption by same-sex couples. It had also prohibited positive references to LGBT people in literature, film, and media, as well as in schools and at public gatherings.[98]

98. Trans Europe and Central Asia (TGEU) recommended that Georgia repeal the law “On the Protection of Family Values and Minors" in its entirety and repeal the April 2025 amendments that removed all references to "gender" and "gender identity" from Georgian law, including anti-discrimination and hate crime legislation.[99]

99. JS5 recommended that Georgia ensure that the national legal framework explicitly prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression,

and sex characteristics across all sectors, including health, education, employment, and housing.[100]

100. JS4 recommended that Georgia ensure that high-ranking officials refrained from using anti-LGBTI rhetoric and homo/transphobic hate speech, which fuelled far-right violence and endangered LGBTI people.[101]

Stateless persons

101. JS8 recommended that Georgia adopt special legal measures to facilitate access to Georgian citizenship for repatriated Muslim Meskhetians and take additional steps to promote their full integration into Georgian society.[102]

3. Specific regions or territories

102. JS8 stated that in relation to Abkhazia, Georgia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, ad-hoc and arbitrary restriction of freedom of movement and the practice of closing crossing points restricted access of Gali and Akhalgori residents to basic social, health and education services.[103]

103. JS8 stated education in native language in Gali and Akhalgori schools was totally restricted as of September 2022, while in previous years high school students had still been able to study in Georgian. The full transfer of the Russian-teaching model to the schools caused a severe gap in State language knowledge and in the long-term would affect the ability of Gali and Akhalgori students to pass exams in Georgian universities and continue studying there.[104]

Notes

[1] A/HRC/47/15, A/HRC/47/15/Add.1, and A/HRC/47/2.

[2] The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

Civil society

Individual submissions:

CPTI-IFOR	Conscience and Peace Tax International, Grand Lancy (Switzerland);
BC	Broken Chalk, Amsterdam (the Netherlands);
Connection e.V.	Connection e.V., Offenbach (Germany);
ECLJ	The European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
HRF	Human Rights Foundation, New York (United States of America);
HRW	Human Rights Watch, Geneva (Switzerland);
ICAN	The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva (Switzerland);
L4L	Lawyers for Lawyers, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
Media Institute	Media Institute, Tbilisi (Georgia);
SJC	The Social Justice Center, Tbilisi (Georgia);
TGEU	Trans Europe and Central Asia, Berlin (Germany);
UR	Unite for Rights, San Francisco (United States of America).

Joint submissions:

JS1	**Joint submission 1 submitted by:** Liberal International, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Europe-Georgia Institute; Civic IDEA;
JS2	**Joint submission 2 submitted by:** World Evangelical Alliance, Geneva (Switzerland); European Evangelical Alliance (EEA);
JS3	**Joint submission 3 submitted by:** PEN Georgia, Tbilisi (Georgia); PEN International; PEN America;
JS4	**Joint submission 4 submitted by:** ILGA World, Women's Initiatives Supporting Group (WISG), Tbilisi Pride and Equality Movement (EM);
JS5	**Joint submission 5 submitted by:** Eurasian Coalition for Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity, Tallinn (Estonia); Equality Movement, Tbilisi Pride;

JS6	**Joint submission 6 submitted by:** Equality Now, New York (United States of America); Union Sapari, Tbilisi (Georgia);
JS7	**Joint submission 7 submitted by:** Freemuse, Asker (Norway); International Association of Arts Critics, Paris (France);
JS8	**Joint submission 8 submitted by:** Social Justice Center, Tbilisi (Georgia); Platform Salam, Solidarity Community, Youth for Democratic Changes, Civic Engagement and Activism Center, Alliance of Women with Disabilities, Georgian Down Syndrome Association, Platform for New Opportunities, Partnership for Equal Rights, Georgian Network of (Ex-)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, Aures Foundation, Equal Participation Center;
JS9	**Joint submission 9 submitted by:** International Federation for Human Rights, Paris (France); World Organisation Against Torture, the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, Human Rights Center;
JS10	**Joint submission 10 submitted by:** Committee to Protect Journalists, New York (United States of America); Media Advocacy Coalition;
JS11	**Joint submission 11 submitted by:** Social Justice Center, Tbilisi (Georgia); Independent Trade Union – Article 78 of the Constitution, Tbilisi (Georgia);
JS12	**Joint submission 12 submitted by:** Institute for Development of Freedom of Information, Tbilisi (Georgia); Social Justice Center, Tbilisi (Georgia);
JS13	**Joint submission 13 submitted by:** Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, Tbilisi (Georgia); Human Rights House Foundation; Democracy Research Institute; The Georgian Center for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims; Human Rights Center; Institute for Development of Freedom of Information; International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy; Partnership for Human Rights; Rights Georgia; Social Justice Center; Women's Initiatives Supporting Group;
JS14	**Joint submission 14 submitted by:** Georgian Center for Psychological and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture victims; Georgia's Association of Young Lawyers; International Rehabilitation Council for Victims of Torture; Organisation Mondiale contre la Torture; Omega Research Foundation.

National human rights institution:

PDO	The Public Defender's Office of Georgia, Tbilisi (Georgia).

Regional intergovernmental organization(s):

CoE	The Council of Europe, Strasbourg (France);
OSCE-ODIHR	The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Warsaw (Poland).

[3] PDO, para. 17.
[4] Ibid., paras. 17–18.
[5] Ibid., paras. 32 and 34.
[6] Ibid., para. 27.
[7] Ibid., para. 12.
[8] Ibid., para. 23.
[9] Ibid., para. 9.
[10] Ibid., paras. 7–8.
[11] HRF, para. 3.
[12] SJC, p. 6.
[13] ICAN, p. 1.
[14] JS10, paras. 8–11. See also HRW, para. 5; and MI, para. 8.
[15] JS3, para. 5.
[16] HRW, paras. 3–4.
[17] JS3, para. 31. See also JS9, para. 59; HRW, p. 3.; L4L, para. 24; OSCE/ODIHR, para. 15.
[18] BC, para. 47.
[19] JS10, para. 27.
[20] CoE, para. 17.

[21] JS9, para. 59.
[22] HRF, paras. 31 and 35 (c). See also JS1, para. 1; and MI, paras. 28–31.
[23] CoE, para. 4. See also HRW, para. 13.
[24] JS13, paras. 64–65. See also JS1, para. 50; JS14, p. 5; HRW, p. 5; and MI, para. 39.
[25] JS14, p. 7.
[26] HRF, 35 (d). See also HRW, p. 5.
[27] JS14, p. 9.
[28] JS12, paras. 4, 11 and 19.
[29] MI, para. 3.
[30] JS12, para. 49.
[31] OSCE/ODIHR, para. 16.
[32] L4L, para. 24.
[33] Ibid., para. 24.
[34] Ibid., para. 24.
[35] JS8, para. 8.
[36] Ibid., para. 9.
[37] HRF, paras. 23, 25 and 29.
[38] HRW, p. 3. See also JS9, para. 59.
[39] JS1, para. 38.
[40] MI, para. 21.
[41] HRW, para. 20.
[42] JS10, para. 16.
[43] Ibid., paras. 63, 64 and 67. See also JS3, paras. 32–33 and 35; JS13, para. 81; and HRW p. 6.
[44] HRF, para. 20. See also HRW, paras. 16–18.
[45] OSCE/ODIHR, para. 2.
[46] JS11, p. 10.
[47] JS2, para. 23. See also JS8, p. 8.
[48] CPTI-IFOR, para. 32.
[49] Connection e.V., para. 25.
[50] JS5, para. 17.
[51] Ibid., para. 32.
[52] ECLJ, para. 9.
[53] SJC, para. 17.
[54] Ibid., para. 25.
[55] Ibid., para. 21.
[56] Ibid., p. 6.
[57] JS11, para. 7.
[58] JS8, para. 65.
[59] SJC, para. 12.
[60] Ibid., para. 14.
[61] Ibid., p. 6.
[62] Ibid., p. 6.
[63] Ibid., para. 3
[64] Ibid., paras. 26 and 27. See also JS8, para. 68.
[65] SJC, para. 28.
[66] SJC, p. 6.
[67] JS5, para. 22.
[68] Ibid., para. 31.
[69] BC, para. 21.
[70] Ibid., para. 7.
[71] Ibid, para. 8.
[72] Ibid., para. 32.
[73] UR, p. 5.
[74] JS3, paras. 2 and 27.
[75] JS7, para. 35 (d).
[76] SJC, para. 36.
[77] Ibid., para. 38.
[78] JS6, p. 2 and para. 5.
[79] Ibid., p. 2.
[80] HRW, para. 28 and p. 7.
[81] OSCE/ODIHR, para. 14.
[82] JS6, p. 2.

[83] Ibid., para. 27.
[84] Connection e.V., para. 25.
[85] JS8, para. 58.
[86] Ibid., para. 59.
[87] JS8, para. 63.
[88] BC, para. 18.
[89] JS8, para. 68.
[90] BC, para. 44.
[91] Ibid., para. 35.
[92] JS8, para. 13.
[93] Ibid., para. 30.
[94] BC, para. 54. See also JS8, p. 5.
[95] BC, para. 56.
[96] JS5, para. 5. See also JS4, para. 10.
[97] L4L, para. 13.
[98] HRW, para. 26 and p. 7. See also L4L, para. 13; and TGEU, p. 1.
[99] TGEU, paras. 26–27.
[100] JS5, para. 29.
[101] JS4, para. 54.
[102] JS8, p. 5.
[103] Ibid., para. 40.
[104] Ibid., paras. 43 and 44.