

Additional Information on the Adoption of Chapter 15 “Establishment of the equality policy and combating discrimination” of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2018-2020

In accordance with the Resolution N182 of the Government of Georgia of April 17th of 2018, the Government Action Plan on Human Rights Protection 2018-2020 was approved with a commitment that the Chapter 15 of the Action Plan would be adopted by the end of 2018.

The commitment was not upheld, which was a subject of significant criticism by local and international organizations throughout these years. Among others, the topic was mentioned in the report about the visit to Georgia of the independent expert on protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, presented at the Session Forty-One of the Council of Human Rights of the General Assembly of the UN (May 15th, 2019). Numerous other international reports underline this commitment.

As a result of intense cooperation between state agencies, the Public Defender’s Office, and civic organizations, such as Equality Now, Tbilisi Pride, WISG, EMC, and others, Chapter 15 was adopted in February 2020.

Chapter 15 of the Action Plan includes three goals and aims to combat hate-motivated crimes, raising awareness on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) and the improvement of SOGI-specific social and healthcare services.

In more detail, chapter covers issues such as raising awareness about inadmissibility of discrimination and hate speech against the sexual orientation and gender identity and the hate-motivated crimes; also prohibition of discrimination in labor and pre-contractual relations; production and maintenance of segregated statistics on the hate-motivated crimes; improvement of the healthcare services for the transgender persons; combating discrimination and building knowledge among state employees; development of an initial concept of the shelter for SOGI-based vulnerable groups and enshrining the provisions on prohibition of hate-speech, discrimination and harassment in the institutional and professional codes of ethics.

Notably, the implementation deadline for Chapter 15 of the Action Plan has to coincide with the implementation period of other chapters, which means the deadline would be December 31st, 2020. Therefore, the goals and activities are mostly “open,” preventing unrealistic expectations and ensuring attainability of implementation. Relevant state agencies, national and international organizations, will ensure implementation of Chapter 15 of the Action Plan within the sphere of their competencies.