



## Reducing Inequalities, Advancing Human Rights at Local Level in Georgia

International Human Rights Day 2021

9 December 2021  
14.00-17.00 GMT+4

Venue: WYNDHAM GRAND TBILISI  
3, Lado Gudiashvili Str, Tbilisi

Zoom access: [https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fpPNy4AeQhmb5whh5votTQ](https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fpPNy4AeQhmb5whh5votTQ)

### BACKGROUND

Local government, as the level closest to the citizens, is well positioned to address the local needs, reduce inequalities, and strengthen human rights protection. Through their own and delegated powers, local authorities in Georgia have the possibility to integrate a human rights dimension in all local policies and initiatives – be it civil, political, economic, social or cultural rights – and thereby strengthen social cohesion and citizens' trust in public institutions.

Multilevel dialogue is key for advancing Georgia's commitments on human rights. On the occasion of the international Human Rights Day, the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe jointly organise an event to discuss the role that local authorities play in promoting human rights.

The objectives of this event are to demonstrate how a people-centred human rights approach and multilevel governance in the context of the public health crisis are essential for sustainable and inclusive recovery policies, and to exchange experiences for further local action based on the findings of the assessment on human rights at local level carried out within the project.

Participants include representatives of the government, the parliament, the Public Defender, local authorities, and civil society organisations.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and Georgian.

*This event is organised in the framework of the project "[Strengthening Participatory Democracy and Human Rights at Local Level in Georgia](#)", implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Directorate General of Democracy, Division Elections and Participatory Democracy, within the [Council of Europe Action Plan for Georgia 2020-2023](#) with the financial contribution of the Government of Austria. The project aims to strengthen institutional frameworks for citizen participation, support local authorities and their national association in their efforts to protect and promote human rights and ensure that civil society organisations have real impact on local decision making.*

### CONTACTS

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## PROGRAMME

*The workshop is co-moderated by Marité MORAS, Secretariat of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, and Konstantin KORKELIA, Human Rights Expert.*

- 13.30-14.00**      **Welcome coffee and registration of participants**
- 14.00-14.20**      **Opening and introductory statements**
- Andreas KIEFER – Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe  
Kakha KALADZE – Mayor of Tbilisi, President of the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia  
Nino LOMJARIA – Public Defender of Georgia  
Natalia VOUTOVA – Head of Council of Europe Office in Georgia
- 14.20-14.50**      **Signing Ceremony of Memoranda of Understanding with NALAG and with local authorities**
- 14.50-15.45**      **Panel: Reducing inequalities and promoting human rights at multiple levels during and post the COVID-19 era**
- Mikheil SARJVELADZE – Chairman of the Human Rights and Civic integration Committee of the Parliament of Georgia  
Niko TATULASHVILI – Human Rights Advisor to the Prime Minister of Georgia  
Ekaterine SKHILADZE - Deputy Public Defender of Georgia  
Natya GHVINASHVILI – Deputy Executive Director of the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia  
Koka Kiguradze – Executive Director of Management Systems Development Centre
- 15.45-16.00*      *Coffee Break*
- 16.00-16.45**      **Key pitches from Municipalities – challenges and good practices in promoting equality and human rights at local level**
- Open discussion**

16.45-17.00

**Conclusions and ways forward**

David MELUA – Director of the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia

Andreas KIEFER - Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe