



**Report submitted by Georgia
pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1
of the Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating violence
against women and domestic violence
(First thematic evaluation round)**

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**Response of the Government of Georgia to the Questionnaire for the
evaluation of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on
Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
by the Parties**

First thematic evaluation round: Building trust by delivering
support, protection

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Part I: Changes in comprehensive and co-ordinated policies, funding and data collection in the area of violence against women and domestic violence

Article 7: Comprehensive and co-ordinated policies

1. Please provide information on any new policy development since the adoption of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report on your country to ensure comprehensive policies covering the areas of prevention, protection, and prosecution in relation to stalking, sexual harassment and domestic violence, including their digital dimension, rape and sexual violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, forced abortion and forced sterilisation, thereby demonstrating further implementation of the convention. Please specify the measures taken particularly in relation to those forms of violence against women that have not been addressed in past policies, programmes and services encompassing the four pillars of the Istanbul Convention.

Improved Legal Framework

Since 2022, Georgia has significantly improved its legal and institutional response to violence against women and domestic violence, aligning its policies with the Istanbul Convention. Through legal reforms, strategic policy initiatives, and strengthened parliamentary oversight, the country has reinforced measures for prevention, protection, and prosecution.

By the end of 2022, the Parliament of Georgia adopted the New State Concept on Gender Equality. The renewed concept corresponds to the state's obligations under international agreements, the development of which began with the active involvement of the civil sector and international partners. The document represents the country's vision for eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence and ensuring equality in the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural spheres, both in public and private relations. It is worth to mention that for the purposes of the concept, gender equality means equal rights for women and men in all areas of private and public life.

A significant legislative change took place on December 22, 2022. Through amendments, the requirement for obtaining “victim status” as a prerequisite for accessing services was abolished, along with the concept of an “alleged victim”. Under the revised legislation, which came into force on July 1, 2023, shelter and crisis center service providers are now responsible for establishing criteria and/or developing specific tools to determine eligibility for services. The person seeking the services will use them without any burden, such as obtaining legal status.

These amendments were introduced to further align Georgian legislation with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention and to enhance support mechanisms for victims of violence against women and domestic violence. As a result, access to essential services, such as shelters, has become more straightforward and widely available, ensuring that the state fully upholds its commitments under international treaties.

This legislative shift led to amendments in several legal acts, including:

- The Law of Georgia on the Prevention of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence, Protection, and Assistance to Victims of Violence;
- The Administrative Procedural Code of Georgia;
- The Law of Georgia on Legal Aid;
- The Criminal Code of Georgia;
- The Law of Georgia on the Legal Status of Foreigners and Stateless Persons.

On November 9, 2022, the Rules for Providing Compensation to Victims of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence were approved, authorizing a victim/survivor of violence to receive compensation from the state. It is noteworthy, that upon ratifying the Istanbul Convention in 2017, Georgia made only one reservation, which stated, that the compensation rules shall be adopted separately and this condition has been met.

It is noteworthy, that on March 23, 2023 State Concept on Women's Economic Empowerment has been adopted. The concept is the first holistic document in the region that, in the field of economic empowerment, reviews the positive commitment of the state to the economic empowerment of women in a long-term perspective and the necessary steps to be taken.

The document proposes seven directions, including acknowledging, reducing, and distributing unpaid and care work; equal access to economic resources; improving public sector procurement and employment practices; improving employment practices in the private sector; reducing shadow economy and supporting a smooth transfer in the formal sector; strengthening the gender-sensitive legal framework and combating contradictory social norms. The concept itself promotes the eradication of violence against women by the steps the state should follow.

On January 22, 2024, the Government adopted the “National Referral Procedures (National Referral Mechanism) for identification, protection, support and rehabilitation of victims of violence against women and/or domestic violence”. The primary objective of the document

is to establish a coordinated, prompt, and efficient communication system among relevant state agencies. As a follow up, in March 2024, the Interagency Commission on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence established a working group aimed at providing assistance to the responsible state agencies in developing SOPs, which is an obligation under the Referral Mechanism.

According to the recent legislative changes N07-3/31/11 (the "On Amendments to the Law of Georgia "On Gender Equality"") the term "gender" will be completely replaced in 16 legislative acts:

1. "On Gender Equality"
2. "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities"
3. "On the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination"
4. "In the Criminal Code of Georgia"
5. "On the Prevention of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence, Protection and Assistance to Victims of Violence"
6. "On Early and Preschool Education"
7. "On Broadcasting"
8. "On Entrepreneurs"
9. "On Volunteering"
10. "On International Protection"
11. "On Public Service"
12. "On Reduction of Food Losses and Waste and Food Donation"
13. "On Labor Inspection"
14. "On Normative Acts"
15. "Local Self-Government Code"
16. "Regulations of the Parliament of Georgia"

Terms were modified as follows:

- "Gender equality" – "Equality between women and men" – is changing in all the above-mentioned laws
- "Gender factor" – "Sex factor"
- "Gender intolerance" – "Intolerance towards equality between women and men"
- "Gender issues" – "Equality issues between women and men"
- "Principles of gender equality" – "Principles of equality between women and men"

For the purposes of the Georgian legislative framework, gender equality has always been and meant equality between women and men. We find a clear record of this in Article 11 of the Constitution of Georgia. In addition, for the purposes of the Concept on Gender Equality adopted in 2022, gender equality means equal rights, duties, responsibilities and equal participation of women and men in all spheres of personal and public life. In addition, the law on “Gender Equality”, before its legal modification¹, the term “gender equality” was explained as *“a part of human rights which implies equal rights and duties, responsibilities and equal participation of men and women in all spheres of personal and public lives.”* Accordingly, the essence of the laws was not modified, only the terms.

The above-mentioned legislative changes also resulted in structural changes on Parliamentary and Municipal levels. According to Article 13 of the Law of Georgia on Equality between Women and Men, the position of the person responsible for gender issues in the municipal city halls has been revised as follows:

- For the purpose of studying women’s rights issues, planning activities, and coordinating events at the municipal level, the Mayor of the Municipality designates a public servant within the relevant City Hall who will be responsible for issues related to the protection of women’s rights.
- As for the Municipal Councils (Sakrebulo) to ensure coordinated work with the interdepartmental commission working on issues of violence against women and domestic violence, a municipal council on women and children's issues is being created. The latter has replaced the former Municipal Gender Equality Councils.

The process of working on the amendment of the definition of rape is currently ongoing. A specific working group was created, where representatives of relevant agencies, local and international non-governmental, as well as donor organizations were invited. In addition, other interested parties (e.g., experts) with expert knowledge regarding the issue participated in the work. It should be noted that after internal consultations, it was revealed that the lack of readiness led to the process being taken out for external consultations. At this stage, all the parties of the working group agree that the consultation should be expanded and continued (e.g., with the academic sector, various relevant professional groups, etc.) to make the amendment's consequences more straightforward. It is worth noting the positive role of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia in these processes.

National Strategy and Action Plans

¹ <https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/91624?publication=9>

On September 5, 2022, the Government approved the second National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in Georgia for 2022-2030 (the Strategy). The comprehensive strategy addresses all fundamental human rights and freedoms and puts a special emphasis on the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups. It covers four priority areas:

- 1) Strengthening of justice, rule of law principles, institutional democracy and effective application of civil and political rights;
- 2) Strengthening the protection of economic and social rights;
- 3) Reflecting the constitutional guarantees of equality in the state policy, their implementation in practice and the enjoyment of human rights and freedoms without discrimination;
- 4) Protection of the rights and freedoms of the population affected by the illegal occupation of the territories of Georgia by the Russian Federation, including internally displaced persons from the occupied territories of Georgia and refugees, the population of villages adjacent to the occupation line, and people living in the occupied territories.

At the onset of the 2023, the Strategy was adopted by the parliament of Georgia.

Due to high political and public importance of the strategy, the Administration of the Government of Georgia (AoG) ensured involvement of relevant representatives in developing the strategy. The government established a high-level inter-agency working group, which was asked to regularly cooperate with international organisations and local NGOs in the process. The working group consisted of representatives of all ministries, at the level of deputy ministers, as well as senior officials of various state agencies and representatives of international organizations. With the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), international and local experts were involved in the process from the very first stage of strategy development.

The draft version of the Strategy was shared with civil society organizations actively engaged in human rights matters for their feedback. The inter-agency working group reviewed the recommendations and comments received. All pertinent information was incorporated into the Strategy draft prior to its submission to the government for approval.

Notably, one of the chapters of the Strategy is dedicated to women's rights and fight against domestic violence, it mentions strengthening state mechanisms promoting gender equality and economic empowerment of women, strengthening of response to incidents of violence against women and domestic violence, strengthening victim protection and rehabilitation mechanisms, raising public awareness on issues of equality and domestic violence.

Subsequently to the approval of the Strategy, a multidisciplinary working group with the involvement of civil society representatives started working on the elaborated the Action Plan on Human Rights Protection (the AP) for the period of 2024-2026.

The process was inclusive; all relevant organisations and individuals working on human rights issues were involved in the elaboration of the document. With the support of the UNDP and the OHCHR offices in Georgia, several in-person meetings were held with the civil society organisations prior to the approval of the AP. The structure of these meetings allowed the civil sector to contribute their viewpoints on the plan's initiatives and receive feedback from relevant authorities.

On December 28, 2023, the Government officially approved the Action Plan. The document aligns with the objectives and targets outlined in the Strategy and fulfils all essential criteria for an effective AP, including establishing goals with references to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), defining objectives and activities with measurable indicators, identifying responsible and partner agencies, specifying timeframes, and allocating budgets/resources for the implementation of each activity.

At the end of 2024, relevant state institutions submitted annual reports on the implementation of the 2024–2026 Action Plan. Based on these submissions, AoG prepared a consolidated implementation report, which the Government will present to the Parliament of Georgia for further discussion. Notably, the 2024 report marks the first monitoring cycle under the current Action Plan; subsequent reports will follow during the designated reporting periods.

The efforts undertaken by responsible administrative bodies during the reporting period further affirm that the protection of human rights remains a growing state priority. The AP consists of 27 goals, 121 objectives, and 555 activities. As of 2024, 508 activities have been initiated/completed.

For more than a decade, the Government has been approving and implementing two standalone action plans: “National Action Plan on the Measures to be implemented for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors” and the “National Action Plan on the Implementation of the UN Resolutions 1325 on Women, Peace and Security”. The latest plans covered the years 2022–2024. The mentioned plans were adopted in accordance with the Ordinance No 629 of the Government of Georgia of 20 December 2019 on Approval of the Procedures for the Preparation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Policy Documents. This document serves as a manual for state agencies on producing high-standard strategies and action plans. Similarly to the Human Rights Action Plan, all interested organizations/parties were involved in the

drafting of the two standalone action plans.

The National Action Plan on the Measures to be implemented for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors for the years 2022-2024 covers 4 priority areas: I area includes prevention of violence against women and domestic violence; II area consists of the measures that are necessary for the protection and support of the victims; III area is concentrated on the measures of combating violence against women and domestic violence; as for the IV area, it refers to the integrated policy and data collection.

The National Action Plan on the Implementation of the UN Resolutions 1325 on Women, Peace and Security for the years 2022-2024 includes 3 priority areas: I area focuses on women participation in the peace and security processes; II area covers combating violence and prevention measures; III area includes measures towards women empowerment and protection.

The implementation of the action plans has been completed. Pursuant to the methodology for developing annual reports as defined by the Government of Georgia's Resolution No. 629, the AoG prepared annual progress reports that provide detailed information on the implementation of Action Plans' activities during the period from January 1 to December 31, 2024. According to the reports:

- ✓ Out of the 36 activities outlined in the “National Action Plan on the Measures to be implemented for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors”, the implementation of 27 activities was scheduled for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2024. 18 activities were fully implemented, 7 were mostly implemented, 1 was partially implemented, and 1 activity was not implemented/cancelled.
- ✓ Out of the 50 activities outlined in the “National Action Plan on the Implementation of the UN Resolutions 1325 on Women, Peace and Security”, the implementation of 49 activities was scheduled for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2024. 40 activities were fully implemented, 3 were partially implemented, 1 was mostly implemented, 4 were not implemented, and 1 activity was suspended.

Addressing Sexual Harassment

At the same time, the state has taken active steps to combat sexual harassment. As a result

of legislative amendments enacted in 2019, sexual harassment was defined as a form of discrimination under the Law on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination. This law applies to nearly all areas of public life, including labor and pre-contractual relations, as well as private legal relations, and covers employment in the public sector as well. To ensure the effective enforcement of the law, in 2020, the introduction of internal response mechanisms for addressing sexual harassment began within state institutions. As of today, 25 state agencies have developed such mechanisms.

Strengthening Prevention, Risk Assessment, and Monitoring Measures in the Ministry of Internal Affairs

In order to prevent and suppress violence against women and domestic violence, and to implement the effective legal proceedings, the Human Rights Protection Department operates within the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia (MIA). The said Department monitors domestic violence and family crimes committed in police units throughout the country, as well as ongoing legal proceedings related to crimes committed against women on the grounds of intolerance of equality between women and men and on the other grounds of discrimination. Along with the monitoring, the Department is actively involved in the processes of issuing restraining orders by the police and establishing electronic surveillance.

The MIA has developed and implemented a tool for assessing the risks of recurrence of violence in order to combat violence against women and domestic violence. This tool allows police officers to timely identify risks of recurrence of violence and use an operational mechanism such as a restraining order to prevent it.

The MIA has also implemented an electronic surveillance system (electronic bracelet), which allows for real-time monitoring of the process of the perpetrator's compliance with the obligations imposed by the restraining order, namely the prohibition of approaching the victim, their home, workplace, or other predetermined areas.

Strengthening the Prosecutor's Office to Address Violence against Women

As a result of the reform implemented in the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia and based on the recommendation of the Prosecutorial Council, on March 9, 2022, by order of the General Prosecutor, the Human Rights Protection Department was established. The independent structural unit of the General Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, Human Rights Protection Division, has been operating since 2012 and was strengthened and transformed into a department in order to improve human rights protection in law enforcement agencies, effectively fulfill international obligations undertaken by Georgia, carry out tasks defined by the strategy of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, and improve the quality of

prosecutors' activities in the field of human rights protection.

The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia has been implementing strict and consistent criminal policy against violence against women and domestic crime for many years. This policy is focused on protecting victims' interests and applying strict measures against offenders.

The 2022-2027 Strategy of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia defines the fight against gender-based and domestic violence against women, sexual freedom and sexual inviolability, as well as intolerance-motivated crimes and crimes against minors as one of the most important functions of the Prosecutor's Office.² The same strategy defines improving the effectiveness of the fight against sexual violence against minors and sexual exploitation of children as a separate priority sector, within the priority area of combating crimes against minors.

In 2022-2024, numerous guidelines were prepared for prosecutors and investigators of the prosecutor's office for combating gender-based violence and domestic violence against women as well as sexual offenses. These guidelines in parallel with enacted legislative amendments ensure effective implementation of Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention).

In 2022, based on the examination and analysis of international legal acts, recommendations, explanatory reports of conventions, the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, and judgments rendered against Georgia, the Human Rights Protection Department of the General Prosecutor's Office of Georgia developed guidelines for prosecutors and investigators of prosecutor's office on the „Effective Execution of Judgments Adopted Against Georgia in Cases of Gender-Based Violence against Women”.

Based on the study and analysis of cases investigated and prosecuted under Articles 137-141 of the Criminal Code of Georgia (the CCG) (Crimes against Sexual Freedom and Sexual Inviolability), the Guidelines “On the Investigation and Procedural Supervision on Crimes against Sexual Freedom and Sexual Inviolability” have been updated.

In order to effectively investigate and provide procedural supervision on crimes of early marriage, guidelines have been developed on the “Crimes Prescribed under Article 140 of the CCG (Penetration of a sexual nature into the body of a person below 16 years of age)”.

On March 4, 2022, the Center for Psychological and Social Services for Minors Victims of

² <https://pog.gov.ge/uploads/7f5da215-saqarTvelos-prokuraturis-2022-2027-wlebis-strategia.pdf>

Violence was launched in Tbilisi. Prior to the launch of the Center for Psychological and Social Services for Minors Victims of Violence, by order of the General Prosecutor of March 2, 2022, Standard Operating Procedures for the Investigation, Procedural Supervision, and Support of State Prosecution in Court in Cases of Sexual Abuse against Minors were approved, which serve as a guideline for prosecutors and investigators of the Prosecutor's Office on how to conduct cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the Center for Psychological and Social Services for Victims of Sexual Violence. According to the standard operating procedures, the prosecutor, the investigator of the prosecutor's office is obliged to refer the alleged child victim of sexual abuse to the center. The center is equipped to conduct all investigative and procedural actions with the child, except for those investigative/procedural actions that, due to their nature, cannot be conducted at the center. The standard operating procedures apply to cases initiated after the center's launch, as well as cases initiated before its launch, in which the child victim of sexual abuse was not involved in the child protection referral procedures.

Ensuring gender equality in the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia is a priority direction of the Prosecutor's Office's Strategy for 2022-2027. Improving gender organizational policy is underpinned by Objective 4.5 of the Strategy, according to which the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia ensures equal rights for women and men and takes all necessary measures to eliminate discrimination against women.

Furthermore, by order of the Prosecutor General of Georgia, the 2022-2027 Gender Equality Strategy and its Action Plan are in effect in the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia.

The vision of the strategy is gender-sensitive and includes promoting discrimination-free environment, ensuring equal opportunities for women and men, and administration of gender-sensitive justice. The Gender Equality Strategy of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia consists of two strategic objectives:

- *Ensuring equal and discrimination-free working environment and promoting women's empowerment in the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia;*
- *Effective, accountable and gender-sensitive administration of justice in the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia.*

The strategic goals are fully concordant with the requirements of national legislation and international principles and standards on gender equality and women's rights.

In order to effectively plan and implement the Gender Equality Strategy, Action Plan and measures, under orders of the Prosecutor General of Georgia a Working Group on Gender

Issues and a Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response Mechanism have been established. In addition, in order to effectively implement the Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response Mechanism, a Sexual Harassment Case Examination Support Group operates in the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia.

By 2024, 35 training activities have been conducted for the employees of the Prosecutor's Office on Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response Mechanism, which encompassed 715 trainees, including managers, prosecutors and investigators of the Prosecutor's Office, interns, witness and victim coordinators, qualified public officers, and contract employees. For 2024, 674 trained individuals are still employees of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, which constitutes 91.3% of the total number of employees.

In 2025, 1 training activity was conducted on the sexual harassment prevention and response mechanism and 21 employees of the prosecutor's office were trained.

Strengthening Victim Protection and Investigative Standards in the Special Investigation Service

The Special Investigation Service has implemented reforms focused on the protection of citizens' rights. In order to ensure transparent investigations and effectively protect the rights of victims, the Victims' Rights Protection Division was established after the institutional reform implemented in the Special Investigation Service. The employees of the Victims' Rights Protection Division provide detailed information on the rights and obligations of affected citizens, including applicants, on a daily basis, provide them with psychological support, familiarize themselves with case materials, offer special protection programs, and organize the process of familiarizing representatives of the Public Defender's Office with case materials.

To ensure the application of international standards, promote uniform investigative practices, and strengthen victim-centered responses, the Special Investigation Service of Georgia developed and approved a binding Guideline on Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence for investigators in 2025. This document sets mandatory standards and procedural approaches to be followed during investigations involving gender-based violence, aligning domestic practices with global best practices.

In addition to standard-setting, the Service conducts continuous internal analysis of its activities and includes recommendations for systemic improvements in its annual reports. For example, the 2023 annual report highlighted a concern related to the issuance of restraining

orders in cases involving employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA). Based on the Service's recommendation, a change in practice was adopted: restraining orders are no longer issued by the structural unit where the alleged perpetrator is employed, helping to eliminate conflicts of interest and strengthen victim trust in law enforcement.

International Humanitarian Law and Crisis Response

Interagency Commission on International Humanitarian Law (the Commission) chaired by the Minister of Justice (MoJ) of Georgia represents a permanent advisory body of the Government of Georgia aimed at the promotion of the implementation of the norms of international humanitarian law and the development of the relevant policies in this regard. In July, 2022 the Commission adopted the new Action Plan on the Implementation of the International Humanitarian Law, which among others, addressed measures aimed at combating and preventing sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as in disasters and other emergencies. The new Action Plan for 2025-2026 is now being implemented.

Gender Equality Principles in the Ministry of Finance

The internal regulations of the central office of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia include provisions on gender equality—specifically, the “General Rules for Protecting the Principle of Equality in the Workplace, Eliminating Discrimination, and Reporting.” Additionally, gender-disaggregated data on the agency's employees is regularly updated and proactively published.

Local-Level Implementation of Violence Prevention Policies

The Government has been placing significant attention to the localization of national action plans by reaching out to local authorities. On 10 May 2022, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Administration of the Government and the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia, in order to strengthen mutual cooperation between the executive and local authorities and enhance the systemic mechanisms of human rights protection at the local level and the implementation of human rights-based policies. The also envisaged cooperation with the equality mechanisms operating within the municipal councils, including the Gender Equality Councils and Council of the Rights of Person with Disabilities. Moreover, the memorandum drew attention to the localization and implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy and respective Human Rights Action Plans at the local level. Numerous activities were conducted in the frames of the memorandum -meetings were held with local authorities and the population including by

visits of high-level government officials to municipalities and conducting meetings there with various stakeholders.

In 2023-2024, the Permanent Parliamentary Gender Equality Council³, in coordination with the Ministry of Infrastructure, developed a policy document of a recommendatory nature “Policy for Support and Empowerment of Victims of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence at the Municipal Level.” The latter will help municipalities to include both preventive measures against domestic violence and violence against women, as well as measures to support victims in their sub-programs. As part of the work on the document, the budgets of municipalities and the procedure for issuing social assistance were analyzed in order to study the extent to which local self-government programs are oriented toward supporting victims of domestic violence and violence against women. Accordingly, recommendations were developed, the implementation of which will be another step forward by local self-governments. The aforementioned document was shared with all 64 municipalities in 2024 and two online coordination meetings were held.

Persons responsible for women’s rights in local municipalities provided for local-national collaboration⁴, community engagement⁵ and inclusion in action plans⁶. Notably, Tbilisi municipality adopted a dedicated resolution (№37-16, 2024) establishing a comprehensive mechanism to prevent and respond to sexual harassment in City Hall and City Assembly. It ensures:

- A harassment- and discrimination-free work environment;
- Proportional accountability for perpetrators;
- Protection and support for survivors;
- Preventive and awareness-raising initiatives.

Tbilisi also conducted information sessions with various municipal audiences to address violence in digital spaces, focusing on cyber harassment, online safety, and legal literacy—particularly for women and girls.

2. Where relevant, please provide information on any measures taken to ensure the alignment of any definitions of domestic violence and of violence against women in national legislation or policy documents with those set out under Article 3 of the

³ According to the amendments N07-3/31/11 the Council is no longer functional

⁴ Akhmeta’s example is notable—its gender officer works with Parliament, Ombudsman’s office, and regional governors. 24 trainings and 32 meetings (2023–2024), organized as multilevel-level collaboration endeavor, specifically targeted ethnic minorities (e.g., Kists), disabled women, migrant women, and rural mothers.

⁵ Municipalities like Zugdidi, Senaki, and Adigeni organized public roundtables and gender-based violence film screenings.

⁶ Municipalities such as Abasha and Rustavi incorporate Convention principles into multi-year development strategies.

Istanbul Convention and provide the relevant applicable provisions in English or French.

As Georgia ratified the so-called Istanbul Convention, the state began to harmonize its national legal framework to the convention. It is noteworthy that Georgian laws and policy documents include the same provisions in terms as the convention:

a. Violence against women

- The term is reinforced in the 3¹ Article of the “Law of Georgia on the elimination of violence against women and/or domestic violence, and the protection and support of victims of such violence”⁷ - *Violence against women refers to all acts of violence committed against women in public or private life due to intolerance of equality between women and men that result in or are likely to result in physical, psychological or sexual suffering or economic harm to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty. For the purposes of this Law, a female minor who has not reached the age of 18 shall also be deemed as a woman.*

b. Domestic Violence

- The term is reinforced in the 3 Article of the “Law of Georgia on the elimination of violence against women and/or domestic violence, and the protection and support of victims of such violence” - *Domestic violence is the violation of constitutional rights and freedoms of one family member by another family member through neglect and/or physical, psychological, economic, sexual violence or coercion.*

c. d. Gender and Gender-Based Violence

- In 2025, according to the legislative changes N07-3/31/11 the term “Gender Equality” has been replaced with “equality between men and women”, reflecting a shift in terminology while maintaining the fundamental principle of ensuring equal rights and opportunities for both sexes. Although the term “gender” was removed from the Georgian legislative space, its essence - equality between women and men - remained unchanged. That is, only a terminological change has occurred, although what was in force before the 2025 amendments - for example, in Article 53 (1) of the Criminal Code, “gender intolerance” was replaced with “intolerance to the equality of women and men”, according to the aforementioned draft law included in the package of legislative amendments, equality between women and men will be interpreted as part of human rights, which implies equal rights and obligations, responsibilities and equal participation of women and men in all spheres of personal and public life. The removal of the “gender intolerance motive” does not imply the removal of

⁷ <https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/26422?publication=17> (the final edition is available only in Georgian)

the legal status of aggravating circumstances for crimes committed on the grounds of intolerance towards the equality of women and men. The amendment primarily serves to replace the term “gender” with the constitutional term “equality between women and men.”⁸

e. Victim

- The term is reinforced in the above-mentioned law, Article paragraph “f” - *A woman or family member whose constitutional rights and freedoms have been violated through neglect and/or physical violence, psychological violence, economic violence, sexual violence, or coercion. A minor whose legitimate interests have been neglected is also considered a victim.*

3. Please provide information on how your authorities ensure that policies on violence against women and domestic violence put women’s rights and their empowerment at the centre and on any measure taken to enhance the intersectionality of such policies, in line with Articles 4 paragraph 3 of the convention. ⁹

The Government of Georgia has taken substantial steps to ensure that policies addressing violence against women and domestic violence place women’s rights and empowerment at the centre, in full alignment with Article 4(3) of the Istanbul Convention. These efforts are embedded across several strategic policy documents:

National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in Georgia (2022–2030)

This Strategy adopts a human rights-based approach across all policy areas. It prioritizes the effective realization of legal guarantees of equality and commits to strengthening systemic and institutional mechanisms to ensure equal opportunities and substantive equality for women and girls. The Strategy outlines goals to empower women politically and economically, increase their participation in public life, and ensure targeted responses to VAW/DV through stronger preventive, protective, and rehabilitative mechanisms. The Strategy also promotes an intersectional lens by specifically addressing the rights of ethnic minority women, women with disabilities, and women affected by conflict or occupation,

⁸ You will find the aforementioned explanation in the explanatory note to the legislative amendment, which is available only in Georgian - <https://info.parliament.ge/file/1/BillReviewContent/381105?>

⁹ The concept of intersectionality refers to the fact that “individuals (and groups) are affected by multiple inequalities based on various grounds of distinction rather than by discrimination based on one ground at a time. Therefore, discrimination, inequality and gender-based violence cannot be examined in relation to only one category of difference – for instance, gender – while precluding others – such as race, class, age, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity – because social categories intersect and interlock in multiple systems of discrimination that simultaneously affect an individual’s life.” See in this respect the study Ensuring the Non-discriminatory Implementation of Measures against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence: Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Istanbul Convention, A collection of papers on the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, p.12-13.

ensuring that their diverse experiences are reflected in policy design and implementation.

National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors (2022–2024)

This Action Plan explicitly centers on victim/survivor-oriented approach, aiming to enhance institutional capacities, improve inter-agency coordination, and ensure accessible services for all women, regardless of background. The Plan includes targeted activities to address the needs of vulnerable groups, such as women with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and women in rural areas. It strengthens the mandate and practice of state institutions to implement preventive measures, ensure timely and effective responses, and support victim empowerment through psychosocial, legal, and economic support services.

National Action Plan on the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (2022–2024)

This Action Plan focuses on increasing the role of women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and decision-making, with special attention to women affected by occupation and displacement. It ensures that the impacts of conflict, including violence, are addressed comprehensively. Measures include enhancing participation of displaced and conflict-affected women in peace processes and ensuring their access to protection and support mechanisms.

Across all three documents, intersectionality is recognized as a critical component, and policies are tailored to address multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination faced by women. The documents collectively affirm that the empowerment of women and the protection of their rights are essential pillars of Georgia’s human rights and equality agenda. Implementation is guided by inclusive stakeholder consultations, evidence-based policy-making, and regular monitoring frameworks to track progress and accountability.

Article 8: Funding

4. Please provide information on any new development since the adoption of GREVIO’s baseline evaluation report on your country concerning the allocation of appropriate and sustainable financial and human resources for the implementation of integrated policies, measures and programmes to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention.

Human Rights Department of the Administration of the Government

In September 2023, the Human Rights Secretariat of the Administration of the Government of Georgia underwent a significant institutional transformation. As part of broader efforts

to enhance the coordination, effectiveness, and analytical capacity of human rights policy implementation, the Secretariat was reorganized into the Human Rights Department.

In addition to the structural change, the Research and Analysis Division was established within the newly formed Department. This division is tasked with conducting in-depth studies, collecting and analyzing data, and producing evidence-based policy recommendations. Its function is to support the development of strategic initiatives and ensure that the Government's human rights policies are informed by reliable data and research.

Budgeted National Action Plans

The “National Action Plan on the Measures to be implemented for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors for 2022-2024” and the “National Action Plan on the Implementation of the UN Resolutions 1325 on Women, Peace and Security for 2022-2024” and explicitly costed and budgeted. They include detailed budgets for specific activities as part of their monitoring and evaluation framework, to ensure more transparency and accountability on behalf of responsible state agencies.

Expanded Access to Support Services and Victim Compensation

As previously mentioned, in December 2022, amendments to the Georgian Law on “Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection and Support of Victims of Domestic Violence” abolished the requirement to obtain “victim status” in order to access support services, particularly shelters and crisis centers. Service providers were authorized to establish criteria and apply specialized assessment tools to independently determine eligibility for support services.

These amendments were reflected in the structure and activities of the LEPL – Agency for State Care and Assistance for the (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking (State Care Agency). Specifically, a “*Standardized Questionnaire for Assessing the Risks, Needs, and Required Services for Victims of Violence Against Women, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Violence*” was approved, which determines access to shelter and crisis center services. Additionally, informational sessions were held for staff, and the State Care Agency was fully prepared to implement the amendments as of July 1, 2023.

Furthermore, “*Minimum Standards Necessary for the Establishment and Operation of Temporary Accommodation (Shelters) for Victims of Violence Against Women and/or*

*Domestic Violence*¹⁰ were approved, and changes¹¹ were made to the Ministerial Order¹² of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia regarding the “*Approval of Minimum Standards Necessary for the Establishment and Operation of Crisis Centers*.”

To strengthen financial support for beneficiaries, the State Care Agency, in cooperation with the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, developed the “*Rule for Determining and Issuing Compensation for Victims of Violence Against Women and/or Domestic Violence*,”¹³ based on best international practices.

The implementation of this initiative was made possible with the technical support of UN Women and the active involvement of relevant state agencies (such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor’s Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Personal Data Protection Service of Georgia, among others) and non-governmental organizations working on women’s rights.

The compensation amount for victims of violence against women and/or domestic violence is set at no more than 10,000 GEL. For victims/survivors of human trafficking, the compensation amount is set at 1,000 GEL.

Thus, by abolishing the requirement for “victim status”, the barrier to accessing services has been removed, and as of July 2023, support services have become significantly more accessible for individuals who have experienced violence.

5. Please provide information on any development concerning the provision of appropriate and sustainable financial and human resources for women’s rights organisations that provide specialist support services to victims, including those supporting migrant women and girls.

Ministry of Justice Grant Programs Supporting Women’s Rights

The MoJ is committed to fostering a transparent and inclusive approach to law drafting and policy development. Recognizing the importance of diverse perspectives, the Ministry actively engages with a wide range of stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), service providers, international partners, legal professionals, and

¹⁰ By order No. 50 of July 11, 2023, of the Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia

¹¹ Order No. 49/N

¹² Order No. 01-64/N of November 10, 2017

¹³ Pursuant to Resolution No. 523 of the Government of Georgia, dated November 9, 2022, the “Rule for Determining and Granting Compensation to Victims of Violence Against Women and/or Domestic Violence” was approved, which entered into force on December 1, 2022.

other relevant institutions. This participatory process ensures that legislation and policy are not only legally sound but also socially responsive and reflective of the public interest.

Since 2021, the MoJ has been offering grant programs to a wide range of relevant stakeholders. These programs aim to promote innovative public services, strengthen human rights protection, and ensure the legal security of the State.

Between 2021 and 2025, a total of 1,313,409 GEL was allocated to 56 projects covering various topics. These initiatives led to the publication of papers, textbooks, and research. Additionally, through training sessions and courses, incarcerated individuals and former prisoners acquired new skills to foster their economic empowerment, while students and pupils gained professional skills. Simultaneously, MoJ employees enhanced their knowledge of innovative legal technologies. In the first two years, the maximum grant amount for each project was 20,000 GEL, which increased to 30,000 GEL in the third and fourth years.

Several of these projects focused on women's rights protection. One particular initiative aimed at enhancing the intellectual skills of female convicts through a specially designed lecture course. The program sought to improve their analytical thinking, argumentative speaking, and foster a culture of knowledge sharing and discussion.

A noteworthy project was implemented by the non-profit legal entity Innovative Creativity Center, which organized cultural, creative, and cognitive activities for women from diverse ethnic, religious, and social backgrounds within a women's penitentiary institution. The project placed special emphasis on the study of acting skills and the development of oratory talents. The culmination of this initiative was a performance staged at the Sandro Akhmeteli State Drama Theater, where female convicts participated.

Furthermore, the non-profit Association of Women Entrepreneurs – AVES ran a project focused on retraining female convicts and probationers in the production of decorative items and accessories using epoxy materials. This initiative not only facilitated their reintegration into society but also equipped them with valuable skills, enabling them to generate income and, in turn, offer employment opportunities to others.

Moreover, association "Woman and Business" has been cooperating with the Special Penitentiary Service (the SPS) of the MoJ to promote the resocialization and rehabilitation of convicts. Under this partnership, the association has provided vocational training (including computer, sewing, stylist, massage, cosmetology and other training courses) for inmates in penitentiary institutions. Moreover, the organization supports employment opportunities of the female inmates after the release, as well as provides them with temporary shelter, if necessary, which is an important service for their successful reintegration into society.

The penitentiary system also has partnership with the "Leader Women's Society", which provides services to women both in the penitentiary institutions and after their release.

Furthermore, LEPL Vocational Training and Retraining Center for Convicts (the VETCI) of the MoJ promotes the rehabilitation/resocialization of convicts through projects and programs in cooperation with NGOs, public institutions and academia. Rehabilitation-resocialization programs include two main components: education/vocational training/retraining and employment promotion. The VETCI also ensures the renewal of libraries in penitentiary institutions and the registration of literature.

Legal Entity of Public Law - State Grant Management Agency

The Georgian government has taken important steps to implement a unified policy of state support for civil society and ensure its financial sustainability. Based on the amendments made to the Law of Georgia on Grants in February 2025, the Government of Georgia established the State Grant Management Agency (further agency) on April 15, 2025, through Decree No. 119¹⁴. The special state institution was established at the national level for the first time. The purpose of this agency is to support civic organizations registered and operating in Georgia through the issuance of state funds, as well as to promote their institutional and financial sustainability. The agency conducts its activities in compliance with the principles of transparency and accountability. Civic organizations whose activities align with the country's development priorities can participate in a public call, announced twice yearly by the agency, to obtain state funding and contribute to democratic processes and the country's continuous development.

On July 18 of this year, Decree No. 1165 of the Government of Georgia established priority areas and targeted programs for state grants¹⁵. On the same day, the Chairperson of the Agency approved the Rules for State Grant Issuance and Monitoring with Order No. 1.¹⁶

On July 21, the LEPL State Grant Management Agency announced a public call for small grants. In the current year, the agency will announce a second call for institutional development grants, providing more opportunities for civic organizations to obtain state funds to implement civic initiatives and ensure institutional sustainability.

Civil Initiative must address at least one of the following Priority directions:

1. Democratic institutions, good governance and Human rights
2. Foreign Policy and European Integration
3. Economic Development
4. Education, science and youth
5. Sport Development
6. Labor, Health and Social Protection
7. Defence and Security
8. Regional Development and Self Governance
9. Environment and Natural Resources Protection

¹⁴ <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/6475416?publication=0>

¹⁵ https://www.gov.ge/files/618_92815_695386_1165.pdf

¹⁶ <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/6575474?publication=0>

10. Agriculture
11. Legal and vocational Education
12. Reconciliation and Civil Equality.

The creation of this agency and its funding mechanism strengthens institutional support for civil society, including women's rights organizations, particularly in areas like democratic governance, legal education, civic equality, and social protection. It represents a new channel for sustainable financial support to organizations working in fields covered by the Istanbul Convention.

The agency provides the public with all relevant information about the state grant issuance and implementation process.

The Law on the State Budget of Georgia allocates 20 million GEL to finance civic initiatives in 2025.

Article 11: Data collection and research

6. Please provide information on any new development since the adoption of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report on your country on the introduction of data collection categories such as type of violence, sex and age of the victim and the perpetrator, the relationship between the two and where it took place, for administrative data of relevance to the field of violence against women and domestic violence emanating from law enforcement agencies, the justice sector, social services and the public health care sector.

Ministry of Internal Affairs – Public and Disaggregated Data

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia publishes statistics on registered crimes on its official website, as well as statistical data on restraining orders issued for domestic violence and violence against women.

Since 2023, the Ministry has implemented a new form of statistical data production, according to which it calculates and publishes the statistical data on restraining orders issued for domestic violence (with indication of territorial distribution, persons involved (abuser/victim - with indication of gender/age) and types of violence), as well as statistical data on restraining orders issued for violence against women (with indication of territorial distribution, persons involved (abuser/victim - with indication of gender/age) and types of violence) on the official website of the Ministry on quarterly basis. Information can be found at - <https://info.police.ge/page?id=102>.

Since 2020, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Supreme Court, and the National

Statistical Service (Geostat) to create a unified data system on crimes committed on the grounds of intolerance based on discrimination.

It is noteworthy that a new memorandum was signed by the parties in 2023, where the mandate of the Special Investigation Service was also included.

The units registered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia within the framework of the new memorandum are:

- ✓ Total number of investigations initiated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia into crimes committed on the grounds of alleged intolerance;
- ✓ Article for initiating an investigation
- ✓ Type of Discrimination;
- ✓ Discrimination type according to territorial distribution
- ✓ Total number of initiated investigations in which the Witness and Victim Coordinator of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia was involved.

Statistical data, in Georgian and English, are publicly available to all interested parties on the website of the National Statistical Service:

<https://www.geostat.ge/ka/modules/categories/680/diskriminatsiis-nishnit-sheutsqnareblobis-motivit-chadenili-danashaulis-statistika>

The domestic violence crime resolution rate has consistently exceeded 85% in recent years.

Prosecutor's Office Data Collection

The Analytical Department of the General Prosecutor's Office of Georgia processes statistical data through the electronic investigation program on domestic crimes, crimes against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability, as well as the following crimes committed against women: stalking, forced marriage, failure to fulfill the requirements and/or obligations provided for by a protective or restraining order and other crimes provided for by the CCG, while the Human Rights Protection Department of the General Prosecutor's Office records statistical data on cases of gender-based violence against women and femicide. Statistical data is recorded according to the GREVIO standard "THE BIG FIVE" - gender and age of the defendant and victim, social connection of the defendant with the victim, form of violence, territorial distribution.

In addition to Grevio's "THE BIG FIVE" standard, as a body exercising prosecutorial powers, the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia processes statistical data on issues within its jurisdiction according to the following characteristics:

- Structural unit of the prosecutor's office conducting the prosecution;
- Recognition as a victim (article, paragraph of an article, subparagraph)
- Initiation of prosecution (article, paragraph of an article, subparagraph)

- Decision not to prosecute (article, paragraph of an article, subparagraph);
- Termination of prosecution (article, paragraph of an article, subparagraph);
- Termination of investigation (article, paragraph of an article, subparagraph);
- Citizenship of the victim/defendant;
- Marital status of the victim/defendant;
- Education status of the victim/defendant;
- Field of activity of the victim/defendant;
- Disability status of the victim/defendant.

The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia pays particular attention to the convergence of the monitoring methodologies of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia and the Public Defender's Office on femicide crimes and the production of statistics in accordance with international standards. For this purpose, in 2023 and 2024, within the framework of cooperation between the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia and UN Women, 3 working meetings were held between representatives of the Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Public Defender's Office and the Supreme Court. Authorities' coordinated future activities were planned in the direction of recording unified, comprehensive and segregated data and monitoring femicide crimes.

Statistical data is periodically published and publicly available on the website of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia.¹⁷ It is also issued as public information to interested parties.

Currently, in line with the 2022-2027 Strategy of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, new statistics modules are being integrated into the electronic program of investigation, which will improve the automatic processing of segregated statistical data.

In 2023-2024, prosecution was launched against 930 persons under Article 381¹ of the CCG for failure to fulfill the requirements and/or obligations provided for by a protective or restraining order, of which 825 persons were prosecuted under Article 11¹-381¹ of the CCG for domestic crimes. 923 persons are recognized as victims under Article 381¹ of the CCG, among them 820 persons are recognized as victims under Article 11¹-381¹ of the CCG for domestic crimes. Yearly statistical data are as follows:

In 2023

Charged under Article 381¹ - 475 defendants; victims - 470 individuals;

Charged under Article 11¹-381¹ - 428 defendants; victims - 425 individuals;

In 2024

Charged under Article 381¹ - 455 defendants; victims - 453 individuals;

Charged under Article 11¹-381¹ - 397 defendants; victims - 395 individuals.

¹⁷ <https://pog.gov.ge/Gender-based-violence-against-women-and-domestic-violence?lng=geo>
<https://pog.gov.ge/Gender-based-violence-against-women-and-domestic-violence?lng=eng>
<https://pog.gov.ge/statistical-data?lng=geo>

Supreme Court of Georgia – Expanded Data Capture

Following the receipt of the GREVIO Baseline Evaluation Report on Georgia, and in order to implement the expert group's recommendations regarding the collection of administrative data, the Supreme Court of Georgia undertook certain measures to obtain comprehensive data as required by the Istanbul Convention. Specifically:

- After improving and introducing victim registration forms in the courts, amendments were made to the methodology for recording victimized women and collecting data within the Excel electronic files used for registering criminal cases. This enabled a more accurate and complete calculation of data related to women victims in cases involving violence against women and/or domestic violence;
- The collection of data on cases involving the killing of women and attempted femicides has been improved, with particular attention given to crimes committed on the basis of gender (femicide cases);
- Cases related to stalking and forced marriage are now recorded separately;
- Protective orders issued in relation to children are now categorized separately within the overall data on protective orders, disaggregated by forms of violence, as well as the sex and age of both the victim and the perpetrator;
- Starting from 2024, the quarterly (annual) statistical reporting forms used by the courts have been updated with new sections. In civil cases, this includes disputes related to "compensation for harm caused as a result of violence against women and/or domestic violence" by the perpetrator. In administrative cases, it includes disputes concerning "compensation to be awarded to victims of violence against women and/or domestic violence."

As a result, since beginning of 2024, it became possible to record—on a pilot basis—data in the courts regarding claims filed by victims seeking compensation for damages and those granted by the courts. In 2024, seven such claims were submitted to first instance courts. Of these, two were rejected at the admissibility stage, one claim was granted, and four remained pending by the end of 2024. As for cases related to compensation to be awarded to victims of violence against women and/or domestic violence, no cases in this category were submitted to the courts in 2024.

Legal Aid Service – Integration of the “Big Five” Parameters

As of April 2025, the Legal Aid Service has incorporated key data collection parameters, commonly referred to as the “Big Five,” into its Legal Case Management Information System (Case Bank). These parameters are essential for enabling detailed statistical analysis and policy planning. The "Big Five" include: The so-called “Big Five” includes the following parameters:

1. Location of the incident (geographical data);
2. Sex/Gender of the victim and the perpetrator;
3. Age of the victim and the perpetrator;
4. Type of violence;
5. Nature of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator

The current status of integration is as follows:

- Geographical location (region and district level) has been embedded in the Case Bank since 2012;
- Sex and age of both the victim and the perpetrator were incorporated at the system development stage in 2010;
- Type of violence was introduced as a separate data category in 2023;
- Nature of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator has not yet been integrated.

With regard to the fifth parameter - *the form of relationship between the victim and the Perpetrator* the Legal Aid Service considers its future integration a priority. However, this enhancement requires a software-level intervention by the system's developer. Implementation at the system administrator level is not deemed feasible, as it may impair the timely and efficient processing of statistical data.

Furthermore, the planned software update by the developer includes the creation of a consolidated statistical reporting module, which will unify all existing parameters into a single reporting interface, thereby enhancing the system's analytical capacity and usability for policy and monitoring purposes.

State Care Agency – Enhanced Data Infrastructure

At this stage, the State Care Agency collects and processes the following types of statistical data related to beneficiaries of shelters and crisis centers for victims of trafficking and violence:

- Name and surname;
- Personal identification number;
- Date of birth;
- Gender;
- Age;
- Citizenship;
- Level of education;
- Disability status;
- Type of violence experienced;
- Relationship to the perpetrator;
- Services received;

- Date and reason for admission to the shelter;
- Date and reason for discharge from the shelter.

It is noteworthy that in 2024, the State Care Agency established a dedicated structural unit Analytics and Statistics Service to implement a systematic approach to the collection of beneficiary data. This division is tasked with developing a methodological framework for data collection based on an analysis of best international practices and the local context. This structural development marks a significant step forward in harmonizing the process of working with beneficiary data.

Centralized Data Collection – Probation and Penitentiary System

The LEPL National Agency for Crime Prevention and Execution of Non-Custodial Sentences and Probation (the Probation Agency) under the MoJ is developing a centralized data system. The system collects information such as the legal provision applicable to domestic violence cases, the geographical location of the crime, and the age and gender of the perpetrator.

The following statistical data reflects reporting period from 2022 till 2024 and encompasses solely perpetrators of the crimes under Articles 11¹ and 126¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia (excluding the number of individuals currently serving sentences).

Total Number of Current Convicts on Probation (As of December 31, 2024)							
REGIONS	Adult			Juvenile			Total
	Male	Female	Sum	Male	Female	Sum	
Tbilisi	786	48	834	2		2	836
Shida Kartli	251	12	263			0	263
Mtskheta-Mtianeti	158	10	168	2		2	170
Kvemo Kartli	370	22	392	1		1	393
Kakheti	260	9	269	1		1	270
Samtskhe-Javakheti	76	10	86			0	86
Imereti	210	15	225			0	225
Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	134	11	145			0	145
Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti	14	1	15			0	15

Adjara-Guria	274	12	286			0	286
Total	2533	150	2683	6	0	6	2689

As for the SPS, the Offender Management Information System (OIS) has been developed and is currently piloted. Analysis has been done for the rehabilitation-resocialization module and development of a non-functional demo version is underway. The software will allow to collect all the data needed for different special groups in addition to the demographic data.

National Study on Violence against Women (2022)

In addition to administrative data improvements, Georgia has also prioritized evidence-based policymaking. In 2022, the comprehensive National Study on Violence Against Women (VAW) in Georgia was conducted in 2022 by Geostat in partnership with UN Women within the framework of the “Ending Violence against Women and Girls in Georgia” project funded by the European Union and U Women’s flagship programme "Making Every Woman and Girl Count" in Europe and Central Asia (Women Count).

Statistical report is available at the following link: <https://www.geostat.ge/en/single-categories/126/national-study-on-violence-against-women-in-georgia>

Whole report is available at the following link: <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/national-study-violence-against-women-georgia-2022>

7. Where relevant, please provide information on any new development since the adoption of GREVIO’s baseline evaluation report on your country to enable disaggregated data collection:

a. on the number of emergency barring and protection orders and the number of breaches and the resulting sanctions;

Issuance and Enforcement of Restraining Orders by MIA

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia actively uses criminal and administrative-legal mechanisms to combat domestic and/or domestic violence against women. After assessing the risks of repeated violence, a decision is made to issue a restraining order in order to protect the victim, and they are also offered the opportunity to use electronic surveillance.

In cases of domestic violence and/or violence against women, after the issuance of a restraining order, the monitoring of the perpetrator's fulfillment of the obligations imposed

on him/her is planned and implemented with the victim and the perpetrator, based on Order No. 100 issued by the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

If the following violations are identified during the monitoring process:

- Failure to comply with the requirements and obligations set forth in a restraining or protective order;
- and/or when implementing electronic surveillance, the perpetrator enters the alarm zone defined by the rules for implementing electronic surveillance;
- and/or failure of the perpetrator to comply with the request of an authorized person to leave the alert or buffer zone;
- and/or the abuser's evasion of electronic supervision, i.e. an action that made it impossible to implement electronic supervision,

An investigation is initiated in accordance with Article 381¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia and the perpetrator is held criminally liable. Cases of violation of this article are also reflected in statistical data published by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

Protective Orders Issued by Courts

The number of protective orders issued by courts is directly linked to the number of applications submitted by victims to the court requesting the issuance of such orders, and overall, the figures are not particularly high. Specifically, 194 applications were submitted in 2023, and 190 in 2024.

- ✓ In 2023, the first instance courts of Georgia received a total number of 194 applications concerning the issuance of protective orders. Of these:
 - 36 applications were rejected at the admissibility stage;
 - 4 cases were terminated;
 - 22 cases were left without consideration;
 - In 130 cases, a decision was rendered, of which 98 applications were granted and a protective order was issued.

Of the 98 protective orders issued in 2023:

- 89 were issued in cases related to violence against women and/or domestic violence (involving women of any age).
 - Of these, 87 protective orders were issued in cases of domestic violence against women,
 - and 2 were issued in cases of violence against women by non-family members.
- Additionally, 13 protective orders were issued in cases involving violence against minors, where the victims included 18 girls and 7 boys.

In 2023, among the protective orders issued for cases of violence against women and/or domestic violence, the forms of violence experienced by female victims were as follows:

- Psychological violence – 98 cases
- Physical violence – 19 cases
- Economic violence – 10 cases
- Coercion – 4 cases
- Neglect – 1 case
- Sexual violence – 1 case

✓ In 2024, 190 applications submitted for the issuance of protective orders:

- 34 applications were rejected at the admissibility stage;
- 3 cases were terminated;
- 16 cases were left without consideration;
- In 130 cases, a decision was rendered, of which 94 applications were granted and protective orders were issued.

Of the total 94 protective orders issued in 2024:

- 87 were issued in cases related to violence against women and/or domestic violence, including:
 - 77 protective orders for domestic violence cases involving women, and
 - 10 protective orders for violence against women by non-family members.
- 19 protective orders were issued in cases involving violence against minors, where the victims included 15 girls and 19 boys.

Regarding the 87 protective orders issued for violence against women and/or domestic violence in 2024, the forms of violence experienced by female victims were as follows:

- Psychological violence – 100 instances
- Physical violence – 30 instances
- Economic violence – 7 instances
- Coercion – 1 instance
- Neglect – 6 instances

Detailed information on protective orders issued in 2023–2024 in cases of violence against women and/or domestic violence—including the forms of violence, as well as the age, sex, social relationships of the victim and the perpetrator, and regional distribution—is provided in Annex No. 1 (Tables Nos. 1–5).

Electronic Surveillance

In the district (city) courts of Georgia, regarding the approval of protocols for the implementation of electronic surveillance:

- In 2023, a total of 103 motions were submitted and reviewed, of which 96 were granted;
- In 2024, a total of 83 motions were submitted and reviewed, of which 77 were granted.

Number of Cases for Breaches of Orders

In 2023, the district (city) courts of Georgia reviewed a total of 240 criminal cases related to the failure to comply with the requirements and obligations set forth in restrictive or protective orders issued in cases of violence against women and/or domestic violence (under Article 381¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia).

Of these, guilty verdicts were delivered in 229 cases involving 230 individuals. The types of penalties imposed on convicted persons were as follows:

- Imprisonment was imposed on 172 individuals, of which in 101 cases the sentence was suspended (conditional);
- Fines were imposed on 13 individuals;
- Community service was assigned to 42 individuals;
- 3 individuals were released from criminal liability due to amnesty or other legal grounds.

In 2024, a total of 242 criminal cases were reviewed in the district (city) courts of Georgia concerning the failure to comply with the requirements and obligations set forth in restrictive or protective orders issued in cases of violence against women and/or domestic violence (under Article 381¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia).

Guilty verdicts were delivered in 230 cases, involving 232 individuals. The types of penalties imposed on convicted individuals were as follows:

- Imprisonment was imposed on 182 individuals, of which 112 sentences were suspended (conditional);
- Fines were imposed on 10 individuals;
- Community service was assigned to 39 individuals;
- 1 individual was released from criminal liability due to amnesty or other legal grounds.

b. on the number of times custody decisions have resulted in the restriction and withdrawal of parental rights because of violence perpetrated by one parent against the other.

In the district (city) courts of Georgia, the following motions regarding the separation of a

minor from a parent were submitted and reviewed¹⁸:

- In 2023, a total of 631 motions were submitted, of which 627 were reviewed.
 - 8 motions were rejected at the admissibility stage,
 - 14 were left without consideration,
 - Decisions were issued in 605 cases, and
 - In 574 cases, a judge's order was issued for the separation of the minor from the parent.
- In 2024, a total of 532 motions were submitted and reviewed.
 - 11 motions were rejected at the admissibility stage,
 - 8 were left without consideration,
 - Decisions were rendered in 513 cases, and
 - In 498 cases, a judge's order was issued for the separation of the minor from the parent.

8. Please provide information on measures taken to allow cases of violence against women and domestic violence to be tracked from reporting to conviction, at all stages of the law-enforcement and judicial proceedings.

Comprehensive Oversight by the Ministry of Internal Affairs

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia is the primary response agency to cases of violence against women and domestic violence. Accordingly, the agency has a special role to conduct all relevant processes to effectively combat this category of crimes.

For this very purpose, the Ministry does not stop its activities and constantly strives to improve the mechanisms available at the Ministry regarding possible violence, to increase the quality of legal proceedings regarding each application, as well as to prevent crime/violence.

The Human Rights Protection Department - a special unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, monitors criminal and administrative cases of violence against women and/or domestic violence and family crimes on a daily basis. Along with monitoring cases, the department is actively involved in the processes of issuing restraining orders and establishing electronic surveillance by the police.

From May 1, 2024, the Human Rights Protection Department of the Ministry of Internal

¹⁸ Under Civil code of Georgia, Article 1205¹, part 6: *In the event of domestic violence, as a result of which a parent is subject to a restraining or protective order, or upon a decision on separation of the child from the parent is taken by a social worker, the parent's representative right and/or right to determine with whom and where the child is to live shall be deemed suspended until the restraining or protective order or upon a decision on separation of the child from the parent taken by a social worker expires. Appealing a decision on separation of a child from the parent shall not suspend its enforcement.*

Affairs of Georgia continues its activities with an expanded mandate. After the expansion of the mandate, the competence of the Department includes ensuring timely response to and effective investigation of crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability, family crimes, domestic violence, violence against women, crimes committed on the grounds of intolerance and on the grounds of discrimination, human trafficking, and crimes committed by/against minors. Additionally, it also includes monitoring the quality of administrative proceedings related to domestic violence, violence against women, discrimination, sexual harassment, and minors and identifying shortcomings in the process of case processing. Employees of the Human Rights Protection Department provide legal/practical consultation to police officers on a constant basis on ongoing cases.

In order to improve the monitoring process, a special electronic program and monitoring methodology have been created, which is used to systematize the information processed during the monitoring process. This program ensures the identification of gaps, trends and existing needs in the investigation process, with the aim of subsequently planning appropriate measures and activities.

One of the main tasks of the department is to coordinate the activities of the Ministry's system units in the field of human rights protection and promote the improvement of existing standards of rights protection.

The Department, within its competence, provides research and analysis of investigative and procedural actions, as well as shortcomings identified during administrative proceedings, in order to establish best and uniformal practices. It develops relevant proposals to eliminate the identified issues, studies judicial practice and the experience of investigative and police activities of foreign countries in the field of human rights protection.

The Human Rights Protection Department has begun developing recommendations in a new audio/video format, which ensures the accessibility and practicality of the instructions. They reflect both theoretical issues and the latest police practice. The document integrates relevant practical examples too.

It is worth noting that the new format allows a police officer, if necessary, to familiarize himself with only a specific part of the instructions instead of familiarizing himself with the entire instruction.

The audio/video format instruction is posted on the information portal of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, in the recommendations field, and can be viewed by a police officer at any time.

In 2024, the following recommendations were developed and made available to police officers:

- Instructions for filling out a restraining order report and establishing electronic

- surveillance;
- Instructions for filling out the administrative detention report.

Within the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia also operates the Witness and Victim Coordinator Service, which is a structural unit of the Department after the expansion of its mandate to the Human Rights Protection Department. The goal of the Witness and Victim Coordinator Service is to ensure that victim support functions are performed in a quality and result-oriented manner. The coordinator prioritizes communication with victims of violence against women and domestic violence, and informs them about various victim support services available within the state.

Case Monitoring and Analysis by the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia

To effectively respond to and define the correct criminal policy on violence against women and domestic crime, the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia conducts daily monitoring on cases related to gender-based violence against women and domestic crime.

The Human Rights Protection Department of the General Prosecutor's Office of Georgia annually studies cases related to gender-based violence against women, domestic violence, and femicide. During case monitoring, special attention is paid to the identification of gender-based discrimination motive, to the application of gender-sensitive approach, and to the analysis of court decisions. The analyses of cases are published on the Prosecutor's Office website in Georgian and in English.¹⁹

In 2022-2025, based on the results of monitoring cases related to gender-based violence against women and domestic crime, the Human Rights Protection Department prepared analyses of cases for 2021²⁰, 2022²¹, 2023²² and 2024²³. These analyses include criminological and legal aspects of gender-based intolerance-motivated crimes, existing trends, and challenges.

In 2024, the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia focused on enhancing access to justice for elderly people, effectively detecting, responding to, and preventing crimes against them. The Human Rights Protection Department examined over 600 cases involving crimes committed against elderly people in 2023. During case monitoring, trends in conducting investigations and providing procedural supervision were identified and criminological

¹⁹ <https://pog.gov.ge/Gender-based-violence-against-women-and-domestic-violence?lng=geo>
<https://pog.gov.ge/Gender-based-violence-against-women-and-domestic-violence?lng=eng>

²⁰ https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpPqVHDO.pdf
https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/php8hrXJD.pdf

²¹ https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpPOXaSe.pdf
https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpETBy2S.pdf

²² https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpd6JJYl.pdf
https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/php3XBJIV.pdf

²³ https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/php9dIFOc.pdf
https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/184184Fgf.pdf

aspects were analyzed. These analyses were published on the Prosecutor's Office website in Georgian and in English.²⁴

In 2024, the Human Rights Protection Department prepared an analysis of cases related to crimes against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability committed on the grounds of intolerance in 2021-2023, which includes criminological and criminal aspects of sexual offenses committed with intolerance motive, existing trends and challenges. The results of this analysis were published on the Prosecutor's Office website in Georgian and in English.²⁵

The Department of Supervision of Prosecutorial Activities and Strategic Development of the General Prosecutor's Office of Georgia studies cases under investigation, and analyzes decisions made by the prosecutors to terminate the investigation. The purpose of studying cases is to inspect the lack of undue delay in the initiation of the investigation and the conduct of investigative actions, legal qualification, recognition as the victim, assessment of the standard of proof for launching prosecution, as well as the reasoning and lawfulness of the decision to terminate the investigation.

Furthermore, the Department analyzes acquittals and convictions passed by the courts, in order to establish uniform best practices in criminal law and to ensure access for prosecutors to precedent decisions. In addition, the Department's prosecutors monitor court proceedings to assess the quality of support for the state prosecution.

In 2024, convictions and acquittals issued in sexual offense cases after the introduction of specialization was analyzed, including those for crimes committed against minors. The results of the analysis are being taken into account in the process of updating the Guidelines “On the Investigation and Procedural Supervision on Crimes against Sexual Freedom and Sexual Inviolability”.

Part II: Information on the implementation of selected provisions in priority areas in the field of prevention, protection and prosecution

Article 12: General obligations

²⁴ https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpf5qXBQ.pdf
https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpCamIH1.pdf

²⁵ https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpIgpI9H.pdf
https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpgrxasR.pdf

9. Please provide information on any primary prevention measures aiming to change mentalities and attitudes in relation to violence against women and to reduce women's exposure to gender-based violence by:

a. addressing harmful gender stereotypes and prejudices, customs and traditions based on the idea of the inferiority of women;

b. addressing the heightened exposure to gender-based violence by women and girls at risk of intersectional discrimination;

c. encouraging all members of society, including men and boys, to contribute actively to preventing all forms of violence against women covered by the scope of the Istanbul Convention, and promoting the empowerment of women and girls in all areas of life, notably their participation in politics at all levels and in the labour market.

Promoting Positive Narratives and Combating Discrimination through National Policy Frameworks

National strategic documents on the protection of human rights, elimination of violence against women, and the Women, Peace and Security agenda collectively prioritize shifting harmful societal attitudes, transforming gender norms, and fostering empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of life. The overarching goal is to address harmful stereotypes and discriminatory traditions, reduce the vulnerability of women and girls at risk of intersectional discrimination, and encourage inclusive societal engagement in violence prevention and empowerment.

The National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights (2022–2030) highlights the need to transform public perceptions and entrenched social norms in order to advance women's rights and equality. Its key preventive measures include:

- Public awareness campaigns to confront and dismantle stereotypes and discriminatory narratives;
- Educational reforms that embed human rights and equality principles in the national curriculum from early education stages;
- Media engagement to portray diverse and empowering representations of women and their contributions to society;
- Community-based programs to encourage public dialogue on women's rights, especially in regions affected by structural inequalities.

The National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (2022–2024) further elaborated on strategies that support the transformation of social attitudes. These included:

- Highlighting positive role models by sharing success stories of women across various sectors;
- Engaging men and boys through public campaigns and school-based activities to promote shared responsibility in eliminating violence;
- Cultural and public events that celebrate women's achievements and contributions to society;
- Intersectional approaches that address the specific needs of ethnic minorities, women with disabilities, and conflict-affected groups through outreach, accessible services, and inclusive program design.

The National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2022–2024) integrated equality and violence prevention into peacebuilding and security efforts. It focused on:

- Recognizing and amplifying women's roles in conflict prevention, resolution, and peace negotiations;
- Empowering conflict-affected women and girls through capacity-building and access to legal, social, and economic support;
- Community dialogues and media campaigns that elevate women's voices and portray them as agents of peace and security;
- Promoting gender-sensitive governance by encouraging women's participation in political decision-making, including at the local and regional levels.

Across all three policy frameworks, efforts are made to include ethnic minorities, youth, persons with disabilities, conflict-affected populations, and other at-risk groups in prevention measures. The implementation of targeted outreach activities, tailored legal education, youth awareness campaigns, and inclusive empowerment programs illustrates Georgia's comprehensive approach to preventing violence against women and transforming social attitudes.

Parliamentary Gender Equality Council Initiatives to Promote Awareness, Youth Engagement, and Women's Empowerment

During the reporting period, a significant part of the activities of the Permanent Parliamentary Gender Equality Council was devoted to conducting awareness-raising campaigns and other events that would contribute to increasing sensitivity and awareness-raising. It is noteworthy that for this purpose, the Council, with the involvement of individual donors and institutions, held several events in Tbilisi and the regions of the country, including on such issues as: discussion of recommendations issued to Georgia by the Committee of Parties to the GREVIO and the Istanbul Convention, gender-based violence, Forum on Women's Political Participation, promoting the empowerment of women and girls.

Since 2022, at the initiative of the Parliament of Georgia, the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture has been implementing a pilot program for women in Lagodekhi

and Marneuli municipalities, which aims to promote women's involvement in economic activity. This program is also important in that its target area includes municipalities populated by ethnic minorities, where challenges in terms of gender equality and women's economic empowerment are particularly acute. It is noteworthy that the program turned out to be so successful that in 2024 three new municipalities - Chokhatauri, Vani, and Chkhorotsku - were added to its scope.

Since 2023, the Permanent Parliamentary Gender Equality Council has actively begun to cooperate with young people in order to raise their awareness and educate them on equality issues. In addition to regular information meetings with pupils and students, the Parliament of Georgia has begun implementing 2 large-scale projects, namely, since April 2023, at the initiative of the Chairperson of the Gender Equality Council and with the support of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, an awareness-raising campaign on gender equality has been launched. Within the framework of this campaign, the Council periodically hosted schools representing different regions of Georgia in the Parliament: after which they met with members of the Gender Equality Council; they were acquainted with the activities of the Council, the essence and importance of gender equality, and discussed issues of interest to them in a discussion mode.

The Permanent Parliamentary Gender Equality Council annually joined such global initiatives as the 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women, Pink October, Women's History Month, and Women in Technology. Within the framework of these campaigns, meetings were held with the target audience, ethnic minorities, students, and schoolchildren in the capital and regions. As part of the campaign, several informational and working meetings were held on early marriage, focusing on prevention mechanisms and the role of local self-government, schools, and the community. These sessions aimed to raise awareness and foster dialogue around the social, cultural, and legal dimensions of early marriage. The meetings were attended by young people, representatives of ethnic minorities, educational institutions and relevant agencies.

In order to activate women in the labor market, at the initiative of the Parliament, in cooperation with relevant agencies, a Women's Employment Forum was held in Tbilisi, where vacancies from both the private and public sectors were presented, relevant vacancies for women with disabilities, and vacancies presented with a convenient schedule for single mothers. Similar events are also planned in the regions to provide relatively vulnerable groups with the opportunity to activate in the labor market.

Integrating Gender Equality and Violence Prevention in the Education System

At the general education level, the National Curriculum integrates primary prevention measures aimed at changing mentalities and attitudes related to violence against women and reducing women's exposure to gender-based violence. From early grades, students are introduced to gender equality and the deconstruction of stereotypes through subjects like "Me and Society" (Grades III–IV) and Civic Education (Grades VII–X). These subjects

emphasize equality, mutual respect, human rights, and the harmful impacts of early marriage. The curriculum also incorporates the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. School textbooks are reviewed to ensure they are free of discriminatory content and reflect the contributions of women across various fields, reinforcing gender equality as a core value throughout the educational process.

Issues of early marriage, violence against children, women and equality are discussed in the following the training modules implemented by Teacher Professional Development Center (TPDC) under the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth Georgia (MoESY):

1. In 2022, the training module "Gender Mainstreaming in Education: Gender-based violence and Domestic Violence" was developed with the joint cooperation of the Ministry of Education Science and Youth of Georgia, National Center for Teacher Professional Development (TPDC) and UN WOMEN. The training module covers the following issues: Violence against women and girls, domestic violence, discrimination in the workplace, salary, etc. cases of the impact of stereotypes, stigmas and preconceived notions, discussion of the practice of sexual harassment in the workplace, discrimination based on heritage, human trafficking, discussing cases of rape of minors, marriage of children under 18, femicide.

The training module is designed for teachers of all subjects in general education institutions. In total, 1,231 teachers were retrained in 2022–2023, including 42 teachers in 2023.

2. The training module: "Overcoming Violence Against Children, INSPAIR Strategies" discusses the consequences of early marriage, violence against children. The training module also covers Georgian legislation related to marriage. The training was attended by:

- 249 trainees in 2022.
- 364 trainees in 2023

3. Training -module "Sexual and Reproductive Health for Teachers" covers the consequences of early marriage in terms of young people's health and rights. Human rights are discussed through the lens of sexual and reproductive rights, with an emphasis on equality in all types of relationships. 25 participants, teachers of different subjects, completed the course in 2023 on the Open Edx platform.

4. The training-module "Preventing Bullying in Schools and Promoting the Development of a Tolerant Culture" discusses the issues of domestic violence against women, essence, causes, and consequences of early marriage, with particular attention given to coercion of adolescents and their rights.

In 2023, 13,320 teachers completed the training on the Open Edx platform.

The Office of Resource Officers of Educational Institutions (ORO) representatives,

including resource officers, social workers, and psychologists, regularly conduct informative, educational, and social skills activities through informal education programs in public schools for students, teachers, parents, and school representatives, with a focus on raising awareness about human rights, equality, diversity, the harmful effects of hate speech, non-discriminatory approaches. These initiatives help to challenge harmful stereotypes and prejudices, promote respect for diversity, and foster positive attitudes towards equality, contributing to the prevention of violence against women and girls.

On the vocational education (VET) level, the civic education module is a mandatory module of vocational education programs. The module takes a holistic approach to the teaching of civic education, emphasizing both the acquisition of factual and conceptual knowledge, as well as the development of essential skills for citizenship in a democratic society. The module covers basic human rights and freedom, including topics such as prevention of violence against women and domestic violence.

Higher education curricula cover transferable skills including topics related to equity, problems of violence, role of women in society and policy etc.

Public Education and Crime Prevention Initiatives by the Ministry of Internal Affairs

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia is implementing important measures to raise public awareness and prevent crime against women/domestic violence and domestic crime. For this very purpose, the agency has been intensively conducting informational and educational meetings for more than 6 years, both planned by the Ministry itself and within the framework of various international campaigns.

In the area of violence against women/domestic violence and domestic crime, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia is implementing important measures to raise public awareness and prevent crime. For this purpose, the agency has been intensively conducting informational and educational meetings for more than 6 years, both planned by the Ministry itself and within the framework of various international campaigns.

As part of the awareness-raising activities, which were held at the initiative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, the law enforcement officers and representatives of the Ministry throughout Georgia organized meetings with communities and schoolchildren in the regions, within the framework of which they spoke and provided information to the public on important issues such as: violence against women and girls and its prevention, domestic crime and its prevention, early marriage, crime reporting mechanism, early and forced marriages, sexual harassment, legal protection mechanisms, etc.

Thousands of people attend awareness-raising events every year, and the Ministry also conducts mass information campaigns among the population on how to report marital crimes to the police.

Nationwide Public Awareness Campaigns and Community Engagement by the Prosecutor's Office

On October 6, 2022, the PSG launched a large-scale public information campaign "No to Femicide". The purpose of the campaign against femicide is to raise public awareness about VAW/DV and to prevent femicide. The information campaign against femicide is still ongoing and the goal of the campaign is to raise public awareness about gender-based and domestic violence against women and prevent femicide crimes.

The campaign covered the whole of Georgia and, in order to raise public awareness, prosecutors and witness and victim coordinators met with the population in all regions of Georgia, including cities and villages populated by ethnic minorities.

Since the beginning of the campaign against femicide, more than 250 events have been held throughout Georgia. Meetings were held with representatives of kindergartens, resource officers of educational institutions, teachers, schoolchildren, students, and representatives of municipalities. Prosecutors and coordinators visited victims of violence placed in relevant service institutions, met with persons with disabilities, their parents, and persons working on the rights of persons with disabilities, social workers, representatives of the medical field, and various professional circles. Moreover, in order to strengthen coordinated cooperation, multi-agency working meetings were held.

Events were held: in Tbilisi - 39, in Kvemo Kartli - 50, in Kakheti - 41, in Shida Kartli and Mtskheta Mtianeti - 28, in Western Georgia - 20, in Samtskhe-Javakheti - 13, in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 47, and in the Adjara - 19 events.

More than 110 information meetings were held with the population in various regions of Georgia, including regions populated by ethnic minorities. The meetings were held in 25 cities of Eastern Georgia, 22 cities of Western Georgia, and 4 cities of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara. Prosecutors met with the population of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kakheti, and Kvemo Kartli, populated by ethnic minorities.

Within the framework of the campaign, the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia cooperated with various medical institutions. 4 information meetings were held with doctors and medical personnel.

In 7 cities of Georgia, specialized prosecutors, as part of the femicide campaign, held 19 public lectures with representatives of the administration and students of various universities and vocational schools.

80 information meetings were held with representatives of school administrations, resource officers of educational institutions and schoolchildren. As part of the campaign, specialized prosecutors held 6 information meetings with coordinators of educational programs of all kindergartens in Tbilisi. In total, 190 coordinators and 60 teachers attended the meetings.

In 2022, a working meeting was held in the format of the Judicial Coordination Council (Bench&Bar) on the topic of violence against women and domestic violence. Judges, prosecutors and defence attorneys participated in the working meeting.

In 2022, a conference was held at the General Prosecutor's Office on the topic of criminal and criminological aspects of femicide crimes. The conference was attended by representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, as well as the academic sphere.

Within the framework of the campaign, particular focus was placed on the intersectional approach and raising awareness of vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities and representatives of national/ethnic minorities. In order to improve access to justice for persons with disabilities and deepen cooperation with representatives of the disability community, representatives of the General Prosecutor's Office of Georgia held meetings with women with disabilities, minors with disabilities and their parents, as well as representatives of organizations working on the rights of persons with disabilities and deaf people. Meetings were held in Tbilisi, Rustavi, Marneuli, Telavi, Sachkhere and Ambrolauri.

In addition to information meetings with the population, specialized prosecutors and prosecutor's office witness and victim coordinators visited service institutions for victims of violence in 5 cities of Georgia and met with women victims of violence. At the meetings, prosecutor's office representatives provided beneficiaries with information on their rights and gender equality issues.

In order to improve coordination between agencies, a multisectoral working meeting was held with organizations providing services to victims of violence against women and domestic violence. Representatives of both the public and non-governmental sectors working on issues of violence against women and domestic violence participated in the multisectoral meeting, also, specialized prosecutors and witness and victim coordinators of various territorial divisions of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia.

Specialized prosecutors held an information meeting with social workers of the State Care Agency. At the meeting discussion touched upon the process of protection, support and psycho-social rehabilitation of victims of violence, including minors.

Within the framework of the campaign, the Prosecutor's Office cooperated with a total of more than 20 international and local organizations, state agencies and private companies.

Based on an anonymous questionnaire, a survey of public attitudes towards gender-based and domestic violence against women was conducted in all regions of Georgia. 2303 citizens participated in the anonymous survey, of which 1665 were women and 638 were men.

The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia has been actively participating in the 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women for years. In 2022-2024, more than 65 events were organized by the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia.

In 2022, the main message of the campaign was to reduce sexual abuse against women. Specialized prosecutors held meetings with the local population, participated in events planned by the Georgian Government Administration and other authorities, and provided information to interested parties about the activities implemented by the Prosecutor's Office in this direction.

In 2023, in order to improve women's access to justice, ensure equality, and raise awareness, 31 events were organized by the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, including local council meetings held in 11 cities of Georgia. The sessions were held in Mtskheta, Gori, Rustavi, Marneuli, Bolnisi, Telavi, Akhalkalaki, Kutaisi, Zugdidi, Batumi and Ozurgeti. Representatives of various institutions, including: Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Science, local self-government, the executive branch, the National Agency for Crime Prevention, Execution of Non-custodial Sentences and Probation, the Agency for State Care and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Trafficking, NGOs and the Public Defender's Office participated in the sessions.

Within the framework of the campaign, which ran from November 25 to December 10, 2024, 33 events were organized by the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, of which 17 meetings were attended by the Prosecutor's Office's witness and victim coordinators and provided information to the population about the role of the coordinator's service in the process of protecting and supporting the rights of victims of violence. Representatives of the Prosecutor's Office held information meetings with the population throughout Georgia. They met with schoolchildren, teachers, students, doctors, and public officials. Meetings were held with representatives of ethnic minorities in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti, and with ethnic Azerbaijani youth in the village of Kabali, Lagodekhi district.

The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia has been actively participating in the Council of Europe's awareness-raising campaign "I Choose Equality" for the sixth year.

In 2022, a meeting with students was held at the General Prosecutor's Office of Georgia as part of the Equality Week. At the meeting, specialized prosecutors spoke about the legislative regulation of discrimination, hate speech and intolerance-motivated crimes and practical aspects of law enforcement. Students were given the opportunity to ask questions on issues of interest and relevance to them.

In 2022, two working meetings were held with representatives of the Akhaltsikhe Municipality and representatives of non-governmental organizations in Batumi, with the involvement of the Human Rights Protection Department. The participants of the meeting discussed national and international mechanisms. They also conversed on the improvement of cooperation between the state and non-governmental sector.

In 2023, prosecutors from the Human Rights Protection Department of the General Prosecutor's Office and Marneuli District Prosecutor's Office held an informational meeting with schoolchildren in the village of Sabirkendi, Marneuli District. The meeting aimed to raise awareness about crimes committed on the grounds of intolerance, as well as early marriage, violence against women and domestic violence.

In 2023, as part of the Equality Week, prosecutors from the Human Rights Protection Department and Tbilisi Prosecutor's Office hosted students at the General Prosecutor's Office of Georgia. At the meeting, the prosecutors discussed practical aspects of procedural supervision on cases of intolerance-motivated crimes, effective support for state prosecution in court and victim-oriented approaches.

In 2022-2024, specialized prosecutors and witness and victim coordinators of the prosecutor's office participated in the Tbilisi Open Air festival. In order to raise awareness among the public attending the festival, representatives of the prosecutor's office provided information to the interested parties about the reforms implemented by the prosecutor's office regarding intolerance-motivated crimes.

Awareness-Raising Activities of the Special Investigation Service

Since 2022:

- The Special Investigation Service held 8 informational meetings with the population in the regions of Kakheti, Adjara, Samegrelo and Imereti to raise public awareness. The purpose of the meetings was to provide information on the mandate and role of the Independent Investigation Service, as well as on ensure the protection of human rights through the effective investigation of cases of ill-treatment by law enforcement officers and the availability of services.
- Representatives of the Special Investigation Service held informational meetings with hundreds of students and pupils and introduced them to the structure of the Service, main functions, current topical issues, and important information to raise public awareness.
- The Special Investigation Service, together with the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia, conducted a public awareness campaign on the issues of invasion of privacy in 70 public schools in Tbilisi, Batumi, Zugdidi, Kutaisi and Telavi.
- In order to raise awareness, the Special Investigation Service held 2 regional meetings with local representatives of law enforcement agencies, NGOs, LEPL "State Care and Assistance Agency for Victims and Victims of Trafficking", Office of Resource Officers of Educational Institutions and Public Defender's Office in target groups, which concerned providing information to target groups about the authority of the Independent Investigation Service, notification and complaint mechanisms.
- In order to raise public awareness on the issue of invasion of privacy, the Service created a new module "Sextortion" (<https://sis.gov.ge/Sextortion>) on its official

website, which contains comprehensive information about sextortion as a criminal offense. Information about this was also published on the Service's official Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/sis.gov.ge>). The information was disseminated through news agencies and television.

- In addition, in order to inform all segments of society, the Service created 4 graphic video clips in this regard, in which representatives of the Service talk about the crime and specific recommendations for prevention. These video clips were posted on the Service's official website and Facebook page. Based on analytical data, since the victims of this type of crime are, in most cases, minors who have access to the Internet/gadgets and receive information through various Internet platforms, the Service has also posted these video clips on the official TikTok page.
- Representatives of the Special Investigation Service spoke about the Invasion of privacy - dangers and prevention 9 times through the Imedi TV Company, and image materials of the Special Investigation Service (photos, banners) were also presented;
- On Radio Imedi, the Deputy Head of the Special Investigation Service spoke about the purpose and functions of the Service, as well as the procedure for reviewing criminal case materials.
- In order to raise public awareness on issues of privacy violations, 7 videos were posted on Facebook and YouTube;
- About 200 informational posters were placed in the Tbilisi metro stations and buses;
- As part of the campaigns, 2,000 booklets were printed and distributed in Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages.

Within the framework of the information campaigns conducted, the participants of the meetings were provided with information about various forms of violence - physical, psychological, sexual, coercion, sexual harassment, stalking, intimate partner violence and so-called "honor" violence. Attention was also focused on the needs of victims - about legal protection, services available to victims, electronic bracelets and other measures to protect victims.

Additionally, during face-to-face meetings, information was provided on the rights of victims and the functions of the newly established Victims' Rights Protection Division, as well as what services the service offers to victims. A short video clip about the department, an information banner, and a release were also prepared and posted on the official website and social media of the Special Investigation Service, and distributed.

State Care Agency's Public Awareness Campaigns on Violence against Women and Anti-Trafficking

The State Care Agency is fully aware of the urgency and sensitivity of issues related to violence against women and actively promotes public awareness on these matters. The State Care Agency is involved in awareness-raising campaigns and informational events to

educate society.

Last year, from November 25 to December 10, 2024, the Agency once again participated in the global campaign aimed at raising public awareness about gender-based violence, promoting violence prevention, and publicizing the state services available for victims of violence. As part of the campaign, Agency representatives held around 75 informational sessions across various regions of Georgia. In addition, with the financial support of UN Women, branded informational materials were prepared and distributed.

Furthermore, within the framework of the campaign dedicated to the European Anti-Trafficking Day (October 18), the Agency organized 25 informational sessions, which were attended by more than 800 people.

The State Care Agency actively utilizes social media platforms and other communication channels to ensure information reaches a broad audience.

Awareness-Raising and Educational Initiatives Led by the Ministry of Justice

Raising public awareness in order to prevent violence against women and domestic violence is the top priority of the MoJ. To this end, a number of events were held during the reporting period. In particular:

⇒ In 2024, the Training Center of Justice of Georgia (the TCJ) under the MoJ, in cooperation with the UNDP (Leadership, Equality, Advocacy, and Democracy - LEAD initiative), conducted training cycle on the prevention of violence against women and domestic violence. The training covered the following topics: definition, characteristics and cycles of domestic violence; types of violence, including forced marriage, child marriage and sexual harassment; legal mechanisms for protection (criminal, administrative and civil); referral systems and victim support (shelters, hotlines, etc.). A set of 36 trainings with 677 participants took place for the representatives of the school administration and teachers; while 48 trainings were held for 960 schoolchildren living in the Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions. The trainings were conducted in Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages, reflecting the diverse linguistic landscape of these regions.

⇒ In 2024, 6 training sessions (with 88 participants) were conducted on violence against women for the general public via an online platform. The training was conducted in Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani Languages. Additional awareness raising training sessions were organized in Georgian Language in person (8 meetings, 177 participants).

⇒ In 2024, the TCJ created and implemented the training module for current employees of the MoJ system, which includes a session on an inclusive work environment with a focus on women and persons with disabilities. Overall, 273 persons from the respective system participated in the program during 2024.

⇒ In 2023, the TCJ organized trainings on the prevention of and response mechanisms to domestic violence and violence against women in public schools. Schoolchildren of 9th,

10th, 11th and 12th grades were eligible to participate. Throughout 2023, such meetings were held in 53 different schools, with the participation of 1403 schoolchildren. Additional 5 awareness raising training sessions were conducted for general public on violence against women (76 participants).

⇒ In 2023, under the framework of cooperation between the Council of Europe Office in Georgia and the TCJ, the project “Raising Awareness on Equality in the Adjara Region” was implemented. This initiative involved conducting seven trainings (up to 100 participants) in the Adjara region, focusing on the right to equality.

⇒ In 2023, the TCJ organized the training on the "Prevention of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace" which was attended by 27 employees of the National Assessment and Examinations Center. Participants became acquainted with the methodology of investigating cases of sexual harassment, the importance of considering the emotional factors of the victim and internal organizational mechanisms for the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace.

⇒ Moreover, antidiscrimination component is mandatory in every Labor Law module. From 2022 until the end of 2024, 111 attendees participated in 8 training sessions.

⇒ During the period of November 2022- March 2023 the MoJ held an essay competition and an exhibition of artistic works on the topics related to femicide.

⇒ A total of up to 200 students from 30 accredited higher education institutions in Georgia participated in the essay competition. The students had the opportunity to engage in an intensive lecture series, where they received information on the causes of femicide, local and international standards for crime prevention, and response mechanisms. Following the completion of the thematic lecture course, students submitted essays on femicide. The authors of the five best essays were invited to present their work in a conference setting. All competition participants were awarded symbolic gifts in recognition of their efforts.

⇒ Simultaneously, an art competition was held, open to anyone over the age of 16, including both professional artists and amateurs. Participants were invited to submit artistic works focused on themes of violence against women, domestic violence, and femicide. From the submissions, 20 artworks were selected by the project organizers and showcased in an exhibition at the Georgian National Archives, housed within the Ministry of Justice.

Outreach and Awareness Raising Initiatives by the Legal Aid Service

Informational Outreach Activities in 2022

1) In 2022, the Legal Aid Service conducted 63 community outreach meetings, attended by more than 3,000 individuals across Georgia. These sessions aimed to increase public legal awareness, with a particular focus on violence against women and domestic violence. Notably, both women and men were included in the target audience to promote inclusive engagement and societal awareness.

2) Participation in the Global Campaign Against Violence

From November 25 to December 10, the Legal Aid Service actively participated in the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. As part of its contribution to this international initiative, LAS representatives attended and conducted numerous public events and awareness-raising meetings across the country.

On November 25, 2022, a lawyer from the Batumi Legal Aid Bureau held a session in the “Women’s Room” in Keda Municipality. The objective was to inform participants about women’s rights, gender equality, and the prohibition of discrimination based on gender, and state protection mechanisms for victims of domestic violence.

On November 9, 2022, a consultant from the Gori Legal Aid Bureau participated in a meeting in the village of Shavshvebi, Gori Municipality. The event, organized by the Gori Municipality Gender Equality Council in cooperation with the EU Monitoring Mission’s Gori Field Office, brought together residents from nearby villages—including Tsitelubani, Natsreti, Shavshvebi IDP Settlement, Khurvaleti, and Nadarbazevi. The consultant, Ms. Nino Masurashvili, introduced participants to the criteria for accessing free legal aid and provided detailed information on LAS services. The session emphasized issues related to violence against women, the role of women in decision-making, and the importance of access to legal and psychological support, as well as the empowerment of women through education and employment.

On December 2, 2022, as part of the same campaign, LAS held a meeting with the Gender Equality Council of Khelvachauri Municipality, in collaboration with trained paralegals. The Head of the Batumi Legal Aid Bureau briefed participants on available free legal aid services and current projects implemented by LAS. The paralegals facilitated discussions on key legal issues affecting women, including inheritance rights, divorce procedures, labor rights, and the application of protective and restraining orders.

On December 23, 2022, a consultant from the Gori Legal Aid Bureau conducted an informational meeting with students and teachers of the public school in the village of Kere, located within a conflict-affected zone. During the session, the consultant provided comprehensive information on the services offered by the Legal Aid Service, with a particular focus on issues relating to violence against women, domestic violence, and the provisions of the Code on the Rights of the Child.

3) Implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2022–2024)

Within the framework of the 2022–2024 National Action Plan of Georgia for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, the Legal Aid Service organized six targeted consultation and information meetings. These meetings aimed to empower women and girls affected by conflict and ensure their access to legal support. The following sessions were conducted:

- ✓ In the village of Jariasheni, Gori Municipality (located along the administrative

boundary line), LAS representatives met with women affected by the conflict to provide information on their rights and access to free legal aid;

- ✓ In the village of Chorchana, Khashuri Municipality, LAS conducted a session on the eligibility criteria for accessing free legal aid, with a particular emphasis on cases involving violence against women and domestic violence;
- ✓ In the village of Kodistskaro, Kaspi Municipality, representatives of the Legal Aid Service held a meeting with local residents, covering the full scope of LAS services, as well as legal protections under the Law on Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence and the Code on the Rights of the Child;
- ✓ A session was held at the school in the village of Tkaia, Zugdidi Municipality, with the participation of teachers, students, and parents. The meeting addressed the scope of services provided by LAS and included discussions on domestic violence, gender-based violence, and child protection legislation;
- ✓ LAS representatives also conducted an awareness session with students and teachers of Public School No. 12 of Abkhazia, focusing on the availability of free legal aid, as well as the legal frameworks addressing violence against women, domestic violence, and the rights of the child.

Informational Outreach Activities in 2023

1) In 2023, the Legal Aid Service of Georgia (LAS) continued its commitment to increasing public legal awareness and expanding access to justice by conducting a total of 74 outreach and informational meetings, attended by approximately 4,000 individuals across the country.

During these meetings, the following legal issues were addressed:

- The structure and functioning of the free legal aid system in Georgia;
- Criteria and procedures for accessing legal aid services;
- The lawyer-client relationship and related ethical considerations;
- Issues related to violence against women and domestic violence;
- Enforcement of protective and restraining orders.

2) Participation in the 2023 Global Campaign “Against Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence”

From November 25 to December 10, 2023, as part of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, the Legal Aid Service actively engaged in awareness-raising initiatives throughout the country. Three major public events were held in Tbilisi, Poti, and Akhaltsikhe.

On December 8, a meeting was held at Mermisi College, where LAS representatives engaged with students and faculty to raise legal awareness concerning violence against women and domestic violence. Participants were educated on legal definitions, sanctions prescribed by

law, victims' rights, and mechanisms for preventing or mitigating harm. Individual consultations were also provided to interested attendees.

On November 29, LAS staff from the Poti Legal Aid Bureau participated in the screening of the documentary "Speak Up!" at the Poti Central Library. Following the screening, a presentation was delivered on the legal and social dimensions of violence against women and domestic violence. The event gathered a broad audience, including representatives from the Social Service Agency, municipal health and social protection offices, educational institutions, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

On December 10, in Akhaltsikhe, LAS held a session with local women, NGOs, and activists to raise awareness of available legal and psychological support services for survivors of violence. The event was supported by the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), Sweden, and UN Women, and included participation from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Agency for State Care and Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking and Victims of Domestic Violence.

In addition, from November 29 to December 1, 2023, a regional outreach initiative was implemented in Samtskhe-Javakheti, where LAS, alongside partners including UN Women, the Embassies of the United States and Sweden, and relevant state agencies, conducted meetings in Akhaltsikhe, Svir, Boga, Toloshi, Nakalakevi, Kartikami, Buzaveti, and Akhalkalaki. These meetings aimed to:

- Inform the public about violence against women and domestic violence;
- Explain available support mechanisms and legal remedies;
- Present LAS's new Mobile Legal Consultation Center, which offered on-site free legal consultations to community members following the sessions.

3) Implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2022–2024)

In 2023, the Legal Aid Service conducted four outreach and consultation meetings as part of the Government of Georgia's National Action Plan for the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security.

On March 17, the Head of the Gori Legal Aid Bureau participated in a meeting in the village of Nikozi (adjacent to the administrative boundary line). The event was organized by the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality and attended by representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Care Agency, and local authorities. LAS representatives discussed available legal aid services and legal protections against domestic and gender-based violence.

On May 15, a consultant from the Gori Legal Aid Bureau attended a meeting in the conflict-affected village of Tvaurebi, Kaspi Municipality. The session, also organized by the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, focused on educating the local population on the availability of free legal aid and legal recourses in cases of domestic violence.

On July 7, LAS participated in a similar outreach session in the village of Perevi, Sachkhere Municipality, held under the government's broader peace and integration strategy. LAS staff delivered a presentation on women's rights and domestic violence prevention, followed by a Q&A session with residents.

On September 29, representatives of the Zugdidi Legal Aid Bureau joined a meeting in Akhalabastumani, organized by the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Integration. The meeting focused on raising awareness of legal aid availability, with a particular emphasis on protections against gender-based violence.

Outreach and Awareness-Raising Activities in 2024

1) In 2024, the Legal Aid Service of Georgia (LAS) significantly expanded its public outreach efforts, conducting 121 legal awareness meetings nationwide. These meetings were attended by approximately 6,000 individuals and focused on a wide range of legal issues, including:

- The free legal aid system in Georgia and criteria for receiving assistance;
- Services provided by the Legal Aid Service;
- The lawyer-client relationship and legal ethics;
- Violence against women and domestic violence;
- Use and enforcement of protective and restraining orders;
- The principles of tolerance and equality;
- Non-discrimination and mechanisms for its elimination;
- Early and forced marriage;
- Juvenile justice and diversion programs;
- The legal status and rights of asylum seekers;
- Restrictions on property rights;
- Gender-based discrimination; and
- The role of shelters and crisis centers in victim protection.

2) Participation in the Global Campaign Against Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence

Between November 25 and December 10, 2024, as part of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, LAS conducted 12 targeted outreach meetings in the following locations:

1. Zugdidi – with beneficiaries of the NGO Association Mercury;
2. Zugdidi – with women under probationary supervision;
3. Ozurgeti – at the Ozurgeti Leadership School;
4. Village of Argveta, Sachkhere Municipality;
5. Village of Sarek, Sachkhere Municipality;
6. Chkhorotsku Municipality – with City Hall employees;
7. Tsalenjikha Municipality – with Council members;
8. Keda – with students of Black Sea College;
9. Keda – with beneficiaries of the Women's Room;

10. Telavi – with women under probationary supervision;
11. Kutaisi – with women under probationary supervision;
12. Batumi – with women under probationary supervision.

These meetings aimed to raise awareness of gender-based violence and provide practical information on available legal remedies and support mechanisms.

3) Implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2022–2024)

In accordance with Georgia’s National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, the Legal Aid Service conducted seven outreach meetings in 2024 in villages located along the administrative boundary line (ABL) and in internally displaced persons (IDP) settlements:

1. April 15 – Village of Bozhami, Kaspi Municipality;
2. April 18 – Town of Jvari, Tsalenjikha Municipality;
3. June 14 – Village of Qarkushaani, Dusheti Municipality;
4. July 30 – Village of Abano, Kareli Municipality;
5. September 9 – Village of Satsikhuri, Kareli Municipality;
6. August 13 – Poti IDP settlement;
7. August 30 – Village of Zemo Nikozi, Gori Municipality.

These meetings focused on disseminating legal information on gender-based violence, property rights, discrimination, and access to justice for women and girls affected by conflict.

4) Training of Legal Aid Service Staff on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

On August 1–2, 2024, a specialized training titled “Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the Georgian Context” was held in Tbilisi with the support of UN Women and funding from the Government of the United Kingdom. A total of 23 LAS public advocates, operating both in the capital and in regional bureaus, were trained to strengthen their capacity to provide gender-sensitive legal assistance in line with Georgia’s international obligations.

5) Consultations for Conflict-Affected Women and Girls, Including on Property Rights

In 2024, LAS held 23 free consultation meetings aimed at women and girls affected by conflict, including internally displaced persons. The meetings focused on legal protection from gender-based violence and support for property registration and ownership rights. Sessions took place in:

- Ozurgeti Municipality: Shemokhemdi, Nasakirali, Gurianti, Natanebi, Meria.
- Lanchkhuti Municipality: Ureki;
- Khobi Municipality: Akhal Khibula, Kheta, Khamiskuri, Kvemo Kvaloni, Kariata;
- Senaki Municipality: Zana, Nokalakevi, Khori;
- Martvili Municipality: Bandza;
- Kaspi Municipality: Bozhami

- Tsalenjikha Municipality: Jvari
- Dusheti Municipality: Qarqushani
- Kareli Municipality: Abano, Satsikhuri.
- Gori Municipalities: Zemo Nikozi;
- Poti IDP Settlement: first and second settlements.

These consultations were designed to provide accessible, free legal guidance to individuals in high-risk and marginalized communities, and to ensure that women in post-conflict and rural settings are aware of their rights and how to exercise them.

6) Implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Violence Against Women and Protect Victims (2022–2024)

Under Georgia’s 2022–2024 National Action Plan on Measures to Combat Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, the Legal Aid Service committed to the continuous professional development of its legal personnel. As part of this commitment, the August 1–2, 2024 training (described above) also served as the formal capacity-building measure under this action plan, targeting legal professionals with practical tools and a deepened understanding of gender-sensitive legal services.

Awareness raising at the Ministry of Finance

From 2022 to 2025, 17 employees of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia participated annually in working and awareness-raising meetings on gender equality issues.

Article 14: Education

10. Please provide a few examples of promising teaching or prevention programmes, materials, or initiatives for use in formal education (from pre-school to higher education) that:

a. educate children and youth about equality between women and men, the right to personal integrity, mutual respect and non-violent conflict resolution in interpersonal relationships, including the notion of freely given consent;

The Office of Resource Officers (ORO) actively continues implementing restorative approach in schools. This approach offers schools a new perspective focused not on punishment, but on restoring relationships, identifying and reflecting on needs, promoting mutual respect, and creating a friendly environment. The restorative approach includes many important components. Among them, it is essential to highlight the unprecedented project in Georgia’s educational sector – school mediation, which is one of the best mechanisms for responding to conflicts and resolving them constructively. The mediation

process is led by specially trained professionals from the Office of Resource Officers of Educational Institutions, and this year, with the support of the European Union, an additional 20 specialists were trained as mediators.

b. address some or all the forms of gender based violence against women and girls covered by the Istanbul Convention;

See relevant information under question 9, subtitle “Integrating Gender Equality and Violence Prevention in the Education System”, p. 36

c. promote the inclusion of digital literacy and online safety in formal curricula as foreseen under GREVIO General Recommendation No. 1 on the digital dimension of violence against women;

In 2024, the National Curriculum was revised. The updated version places increased emphasis on issues related to cybersecurity. Within the subject "Computer Technologies," students learn to follow cybersecurity standards. This includes understanding the importance of protecting their computer devices and personal information in both real life and virtual environments, as well as learning about online safety principles such as viruses, phishing, password protection, malware, cyberbullying, data protection policies, and legislation.

Students are also taught to adhere to cybersecurity norms and cyber hygiene practices. In addition, they acquire knowledge of secure programming practices and best practices in coding, including code structuring and documentation, version control, collaboration, cybersecurity, and ethical coding.

The National Curriculum also highlights topics related to ethical behavior in the digital environment, such as the protection of intellectual property (copyright), the legal and ethical consequences of cybercrime, and media literacy — specifically, the ability to assess the reliability of information obtained through the Internet and various media platforms and to think critically about it.

The enhancement of digital skills among school community continues through the National Center for Teacher Professional Development (TPDC) programs: "STEAM in Schools" sub-program, "Democratic Culture, Human Rights Education and School Network (eTwinning) Empowerment" sub-program, and the "Education E-house" sub-program. Among their many objectives, these programs aim to equip teachers and the wider school community with essential digital skills by providing them with a variety of educational resources and services.

The "STEAM in Schools" sub-program continues offering a variety of resources to teachers, where the integration of technology is essential for improving STEAM education and student outcomes. The STEAM lab continues to operate, supporting the professional development of Natural Science teachers and enhancing students' research skills through engineering components, basic computer programming (coding), and the use of an open-source computer platform with the Arduino microcontroller. In 2024, 40 STEAM clubs were active in Tbilisi and various regions of Georgia, with 3 additional clubs set up in Telavi (Kakheti), Rustavi (Kvemo Kartli) and Tbilisi in 2025. Each club has one lead teacher who, in collaboration with other teachers, carries out various integrated projects.

Within the "Education E-house" sub-program, uploading of various educational resources designed for the school at the Education E-house portal (<https://educationhouse.ge>) is in progress. Currently, the portal hosts up to 2,822 resources, with 688 uploaded in 2024 and 72 more added in January-March, 2025. Resources cover a wide range of topics, designed to familiarize beneficiaries with the goals and strategies of the education system, provide various teaching methods and guides, offer engaging student activities and provide useful information related to subject topics, as well as cross-curricular themes.

ETwinning Georgia continues to facilitate the participation of Georgian schools in the European Union's digital initiative, eTwinning. This platform enables approximately 6000 Georgian eTwinners to collaborate with peers across various European countries, fostering the exchange of experiences and the use of digital tools to develop joint educational projects. In 2024, the number of teachers participating in the eTwinning program increased by 600.

In 2024, 637 projects were launched on the platform. In terms of international experience sharing, 13 teachers participated in seminars and conferences held in various European countries.

Regarding professional development, in 2024, 85% of newly registered teachers received training through various training modules:

- "Working on the European School Education Platform and Initiating eTwinning Projects" – 577 teachers were trained.
- "Effective Management of eTwinning Projects on the European School Education Platform" – 100 teachers were trained.
- As of 2025, 50 teachers have registered, and 73 projects have been initiated. The registration process remains open, and teachers are joining every day. Starting in April, teacher training sessions are planned.

TPDC has launched the "Innovative Lesson in Digital Literacy" competition. The contest targets teachers who completed the training "Disinformation as a Challenge: Developing Critical Thinking in Schools", organized by the Communications Commission and TPDC

between 2021 and 2023. The competition aims to identify the best lesson or project focused on critical thinking and recognizing disinformation. The contest winners will be selected by a jury and awarded accordingly.

d. ensure that teaching material used in school does not convey negative gender stereotypes of women and men of all ages;

The national curriculum and the officially approved and authorized school textbooks (Grades I–XII), developed based on it, are free from any discriminatory content. In all subjects, to the extent possible, emphasis is placed on the role of women and their contributions in various fields during the textbook evaluation process. Respect for the principles of gender equality is one of the key criteria in the process of granting official approval to school textbooks.

e. offer tailored interventions aimed at preventing gender based violence and empowering all girls, including those at risk of intersectional discrimination.

Promoting Gender Equality and Preventing Discrimination across All Levels of Education

The “National Standards for Early and Preschool Education” emphasize respect for the diversity and differences of children, parents, and families, and ensure equal participation of every child in the educational process, regardless of their needs, or differences in gender, culture, ethnicity, religion, or any other characteristic. The standards set requirements under which educators and caregivers must interact equally with each child, in accordance with the principle of individualization — without making distinctions based on abilities, appearance, religion, age, ethnicity, social status, or any other feature. Notably, the standards explicitly state that children must not be discriminated against based on gender and that both girls and boys should be encouraged to participate in all types of activities.

The state standards are based on a child-centered approach and the principle of conducting the educational process through play. To support the development of social competencies from an early age, one of the intended outcomes is that the child freely engages in play with peers of different genders, backgrounds, and abilities.

The national curriculum implemented at the general education level is developed in accordance with the principles of equality between women and men. Gender equality is incorporated from the early stages of schooling. In the curriculum of the subject "Me and Society" (Grades III–IV), the concepts of equality (including gender equality) and stereotypes are among the key thematic categories to be studied. Students explore aspects of gender equality within the context of family, school, and community, using examples

that illustrate mutual respect and caring relationships.

For the basic level of education (Grades VII–X), a citizenship (civic education) curriculum has been developed, which places particular emphasis on raising students' awareness of gender equality and early marriage. This subject is centered on educating students about human rights, responsibilities, and the principles of democracy. One of the fundamental principles emphasized is equality, which implies that all citizens are equally valuable and should have equal opportunities and rights, free from discrimination based on race, belief, gender, or ethnic origin.

The curriculum also covers the issue of early marriage. This topic is addressed within the framework of civic awareness, personal development, and human rights. Specifically, early marriage is discussed as a potential violation of human rights and a barrier to individual development. Additionally, the curriculum introduces the key principles of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.

As mentioned above, on the vocational education (VET) level, the civic education module is a mandatory module of vocational education programs. The module takes a holistic approach to the teaching of civic education, emphasizing both the acquisition of factual and conceptual knowledge, as well as the development of essential skills for citizenship in a democratic society. The module covers basic human rights and freedom, including topics such as prevention of violence against women and domestic violence.

The Skills Agency, jointly established by the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia (MoESY) and Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is supporting implementation of non-formal and extracurricular activities at vocational educational institutions. The activities are oriented on development of various competencies and experiences of VET students. For instance, in terms of the competition for the development of extracurricular activities carried out by the Skills Agency, the project "Empowering Vulnerable Women and Students: Civil Rights, Healthcare and Education Systems" was implemented in 2025, which aimed to support vulnerable women and girls, increase their access to education and healthcare services, prevent risky behaviors, and raise awareness about reproductive health.

MoESY is developing Skills Hubs in Georgia at vocational education institutions - College Prestige (Telavi) and College Iberia (Kutaisi). In 2024, a comprehensive mechanism for the prevention of and response to sexual harassment was introduced in abovementioned institutions. This initiative aimed to support the creation of a safe and inclusive educational environment within VET institutions, free from violence, discrimination, and harassment based on sex. The implementation process was carried out in two key phases. During the first phase, the mechanism was developed in alignment with the organizational structures and strategic visions of the respective institutions. The second phase focused on capacity building: college staff received training designed to raise awareness among both personnel and students about sexual harassment, its prevention, and the procedures for activating the institutional response mechanism. Also, a gender-sensitive information campaign was

conducted at the hub colleges 'Prestige' and 'Iberia', the goal of which was to generate interest among potential students in vocational education and promote stereotype-free profession-related decisions among women and men. The campaign was carried out across two regions and included communities populated by ethnic and religious minorities. Furthermore, in several vet institutions kids' corners are available.

Higher Education Institutions carry out various extracurricular activities which aim to raise awareness on topics regarding violence against women and girls, its prevention, and the procedures for activating the institutional response mechanism. Various public lectures, discussions, projects and campaigns in this direction are held by HEI's where academic staff and students are involved.

Issues of early marriage, violence against children and women equality are discussed in the TPDC training modules. For more information see answer to question 9, subtitle: "Integrating Gender Equality and Violence Prevention in the Education System", p. 36

Promoting Education and Anti-Violence Awareness in the Penitentiary System

Within the penitentiary system, a public school operates for accused and convicted juveniles. Education is provided in collaboration with public institutions under the Ministry of Education, Science, and Youth of Georgia, following the national curriculum. The statistics are as follows:

- 2023 - 172 attendants (145 at the Public School, 27 passed external exams);
- 2024- 214 attendants (151 at the Public School, 63 passed external exams).

In addition, social workers of the SPS provide accused/convicted juveniles with various trainings within non-formal education activities, including: Civic Education, Human rights and Freedoms, Stigma and Discrimination, as well as campaigns against violence against women, etc. In 2023, 99 accused/convict Juveniles attended trainings, while in 2024 – 86 attended.

Importantly, VETCI ensures permanent renovation of the library located in penitentiary institution for female prisoners. For this purpose, the VETCI cooperates with academia, public institutions, private companies and civil society. Additionally, in cooperation with the Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Center a "Turkish Literature Corner" was organized in the aforementioned library and provided with upto 300 titles of Turkish literature in Turkish and Georgian languages.

Article 15: Training of professionals

11. Please complete tables I and II included in the Appendix in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the professional groups that receive initial and in service training on the different forms of violence against women and domestic violence. Please specify the frequency and scope of the training and whether it is compulsory.

Supplemental Information to tables I and II included in the Appendix

Trainings for the Resource Officers

Before being assigned to their duty stations, Resource Officers undergo a specially designed training course at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. Upon successful completion of the course and passing the required examinations, they are posted to public schools. This initial training is mandatory and aims to equip resource officers with the knowledge and skills necessary to work in educational environments, including awareness of issues related to violence against women/girls and domestic violence.

At the initial stage of their employment, social workers and psychologists undergo in-house training on various relevant protocols and methodologies, referral procedures, and other related topics. This training ensures that they are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively handle cases.

To prevent all forms of violence, the ORO (Office of Resource Officers) actively cooperates with international organizations such as the Council of Europe (CoE) to fight against discrimination, hate crime, and hate speech in Georgia. As part of this cooperation, the Human Rights Education programme has been developed for the ORO, targeting various professional groups. School Resource Officers (SROs), psychologists, and social workers receive training in human rights education through the framework of the CoE project.

Additionally, UN Women's EU-supported action, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in Georgia (EVAWGG), supports MoES in raising awareness among school personnel. A training module for teachers, principals, and SROs has been developed in close cooperation with the MoES and its relevant structural entities. This training covers all aspects of violence against women and domestic violence, along with the reporting obligations associated with these issues.

As part of the EVAWGG project, UN Women conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) for teachers and resource officers from general educational institutions. As a result, the trained resource officers have since provided training for an additional 900 resource officers during the 2022-2023 period.

Trainings for Employees of the Special Investigation Service

The Special Investigation Service actively cooperates with international organizations to increase the effectiveness of the fight against violence against women and domestic violence and raise awareness.

With the support of the Council of Europe (CoE) and UN WOMAN, 57 employees of the Special Investigation Service underwent training on “Investigation of Sexual and Domestic Violence Cases”.

With the support of the US Embassy, 8 employees of the Special Investigation Service underwent training on “Investigation of Domestic Violence, Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Violence”.

Since the establishment of the Special Investigation Service (March 1, 2022), various training activities have been planned and implemented for employees of the Special Investigation Service on the issue of violence against women and domestic violence.

Information on training provided to Special Investigation Service employees regarding this category of crime is provided in the form of Tables I and II attached to the questionnaire (GREVIO) (in English).

It is noteworthy that most of the trainings planned and organized for the employees of the Investigation Service were conducted with the support of international and local organizations working in the field of women's rights protection - the Council of Europe, UN Women, "Safari", etc. Most of the trainings covered legal and psychological aspects with the involvement of experts in the relevant field.

Trainings for Prosecutors

Mandatory and optional training courses on issues of violence against women and domestic violence are occasionally held for prosecutors.

The following mandatory training courses are worth noting:

1. Preparatory training course for interns - mandatory for all intern-investigators and intern-prosecutors. During the reporting period, 10 intern-investigators and 77 intern-prosecutors were trained.
2. Specialization course on domestic violence and domestic crimes - mandatory for all prosecutors, investigators of the prosecutor's office, witness and victim coordinators who exercise procedural authority in cases of this category. 276 employees are specialized in combating domestic violence and domestic crimes, including 39 managers; 202 prosecutors; 25 investigators of the prosecutor's office; 10 Witness and Victim Coordinators.
3. Specialization course on sexual offenses - mandatory for all prosecutors, investigators of the prosecutor's office, witness and victim coordinators who exercise procedural authority in cases of this category. 172 employees are specialized in

crimes against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability, including managers - 39; prosecutors - 99; investigators of the prosecutor's office - 16; witness and victim coordinators – 18.

4. Specialization course on hate crimes - mandatory for all prosecutors, investigators of the prosecutor's office, witness and victim coordinators who exercise procedural authority in cases of this category. 163 employees are specialized in intolerance-motivated crimes, including managers - 33; prosecutors - 102; investigators of the prosecutor's office - 12; witness and victim coordinators - 16.

12. Please specify if the expertise of women's rights organisations or specialist support services is integrated in the design and/or implementation of the training.

Interagency Coordination for Effective Prevention and Response

Coordinated work of various agencies operating in the country is of paramount importance for the implementation of prevention and response measures in the fight against domestic and/or violence against women. An important direction for the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia is coordinated cooperation with neighboring ministries and relevant institutions and organizations.

The Law “On the Prevention of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence, Protection and Assistance to Victims of Violence” defines a list of agencies implementing preventive measures, among which the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia plays the largest role. The timely and coordinated activities of agencies are also determined by the “National Referral Procedures for the Identification, Protection, Assistance and Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence” approved by the government in 2024.

Also, the coordinated work of agencies is determined by the Government Resolution No. 437 of 2016 on “Child Protection Referral Procedures”, which obliges subjects to inform law enforcement agencies in case of child abuse. Also, when conducting legal proceedings, the Ministry of Internal Affairs makes referrals to relevant agencies, including in the provision of services and providing shelter, in which area there is close coordination with the Ministry of Health.

Over the years, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been increasingly contacted by citizens regarding acts of violence, as a result of its constant readiness to cooperate with relevant agencies and organizations, including the Public Defender's Office.

The Human Rights Protection Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia receives information about alleged human rights violations both in writing and orally, both from individual citizens and from human rights organizations:

- An e-mail address has been created - adamianisuflebebi@mia.gov.ge, to which notifications about alleged violations of rights are sent. Information is also received from various state agencies, including the Public Defender's Office, the Bailiff's Office, the Social Service Agency, citizens, etc.
- It is noteworthy that both the Public Defender and representatives of various organizations, who share information about alleged facts of violence, have verbal communication with the employees of the Human Rights Protection Department.
- The Department can also be contacted through its official page on the social network - "Facebook" – “ადამიანის უფლებების დაცვის დეპარტამენტი” (Department for Human Rights Protection).

Involvement of Women’s Rights Experts in Prosecutorial Training

The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia periodically conducts targeted training activities, including with donor support, within the framework of which international and local experts working in the field of women's rights, with the status of invited expert trainers, share their practical experience with the participants of the training activities. Such cooperation contributes to the integration of modern approaches and practice-based knowledge into the content of trainings, which is an important prerequisite for an effective response to cases of violence against women and domestic violence.

Integration of Specialist Support Services in Judicial Training

Training “Violence against women and Domestic Violence” was held by High School of Justice with help of “UN Women” and its Generation Equality Program, and Council of Europe. Expert of “UN Women” -, explained different types of violence against women and described child victim. Specialist support services also was integrated in this training: Psychologist and experts of, analysed traumas of domestic violence and psychological impacts on victim children.

Role of International Organizations in Curriculum Design and Implementation

CoE’s involvement in the development of the Human Rights Education programme ensures that training is in line with international human rights standards, addressing equality, discrimination, and violence.

UN Women, through the EVAWGG initiative, has played a crucial role in the design and delivery of training modules for teachers, school principals, and school resource officers. Their expertise in violence against women and domestic violence is central to the content of the training, ensuring it is both relevant and sensitive to the needs of those working directly with students.

Thus, both international organizations like the CoE and UN Women have been instrumental in both designing and implementing the training, ensuring that professionals receive comprehensive, evidence-based education on preventing and addressing violence

against women and domestic violence.

State Care Agency's Collaboration with Women's Rights Organizations

Enhancing the expertise of specialists on violence against women is one of the State Care Agency's top priorities. To this end, the Agency actively collaborates with both local and international partners.

In 2024, Agency staff took part in several targeted training programmes.

- With financial support from UN Women and the Embassy of France, and organised by the local NGO Samtskhe-Javakheti Democratic Women's Organization, four social workers serving in ethnically concentrated regions completed a training course on "Violence Against Women and/or Domestic Violence."
- A representative of the State Care Agency's Analytics and Statistics Division participated in UN Women's "Local Storytelling, Global Change: Using Narrative in the Fight for Gender Justice" training program.
- At the initiative of the State Minister's Office for Reconciliation and Civic Equality—and supported by international partners—approximately 20 social workers from various regions of Georgia were trained in 2024 on strengthening women's participation in the civic integration process.
- In collaboration with World Vision Georgia and the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, 35 managers, social workers, and hotline operators were trained in managing problematic behavior and communicating with children who have experienced violence.

In 2022–2023, the following trainings were conducted:

- In cooperation with UNICEF, 14 psychologists and social workers were trained on the topic "Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Protocol," and 13 psychologists were trained on "Integrated Services for Children Victims of Violence."
- In collaboration with Global Rights for Women, 15 lawyers, psychologists, and social workers were trained on the topic "Improving the System to Combat Gender-Based Violence."
- As part of cooperation with UN Women, 14 psychologists were trained in practical skills for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and 23 lawyers and specialists were trained on the topic "Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence."
- In collaboration with UNDP, 34 specialists were trained on the topics "Violence and Discrimination Based on Gender and Sexuality" and "The Needs of Victims of Violence."

Article 16: Preventive intervention and treatment programmes

13. Please provide information on measures taken to increase the number of available preventive intervention and treatment programmes for perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence both for voluntary and mandatory attendance.

Violent Attitude and Behavior Change Oriented Training Course program (PRIA) is based on the best international practices and is founded on cognitive-behavioral therapy, a feminist / gender approach and a good life model. The PRIA program has been implementing in the penitentiary and probation system.

Within the penitentiary system, in 2023, 34 convicts participated in the program, including 1 individually. In 2024, 28 convicts were included in PRIA. In total, 100 convicts were offered to participate, but refused.

Additionally, "Assessment of the Impact of Adult Convicted Person's Probable Violence against Spouse/Partner and/or Other Person" Tool (SPAPRA)" was developed and piloted, which evaluates the number of people who are expected to be victims of violence and the possible harm.

As part of the campaign to prevent violence against women in prisons, large-scale information meetings are permanently held with convicts in the penitentiary. Specifically, in 2023 533 convicts participated in the meeting, in 2024 - 490 convicts.

In addition, the Probation Agency has been implementing various rehabilitation programs that are effectively utilized with beneficiaries, including:

- Equality Program - raising awareness about discriminatory attitudes and prejudices. This program is focused on promoting gender equality. The program was launched in 2022 (2023 - 0 participants; 2024 - 9 participants);
- Interpersonal Communication - improving interpersonal communication skills and facilitating the effective resolution of conflicts. This includes teaching mutual respect and non-violent conflict resolution. The program was launched in 2022 (2023 – 85 participants; 2024 – 123 participants);
- PRIA program- eliminating all forms of violent actions against partners or children and modifying violent behaviors and belief systems. The program targets gender-based violence against women and girls and covers aspects addressed by the Istanbul Convention (2023 – 76 participants, 2024 – 219 participants);
- Relapse Prevention-Oriented Psycho-Counseling: developing skills and coping strategies for the purpose of relapse prevention, crucial for the long-term success of changing violent behaviour. The program commenced in 2022 (2023 - 10 participants; 2024 - 17 participants).

14. Please provide information on measures taken to:

a. increase the number of men and boys attending perpetrator programmes for domestic and sexual violence;

In all personal reports/characterizations of convicts that are related to the preferential treatment or early release of a convict, the individual's willingness to participate in a behavior correction program is recorded—along with either the results achieved or their refusal to participate. This, in itself, serves as an indicator of the convict's motivation to change and provides important information for members of the local council (the body responsible for reviewing matters related to parole and sentence commutation) within the penitentiary system.

In addition to including this information in the reports, the practice of nominating graduates of behavior correction programs for incentives—as established by current legislation²⁶—has been introduced.

b. ensure that the perpetrator programmes apply standards of best practice

All rehabilitation programs implemented in the penitentiary system and aimed at fostering positive behavioral change among convicts are developed with the involvement of international experts and are based on international best practices. For example, the aforementioned PRIA program is based on the Spanish model, Intervention Programme for the Rehabilitation of GBV Perpetrators (PRIA and PRIA MA).

c. ensure the safety of victims and co-operation with specialist support services for victims;

Safety of victims from accused/convicted persons is provided in accordance with the “Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence and the Protection and Support of Victims of Such Violence” and the Criminal Procedure Code. For more detailed information refer to information under Article 56: Measures of Protection, p. 125.

Support services for victims are provided by various agencies. For more information refer to the answer to Question No. 25, p. 78.

d. ensure that the outcomes of the programmes are monitored and evaluated.

²⁶ Article 97, the law of Georgia, Penitentiary Code of Georgia, available at: <https://www.matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/6009420?publication=2>

A semi-structured questionnaire is integrated into the Violent Attitude and Behavior Change Oriented Training Course program (PRIA). Using this tool, the facilitator conducts interviews with the participant both before and after the program and assesses the outcomes of the program. It is also in the pipeline to develop and implement tools to assess the effectiveness of the behavior correction program.

Article 18: General obligations

15. Please provide information on any multi-agency co-operation mechanisms, structures or measures in place designed to protect and support victims of any of the forms of gender-based violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention (e.g., interdisciplinary working groups, case-management systems, cross-sectoral protocols/ guidelines...). Please describe:

a. the state agencies involved in their functioning (law-enforcement agencies, judiciary, public prosecutor, local authorities, healthcare services, social services, educational institutions etc.);

1. Interagency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

Under the auspices of the Administration of the Government of Georgia, a high-level interagency platform operates to develop and coordinate state policy on women's rights and the prevention of violence — the Interagency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. Established by Government Ordinance No. 286, the Commission plays a key role in aligning national efforts with international commitments on gender equality and the protection of women from violence.

Its mandate includes developing national strategies and action plans, overseeing preventive measures, and monitoring legislative implementation. The Commission fosters a comprehensive approach that addresses root causes of gender inequality and promotes societal transformation through awareness and education.

The Commission includes deputy ministers and equivalent high-ranking officials from the following state institutions:

- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Education and Science
- Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs
- Ministry of Infrastructure
- Ministry of Finance

- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development
- Ministry of Culture and Sport
- Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality
- Prosecutor's Office of Georgia
- State Care Agency
- Public Service Bureau (former)
- Geostat (National Statistics Office of Georgia)

Entities with consultative (non-voting) status:

- Public Defender (Ombudsman)
- Parliament's Gender Equality Council (former)
- Parliament's Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee
- High Council of Justice
- Special Investigation Service (former)
- Personal Data Protection Service
- Legal Aid Service
- Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia
- National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia
- National Communications Commission

Representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and international organizations may also be invited by the Chair to participate in Commission activities on an ad hoc basis.

On July 25, 2023, at a regular meeting of the Interagency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, the decision was made to establish two working groups under the auspices of the Commission:

- Working group on assisting the fulfillment of recommendations of international organizations (such as GREVIO and CEDAW);
- Working Group for elaboration of the Action Plan for the prevention of violence against women and domestic violence.

Both working groups include representatives from both state and non-governmental organizations.

Some of the examples of successful inter-agency cooperation within the frames of the Commission include the adoption of the "National Referral Procedures for identification, protection, support and rehabilitation of victims of violence against women and/or domestic violence" and the "Rule for Determining and Granting Compensation to Victims of Violence Against Women and/or Domestic Violence".

2. National Referral Mechanism

The “National Referral Procedures for the Identification, Protection, Assistance and Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence,” approved by the Government in 2024, define the responsibilities and cooperation of state agencies within a multi-agency framework. The procedures aim to ensure timely, coordinated responses aligned with both national legislation and international standards.

Participating agencies include:

- Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia
- Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia
- Ministry of Justice, including:
 - Special Penitentiary Service
 - National Agency for Crime Prevention, Execution of Non-custodial Sentences and Probation
- Special Investigation Service
- Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs, including:
 - State Care Agency, encompassing:
 - Shelters and crisis centers
 - Guardianship and custody bodies
 - Social Service Agency (LEPL)
 - Healthcare providers, including rural doctors
- Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia
- Legal Aid Service (LEPL)
- Municipal authorities

3.Center for Psychological and Social Services for Children Victims of Violence (BARNAHUS)

In 2020, the Government approved the concept of a Center for Psychological and Social Services for the Children Victims of Violence. The aim of the Center is to provide child victims with short and long-term psychosocial rehabilitation, prevent secondary victimization and conduct effective investigation. The preparatory procedures required for launching the Center started in 2021. This included setting up the infrastructure, purchasing the necessary equipment, development of SOPs and training of staff. The Center for Psychological and Social Services for Children Victims of Violence (BARNAHUS) was launched in Tbilisi, in March, 2022. This innovative first-ever Center in Georgia, is similar to so-called “BARNAHUS” model, which is well known in Scandinavian countries. Pursuing to the Standard Operating Procedures for the Center for Psychological and Social Services for Children Victims of Violence, the tasks of the center are:

a) protecting the best interests of the child;

- b) prevention of re-victimization and secondary victimization in the process of administration of justice and promotion of effective investigation, provision of coordinated cooperation of law enforcement and other agencies involved in the process;
- c) assessment of the child's needs by a multidisciplinary team;
- d) assessment of the child's mental health by a relevant specialist as needed;
- e) forensic medical examination of the child;
- f) short and long-term psychological-social rehabilitation of the child;
- g) connecting the child or his parent/legal representative with other necessary services;
- h) child survey/interrogation using an evidence-based approach;
- i) Provision of incident coordination and oversight by a multidisciplinary and multisectoral interagency team.

Besides, the Center for Psychological and Social Services for Children Victims of Violence should provide a coordinated response in order to prevent secondary/re-victimization of the child during the investigation process and should facilitate effective investigation, create a child-friendly, multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral approach that provides a child-friendly justice process on the basis of the "one window" principle.

b. whether they involve specialist support services provided by civil society organisations, especially women's rights organisations

Under Ordinance No. 286, CSO and international organization representatives may be invited by the Chair of the Interagency Commission to contribute to its work on an ad hoc basis. As mentioned, CSOs are included not only in the meetings of the Commission, but in its working groups as well. Additionally, in November 2021, in close cooperation with the UN Agencies, the Public Defender's Office, and the civil society sector, the AoG established the Interagency Coordination Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The committee is accountable to the Government of Georgia and ensures implementation of international and national obligations regarding the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, including the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In order to ensure the active engagement of the persons with disabilities, PDOs (Organizations of persons with disabilities) and the organizations representing persons with disabilities, the Committee established the Consultative Council. The members were selected based on their work experience on the rights of persons with disabilities. During regular meetings, the Committee and the Consultative Council routinely discuss matters concerning women with disabilities.

Cooperation with the non-governmental sector within the framework of the integrated Barnahus model can be highlighted in two main areas:

- Advocacy and Interviewing: Non-governmental organizations that advocate on behalf of alleged victims often refer cases to Barnahus so that interviews with minors

can be conducted in the center's integrated environment. This ensures that the process is child-friendly and involves a multidisciplinary team. This approach significantly reduces the child's secondary traumatization and promotes their safety.

- Psychosocial Rehabilitation: One of Barnahus's primary functions is the short- and long-term psychosocial rehabilitation of the alleged victim and their family. In this process, the non-governmental sector uses a referral mechanism, requesting that the center provide appropriate psychological and social support to the victim. This cooperation is crucial.

c. how they adopt a gender sensitive approach to violence against women, including the prioritisation of the safety of women and girl victims, their empowerment and a victim centred approach;

The National Referral Procedures are grounded in a gender-sensitive and victim-centered framework. The procedures emphasize the safety, dignity, and empowerment of women and girl victims as a core principle of interagency cooperation. They clearly delineate the roles and responsibilities of each participating institution in providing coordinated protection, assistance, and rehabilitation services.

To ensure a harmonized and effective approach across sectors, the document obliges all relevant institutions to revise or develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) that must reflect specific risks and needs, promote survivors' rights, and prioritize trauma-informed and respectful interventions.

In addition, the Center for Psychological and Social Services for Children Victims of Violence (BARNAHUS), established in 2022, is expressly designed to operationalize a child- and victim-centered approach. Its core mission is to minimize secondary victimization by providing all essential services—psychosocial support, forensic interviewing, medical care, and legal procedures—under one roof and in a safe, non-intimidating environment. The integrated setup ensures that the child interacts with trained professionals in a manner that protects their psychological wellbeing and supports their long-term recovery.

d. the financial and human resources dedicated to their implementation and

The functioning of the Interagency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence is supported by the Human Rights Department of AoG. The Department coordinates the elaboration of key policy documents with regard to the protection of human rights and prepares them for adoption, including “The National Action Plan for Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security” and “The National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Measures to be implemented for the Protection of Victims

(Survivors).” The Department supervises implementation of the mentioned strategic documents and prepares quarterly/annual reports as part of its monitoring function. Furthermore, as mentioned above, implementation of the Action Plans is supported through dedicated budgetary allocations within the respective institutions responsible for their execution.

The implementation of the “National Referral Procedures for the Identification, Protection, Assistance and Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence” does not entail additional resource requirements. The procedures are carried out by existing personnel within participating agencies, as part of their routine institutional duties.

In contrast, the establishment of the Center for Psychological and Social Services for Children Victims of Violence (Barnahus model) was made possible through significant financial and expert support from UNICEF and the Government of Estonia. The Center brings together law enforcement officers, forensic experts, psychologists, medical professionals, and social workers in a single, child-friendly setting—enabling a comprehensive, trauma-informed response to cases of sexual violence against children.

<i>e. any available information on the evaluation of their outcome or impact.</i>

The Interagency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence is tasked with overseeing the implementation of two national action plans:

The National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and the
The National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Measures for the Protection of Victims (Survivors).

The implementation reports are prepared by the Human Rights Department and approved at the end of each implementation cycle. The latest reports covered activities implemented in 2024. For more information, see response to question 1, p. 8.

In parallel, the performance and outcomes of the Barnahus center are continuously monitored to assess effectiveness and address possible gaps. Since the center's opening, Barnahus service statistics are as follows:

- In 2022: Services were provided to 186 beneficiaries (100 minors and 86 legal representatives).
- In 2023: Services were provided to 181 beneficiaries (95 minors and 86 legal representatives).
- In 2024: Services were provided to 219 beneficiaries (114 minors and 105 legal representatives).
- From January 1 to June 30, 2025: Services were provided to 136 beneficiaries (70

minors and 66 adults/legal representatives).

16. Please detail whether any such co-operation mechanisms or structures set up for the delivery of support services for a specific form of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention is based on a legal or policy document advocating for or requiring such approaches.

Georgia's multi-agency cooperation mechanisms for delivering support services to victims of violence against women and domestic violence are based on formal legal and policy frameworks that advocate for and require coordinated, multi-sectoral approaches, in line with the Istanbul Convention.

1) The Interagency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence was formally established by Ordinance of the Government of Georgia No. 286 of June 12, 2017;

2) The "National Referral Procedures for the Identification, Protection, Assistance and Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence" were approved by Ordinance of the Government of Georgia No. 14 on January 22, 2024;

3) The Concept of a Center for Psychological and Social Services for the Children Victims of Violence was approved by the Decree of the Government of Georgia No. 1825 of September 17, 2020 and associated SOPs were also officially approved internally by relevant state agencies.

17. Please explain whether all or some of the services of protection and support offered for victims of the different forms of violence against women are provided on the basis of a one-stop-shop approach.

The crisis centers and shelters operate under a "one-stop-shop" service-delivery model, designed to simplify and centralize beneficiaries' access to support. This approach applies equally to women and all other clients, ensuring services are more accessible and improving overall efficiency.

In addition, the Center for Psychological and Social Services for Children Victims of Violence represents a specialized "one-stop-shop" structure tailored to children. This center brings together law enforcement, forensic experts, medical staff, psychologists, and social workers in a single, child-friendly space. The aim is to ensure trauma-informed, coordinated support and avoid secondary victimization during investigation and rehabilitation processes.

Article 20: General support services

18. Please provide information on programmes and measures aimed at ensuring, through general services, the recovery of victims of violence, including in the health and social areas, financial assistance, education, training and assistance in finding employment and affordable and permanent housing.

The State Care Agency facilitates support for victims of violence against women and/or domestic violence through rehabilitation and social reintegration programs.

The State Care Agency administers six shelters and seven crisis centers, offering psychological, legal, medical, and other essential services. Victims may remain in shelters for up to ten months; three of these facilities (two in Tbilisi and one in Batumi) also serve survivors of human trafficking. In 2024, 250 people used the shelters, and 500 accessed services at the crisis centers.

Additionally, the State Care Agency implements the State Program for Social Rehabilitation and Child Welfare, which had a 2024 budget of 76,350,000 GEL—an increase of approximately 11 million GEL over 2023. This programme delivers social services to diverse groups, including victims of violence when needed.

To further protect beneficiaries' rights and promote their economic empowerment, the State Care Agency began collaborating in 2024 with the State Employment Promotion Agency. A memorandum of understanding was signed in February 2025. Although no specific job placements were recorded in 2024, this new mechanism establishes a foundation for future employment support.

Questions specific to the public health sector:

19. Have specific measures been taken to ensure that public health services (hospitals, health centres, other) respond to the safety and medical needs of women and girls victims of all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention on the basis of national/regional standardised protocols?

In 2018, the Ministry of Health approved a standardized form and algorithm for documenting cases of gender-based and sexual violence against women, through amendments to Order No. 01-41/n (2011 - On approval of the procedure for producing outpatient medical documentation) and Order No. 108/n (2009 - On approval of the procedure for maintaining inpatient medical documentation in medical institutions) of the Minister of Labor, Health, and Social Protection of Georgia.

20. Do such protocols detail the procedure to:

- a. identify victims through screening;*
- b. provide treatment for all the medical needs of victims in a supportive manner;*
- c. collect forensic evidence and documentation;*
- d. ensure that a clear message of support is conveyed to the victim;*
- e. refer to the appropriate specialist support services that form part of a multi-agency co-operation structure; and*
- f. identify children who may have been exposed to domestic violence or other forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and require further support.*

The above-mentioned documents detail the victim identification algorithm, and staff are trained to be able to convey a clear message of support and refer to appropriate specialized support services.

21. Please provide information on the procedures in place for the documentation and collection by actors of the public health sector of forensic evidence in relation to victims of domestic violence, victims of sexual violence, including rape, and victims of female genital mutilation.

The service provider is authorized to identify, assess, and appropriately document a patient who is a victim of gender-based and/or sexual violence against women by completing the “Documentation of Gender-Based Violence/Sexual Violence Against Women”. This form is completed in the following circumstances:

- ✓ The patient discloses a history of violence (self-identification), or during a medical examination, clinical symptoms or signs indicative of violence are observed—such as anxiety disorders, suicidal behavior, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, or physical indicators (suspicious injuries, bruises, cuts, ulcers, bite marks, burns—especially on the arms and face, etc.).
- ✓ The patient is alone with the physician and able to communicate in a language understood by the doctor. If interpretation is needed, first aid should be provided immediately, but questioning and further examination must be postponed until effective communication is established.
- ✓ When documenting physical and sexual violence, examination for signs of violence is conducted with the patient’s informed consent. The process involves initially examining parts of the body not covered by clothing, followed by a careful examination of covered areas. Any injuries found should be marked on a body map, relevant fields in the form completed, and, if necessary, additional descriptions provided.

- ✓ To prevent unwanted pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections (STIs), the victim of sexual violence should receive relevant services as soon as possible—preferably within 72 hours of the incident, or within five days if 72 hours have already passed. The corresponding sections of the form should be filled out, including a list of required measures and applicable timeframes.
- ✓ To provide medical care, a health certificate must also be completed, including a diagnosis code indicating sexual violence.
- ✓ For patient referral purposes, the documentation form must also indicate the outcome of the visit, whether a report was made to the police (112), information about the victim support hotline (116 006), and the applicable national referral procedures.

22. Are all women victims of violence, irrespective of any of the grounds listed in Article 4 paragraph 3 of the Istanbul Convention, in particular asylum-seeking women, refugee women, migrant women, women from national or ethnic minorities, women with irregular residence status, women with disabilities and LGBTI women, able to benefit on an equal footing from existing healthcare services? Please describe any measure taken to reduce legal or practical barriers to their accessing regular healthcare services.

In accordance with the Law of Georgia on Health Care, discrimination against patients is strictly prohibited on various grounds, including race, skin color, language, gender, religion, political and other views, national, ethnic and social affiliation, origin, property and rank, place of residence, disability, disease, sexual orientation, or personal negative attitude. This legal framework ensures that all individuals, regardless of their background or status, have equal access to healthcare services.

Beneficiaries of state healthcare programs encompass a broad spectrum of individuals, such as Georgian citizens, holders of neutral identity cards or travel documents, and natural persons legally residing in the territories of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region. These individuals must be registered in accordance with Georgian legislation and possess a personal identification number. Additionally, stateless persons with recognized status in Georgia, asylum seekers, refugees, and individuals with humanitarian status are entitled to benefit from these healthcare services.

Consequently, groups including asylum-seeking women, refugee women, migrant women, women from national or ethnic minorities, women with irregular residence status, women with disabilities, and LGBT women are afforded equal access to existing healthcare services. This inclusive approach aligns with international human rights standards and underscores Georgia's commitment to providing equitable healthcare to all segments of its population.

23. Please provide information on the measures in place to facilitate the identification and care of victims of violence against women in institutions for persons with disabilities and for the elderly as well as for those in closed reception facilities for asylum-seekers and to respond to their safety and protection needs.

The State Care Agency does not have a specific mandate for victim identification, its primary role is focused on providing support to victims. As such, the Agency does not maintain an official victim identification protocol or standardized questionnaire for general use.

However, tailored procedures are in place for beneficiaries seeking specialized services and for mobile teams responsible for identifying potential cases. In particular, the questionnaires (formal written procedure) used during admission to the Agency's Shelters include screening questions aimed at identifying risks related to gender-based violence.

The Agency places particular emphasis on ensuring appropriate and sensitive support for victims of violence with disabilities. To strengthen this effort, a set of specialized guidelines has been developed and approved for use by social workers.

Pursuant to the Agency Director's Order dated July 7, 2024, titled *"On the Approval of Working Tools for Social Workers in Cases of Violence against Persons with Disabilities,"* standard operating procedures have been introduced to support social workers in effectively identifying, assessing, and responding to cases of violence involving persons with disabilities. These procedures are designed to ensure the provision and coordination of tailored services, with particular attention to the needs of women and girls with disabilities.

In 2018, Georgia approved an algorithm aimed at identifying and providing care for victims of violence against women within specific institutional settings. This protocol applies to institutions housing persons with disabilities, facilities for the elderly, and closed reception centres for asylum-seekers. The algorithm offers detailed guidelines for victim identification and referral, ensuring that staff in these facilities are equipped to recognize signs of abuse and take appropriate action.

Key components of the algorithm include:

- ✓ Screening procedures to detect signs of physical, psychological, or sexual violence.
- ✓ Clear referral pathways to connect victims with appropriate medical, psychological, and legal support services.
- ✓ Training modules for institutional staff to enhance their capacity in identifying and responding to cases of violence.
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of the implemented procedures and make necessary adjustments.

This initiative aligns with Georgia's commitment to upholding the rights and well-being of

vulnerable populations, ensuring that victims of violence receive timely and appropriate care.

24. Please provide information on how the authorities ensure that different groups of women and girls, inter alia women with disabilities, Roma women and other women belonging to national or ethnic minorities, migrant women and intersex persons are fully informed, understand and freely give their consent to procedures such as sterilisation and abortion.

Taking into account international experience and the recommendations of the World Health Organization, and with the active involvement of field experts, the normative act titled “On Approval of the Rules for the Implementation of Artificial Termination of Pregnancy” was revised and aligned more closely with international legislation (Order No. 75/N of the Minister of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Protection of Georgia, dated October 26, 2023).

This Order regulates the indications for abortion, outlines diagnostic methodologies, and defines the distribution of responsibilities based on the competence of medical institutions:

- ✓ The types of medical services (outpatient or inpatient) required for different gestational periods and methods of abortion have been defined.
- ✓ The involvement of specialists in pre-abortion consultations, as well as their documentation in medical records, has been formalized.
- ✓ In cases where the mandatory 5-day reflection period (as outlined in Paragraphs 3 and 31) is violated, the regulation has been strengthened, and the doctor’s professional liability is enforced.
- ✓ It is now mandatory for service providers to involve a social worker and a psychologist in the doctor’s consultation process—upon the patient’s request—to provide counseling on family planning methods, both before and after the abortion.
- ✓ The updated list of medical indications for pregnancy termination beyond 12 weeks has been optimized
- ✓ Obtaining a formal conclusion from specialized medical professionals is now required when deciding to terminate a pregnancy beyond 12 weeks.
- ✓ Clinic heads are now obligated to organize a commission-based review involving relevant medical specialists for pregnancy terminations exceeding 12 weeks

Based on the above, the existing regulations promote family planning, protect the rights of individuals of reproductive age, help prevent unwanted pregnancies, and ensure access to safe abortion services.

These regulations apply equally to all groups, including women and girls with disabilities, women from national or ethnic minorities, migrant women, and others.

As part of the referral service program, victims of sexual violence are provided with post-

coital contraception, as well as testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Article 22: Specialist support services

25. Please describe the type of specialist support services dedicated to women victims of the forms of gender-based violence covered by the Istanbul Convention (e.g., stalking, sexual harassment and domestic violence, including their digital dimension, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, forced sterilisation, forced abortion), including those specialist support services providing:

- a. shelters and/or other forms of safe accommodation*
- b. medical support*
- c. short- and long-term psychological counselling*
- d. trauma care*
- e. legal counselling*
- f. outreach services*
- g. telephone helpline*
- h. other forms of support (e.g. socio-economic empowerment programmes, online assistance platforms etc.)*

Services Provided by the State Care Agency

As noted above, the State Care Agency administers six shelters and seven crisis centers providing psychological, legal, medical, and other essential services.

In 2024, services delivered in shelters were distributed as follows:

- Psychological assistance: 139 beneficiaries
- Legal assistance: 118 beneficiaries
- Social assistance: 92 beneficiaries
- Medical assistance: 61 beneficiaries

Meanwhile, in 2024 crisis centers provided:

- Psychological assistance: 166 beneficiaries
- Legal assistance: 180 beneficiaries
- Social assistance: 131 beneficiaries
- Medical assistance: 32 beneficiaries

Additionally, the Agency operates two helplines from its central office for counselling purposes:

- Violence Victims' Hotline: 116 006
- Children's Assistance Hotline: 111

Since relocating the helplines to the State Care Agency's central apparatus in 2024, the efficiency of information intake and response mechanisms has improved significantly, alongside better coordination with all structural units. Services are available in Georgian, English, Ukrainian, Russian, Turkish, Azerbaijani, Armenian, Persian, and Arabic.

Legal Aid for Women and Victims of Domestic Violence

The Legal Aid Service of Georgia continues to fulfill its mandate by providing free legal consultations and legal assistance in criminal, civil, and administrative cases. As defined by Georgia's Law on Legal Aid, services fall under two primary categories: legal consultations and legal aid. In line with its legislative mandate, the Legal Aid Service guarantees that "at any stage of criminal proceedings, a victim of a domestic crime under Article 111 of the Criminal Code of Georgia or a victim of domestic violence under Article 126¹, who is considered insolvent according to the Law on Legal Aid, shall have the right to free legal aid if a privately hired lawyer is not involved in the case." Furthermore, even if the victim is not officially considered insolvent, free legal aid is still granted if their hired lawyer is not involved and any of the following conditions are met:

- a) Within the past 12 months, the individual's taxable income did not exceed 6,000 GEL; the balance in their Georgian commercial bank accounts at the time of application does not exceed 500 GEL; and the total turnover of those accounts over the last 90 days is not more than 1,500 GEL. If the person holds multiple accounts, the combined amounts are taken into consideration.
- b) The person is in a difficult financial situation, as assessed and confirmed by criteria established by the Legal Aid Council.

In addition to its general legal aid responsibilities, the Legal Aid Service provides specialized support services for women who are victims of gender-based violence as defined by the Istanbul Convention. These services are accessible through 18 Legal Aid Bureaus and 42 Consultation Centers across the country, as well as a mobile consultation center that reaches remote and underserved communities. All centers provide free legal consultations, legal representation, and tailored support to affected women.

To increase accessibility and outreach, the Legal Aid Service also operates online and through social media. Its official website, www.legalaid.ge, offers legal information, self-help resources, and service updates. Social media channels including Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube are actively used to raise legal awareness and engage with the public. In 2024 alone, 30,359 legal inquiries were received and answered through Facebook Messenger Chat, which is a key tool for real-time legal advice.

Finally, women in urgent need of legal assistance can access immediate support via phone

through the Legal Aid Service's helplines: +995 (32) 293 20 90 and +995 (32) 298 84 93, ensuring comprehensive and timely support to all eligible beneficiaries.

Role of the Witness and Victim Coordinator Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

In order to reduce the stress caused by the crime, prevent revictimization and secondary victimization, and ensure the awareness of victims/victims during the investigation stage, the institution of the Witness and Victim Coordinator was newly established with the amendments made to the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia on June 22, 2021.

As a result of the above, in order to ensure the protection of the interests of witnesses and victims, the scope of the named institution was expanded, and it became possible to involve the coordinator in the criminal process even by decision of the investigator (at the investigation stage).

Following the above-mentioned change, from May 1, 2024, the Witness and Victim Coordinator Service was structurally subordinated to the Human Rights Protection Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

The functions and duties of the Service include coordinating the activities of the Ministry's Witness and Victim Coordinators. Along with other functions defined by Georgian legislation, in accordance with the procedure established by the Ministry's Witness and Victim Coordinator, the Service ensures the following:

- Providing information to the witness and victim about the decisions made by the investigator and the investigative and procedural actions taken by them, as well as the progress of the investigation;
- Explanation to the witness and the victim, in a language they understand, of their rights and obligations, as well as of the legal procedures related to the investigation;
- Attending investigative and procedural actions conducted with the participation of the witness and the victim during the investigation in order to provide emotional support to them;
- Provision of the information to the witness and victim about the legal, psychological, medical and/or other services they need and, if necessary, assisting them in contacting the relevant authority/organization, etc.

Role of the Witness and Victim Coordinator Service of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia

The goal of the witness and victim coordinator service of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia is to facilitate the participation of witnesses and victims in the legal proceedings, reduce the stress caused by the crime, to prevent re-victimization and secondary victimization. In addition, they ensure the awareness of witnesses and victims during the investigation and court proceedings, and, if witnesses and victims need shelter, psychological, legal or medical assistance, refer them to relevant service providers / help them connect with relevant

service providers.

In 2022, witness and victim coordinators were involved in 1454 cases prescribed under Articles 11¹ (domestic crime) and 126¹ (domestic violence) of the CCG. Witness and victim coordinators were also involved in 109 cases regarding crimes against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability, prescribed under Articles 137-141 of the CCG.

In 2023, coordinators most frequently provided assistance to witnesses and victims of domestic violence and threats in domestic context. In particular, in 2023, coordinators were involved in 1825 cases under Articles 11¹ (domestic crime) and 126¹ (domestic violence) of the CCG, where they provided support to 2560 victims/witnesses, of whom 2169 were women and 391 were men.

In 2023, witness and victim coordinators of the the prosecutor's office were involved in 1982 cases of violence against women, where they provided support to 2050 victimized women.

Compared to 2022, the involvement of witness and victim coordinators in cases of crimes against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability has increased. In particular, in 2023, coordinators were involved in 166 cases prescribed under Articles 137-141 of the CCG (crimes against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability), where they provided support to 287 victims/witnesses, of whom 239 were women and 48 were men.

In 2023, coordinators were involved in 519 cases of intolerance-motivated crimes, where they provided support to 544 victims, of whom 527 were women and 17 were men.

In 2024, as in previous years, the involvement of witness and victim coordinators in cases of domestic violence and domestic crimes was high. In particular, in 2024, coordinators were involved in 1721 cases prescribed under Articles 11¹ (domestic crime) and 126¹ (domestic violence). Coordinators provided support to 2227 victims/witnesses of domestic violence and domestic crime, including 1968 women and 309 men.

In 2024, witness and victim coordinators were involved in 1714 cases of violence against women, where they provided support to 1916 victimized women.

In 2024, the involvement of witness and victim coordinators in cases of crimes against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability has increased. Within the framework of 174 cases prescribed under Articles 137-141 of the CCG (crimes against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability), coordinators provided support to 312 victims/witnesses, including 260 women.

In 2024, the involvement of witness and victim coordinators in cases of intolerance-motivated crimes remained high. Coordinators were involved in 521 cases of intolerance-motivated crimes, where they provided support to 577 victims, of whom 550 were women and 27 were men. Out of 577 victims, 558 were victims of crimes committed on the grounds

of gender-based intolerance.

In order to maximize the practical realization of victims' rights, protect victims from secondary victimization, and increase their awareness, by order of the Prosecutor General of Georgia dated September 16, 2024, witness and victim coordinators of the Prosecutor's Office are required to participate in cases of femicide, gender-based violence against women, sexual offenses and domestic crimes, crimes against minors, human trafficking, and intolerance-motivated crimes.

The website of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia has published reports on the activities of the Witness and Victim Coordinator Service for 2022, 2023 and 2024 , as well as contact information according to the bodies and structural units of the Prosecutor's Office, in Georgian and in English.

The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia operates a telephone hotline - (032) 2 405 222, which allows any citizen to contact and report a crime.

With the active participation of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, on the basis of the Law of Georgia "On Prevention of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence, Protection and Assistance to Victims of Violence", the "National Referral Procedures for the Identification, Protection, Assistance and Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence" were developed, which was approved by Resolution №14 of the Government of Georgia of January 22, 2024. National Referral Procedures envisages determining a set of measures that will facilitate the identification, protection, assistance and support of the victims of violence against women and domestic violence, and the prevention of secondary victimization.

Rehabilitation-Resocialization and Economic Empowerment of Female Prisoners

Supporting female prisoners by way of ensuring their rehabilitation-resocialization and economic empowerment is an important priority for the penitentiary system. Since 2020, a questionnaire has been implemented for the initial screening of victims of gender and domestic violence in line with the Order No. 402, 2020 of the Minister of Justice. This tool is completed for all the female convicts and allows for the early identification of female prisoners, who have experienced violence and thereby design measures to address their specific needs.

The screening questionnaire is divided into two parts: “Domestic Violence” and “Violence against Women”. With the consideration of the final scores the following services are available:

- Raising awareness;
- Transfer of the convicted person to the relevant rehabilitation program in the penitentiary institution;

- Provision of immediate psychological assistance.

In this regard, the following services are available for women convicts in the penitentiary system: case management, women's motivation program "Kalga", information meeting on domestic violence and violence against women and existing services and psychological service.

Women convicts are involved in vocational education aimed at their economic empowerment:

- Business education;
- Make-up/Visage Course;
- Cosmetology;
- Stylist;
- Weaving curtains and carpets;
- English language online learning course;
- Beekeeping;
- Entrepreneurship;
- Tax Legislation.

In accordance with the Sports Management Strategy implemented within the penitentiary system and in cooperation with the Teaching University of Physical Education and Sport, the training program for inmates to become certified instructors has been launched. Upon successful completion, participants will receive certification, enabling them to be employed, both within the institution and as after the release in the broader community as:

- Basketball coaches;
- Table Tennis coaches;
- Volleyball Training Groups.

With regard to the employment of prisoners:

- A sewing factory was set up in the facility, where women convicts sew and manufacture products necessary for the penitentiary system (such as uniforms, bed sheets, pillowcases and etc.). 23 female convicts are employed at the factory;
- Female convicts learn how to cultivate strawberries, raspberries and flowers in the greenhouse;
- Female convicts are also employed in the penitentiary institution's cafeteria and shop;
- The penitentiary facility has workshops in various directions (textile, embroidery, woodworking, ceramics, epoxy, carpet weaving), where women are employed and sell the created products in the re-market;
- Female convicts are involved in the economic service in the penitentiary system.

Statistics of enrolment for 2023-2024

Training Type	2023	2024
Psycho-social Rehabilitation Programs	153	110
Psycho-social Trainings	109	79
General Education	1	9
Higher Education	6	13
Professional Education	159	331
Cultural Events	135	75
Sports Events	86	151
Other Events	226	154
Vocation/Employment/Recreation	166	256
Total	1041	1178

In 2023, the play *Angels Fly Over the Prison* was performed with the participation of 19 convicts. This one-act play was entirely created by the inmates themselves - they wrote the script, directed the production, and designed the props, artwork, and promotional materials. Remarkably, the play was staged outside the penitentiary and performed at both the Akhmeteli Drama Theatre and the Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre.

On July 31, 2023, an exhibition of handmade items by female inmates was held in an open exhibition space in Rustavi. The event aimed to encourage and empower incarcerated women while supporting their reintegration into society upon release.

In another noteworthy initiative, clothing designed by inmates within the penitentiary system was showcased at the International Fashion Week in Venice on June 8, 2024. As part of the VENEZIA INTERNATIONAL FASHION CONCERT 2024, both female and male Georgian convicts presented 12 fashion designs, including accessories crafted from leather and felt. A total of 8 female inmates participated in the project.

On October 9, 2024, a fashion show featuring designs by female convicts was held at the Wyndham Grand Tbilisi. The initiative to introduce these designs to the public was led by the "Leader Women's Society." The event showcased 20 fashion models wearing accessories created by incarcerated women and was attended by representatives of the fashion industry and various organizations. A total of 23 female inmates contributed to the project.

Additionally, the VETCI provides professional training and retraining opportunities for female convicts. The following activities were carried out:

In 2022:

- Program "Volunteer Teacher" - Within the framework of the "Volunteer Teacher" program language courses were conducted in the N5 Women's penitentiary

institution and 28 female convicts underwent training in Georgian, Italian and French;

- “Professional Orientation” - In cooperation with the LEPL State Agency for Employment Promotion, in order to develop key competencies of convicts, provide professional training/retraining and improve the professional qualifications of job seekers, professional counseling and career planning services were provided to 35 female convicts of the N5 Women's Penitentiary Institution;
- Courses in Key Competencies - In cooperation with the LEPL State Agency for Employment Promotion, in 2022 the Center implemented “Training in Entrepreneurial Competencies”, in which 12 female convicts participated. 8 convicts successfully passed the test;
- Formal vocational training/retraining courses - In cooperation with the Modus College, a “Sewing Specialist” training course was held in Women’s N5 Penitentiary Institution which was attended by 30 convicts;
- Public speaking and effective communication skills training - the training was carried out in cooperation with a volunteer trainer. 35 convicts participated in the course;
- 8 vocational/educational courses were held with the support of the Association "Women and Business" in Women’s N5 Penitentiary Institution, namely:
 - ✓ Stylist training course - 25 convicts participated;
 - ✓ Tailoring and sewing course - 20 convicts participated;
 - ✓ Agronomy profession training course - 17 convicts participated;
 - ✓ Computer training course - 12 convicts participated;
 - ✓ Fundamentals of entrepreneurship - How to start your own business - 12 convicts participated;
 - ✓ Gender mainstreaming and human rights-based approaches - Bangkok Rules - 14 convicts participated;
 - ✓ Labor rights and job search skills - 10 convicts participated;
 - ✓ Civic education - 24 convicts participated.
- Training "Gender Equality" - With the support of the Vocational Training Center "Redline" a training on gender equality was held and attended by 15 female convicts;
- Meeting “Effective Communication and Business Development Using Social Media and Modern Technologies” was conducted with the support of the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) and was attended by 16 female prisoners.

In 2023:

- During the “Volunteer Teacher” program one female convict participated in the individual English language online training course;
- In cooperation with the “International Coaching Association”, the training course was held in Women’s N5 Penitentiary Institution and 16 convicts participated;

- In cooperation with Tbilisi Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Center a masterclass on felting techniques was held in Women's N5 Penitentiary Institution and 27 female convicts participated;
- “Sewing Products Specialist” training course was attended by 15 female convicts;
- “Georgian Carpet and Rug Weaving” - in cooperation with LEPL College “Mermi” 10 female convicts participated in the training program;
- “Entrepreneurship - How to adapt a product to the consumer” - in cooperation with the “Crystal” Foundation 18 female convicts completed the training program;
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia a beekeeping course was held in Women's N5 Penitentiary Institution and 39 female convicts participated in the training program;
- In cooperation with LEPL College “Mermi” 10 female convicts completed stylist training program;
- In cooperation with “Redline” LLC a meeting and discussion on women's rights was held with 28 female convicts;
- “Emotional Intelligence and Success Mentoring” - in cooperation with “School of Success”, weekly sessions (6 sessions) were held for 40 female convicts.

In 2024:

- A Turkish language course was held in cooperation with the Yunus Emre Turkish Culture Center and 18 female convicts participated in the course;
- In cooperation with the Yunus Emre Turkish Culture Center of Tbilisi, a training course on painting on water (Ebru) was held at Women’s Penitentiary Institution and 55 convicts participated in the course;
- During the grant program of the MoJ a small epoxy workshop was organized in Women’s Penitentiary Institution and 50 female convicts were involved in the program. Female convicts employ in the epoxy enterprise and sell their products through the store “Re-Market”;
- In cooperation with the LEPL Revenue Service of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia courses on customs legislation were held in Women’s Penitentiary Institution and 50 female convicts participated in the course;
- “Sewing Products Specialist” - in cooperation with LEPL College “Modus” a training course was held and 25 female convicts were involved in the training program;
- “Georgian Carpet and Rug Weaving” training course was implemented in cooperation with the LEPL College “Mermi” and 20 convicts participated in the training program;
- In cooperation with the LEPL of the Ministry of Agriculture - Environmental Education and Information Center training courses on the care and cultivation of strawberries in open ground were held in Women's Penitentiary Institution and 8 female convicts participated;
- Within the partnership with College "Modus" 5 female convicts attended the course of decorative flower care;

- With the support of the Association of Women Entrepreneurs "Ave" a partnership was established with the company "HR Space" and a "Career Planning and Consulting Course" was held in Women's Penitentiary Institution and 13 female convicts participated;
- 17 female convicts participated in Guide to Women's Financial Independence course organized with the National Bank of Georgia;
- In cooperation with LEPL College "Modus" 30 female convicts completed tourist guide courses;
- "Constructive and technological processing of women's headwear" course was attended by 11 female convicts;
- The training course "stylist" was attended by 10 female convicts;
- In collaboration with "Natalie Academy" a make-up course was held at Women's Penitentiary Institution and was attended by 17 female convicts.

Additionally, to promote economic empowerment and rehabilitation/resocialization of female convicts, the VETCI implemented a number of projects/activities. In particular:

- The shop "Re-Market" was opened on July 1, 2022. Convicts including female convicts were involved in this project. The Re-Market²⁷ store sells jewelry (beads, bracelets), epoxy products, paintings, embroidery and felt products made by female convicts, as well as flowers grown in greenhouses. During 2023-2024, the handmade items were exhibited 32 times;
- In 2022, in cooperation with the NGO "Farmers' Association" the flower greenhouses in Women's Penitentiary Institution were renovated. In 2022, 6 female convicts were employed, who brought up to 7,000 potted flowers and received appropriate remuneration. As for 2023-2024, 10 female convicts participated in this project. It is crucial to underline that the flowers grown by female convicts are used in the MoJ system to create gifts to celebrate Women's Day and Mother's Day;
- Creating New Year's toys - with the support of the Association of Women Entrepreneurs "Ave" and the brand "Atabata" 9 convicts were employed in the project. The convicts made handmade Christmas tree toys and received appropriate compensation;
- Raspberry Orchard Project - A raspberry orchard was established in the spring of 2024, employing 10 female convicts. The convicts received appropriate compensation for the agricultural work and maintenance of the orchard.

26. Which type of specialist support service includes child psychologists or other professionals specialised in supporting children who have been exposed to domestic violence, including violence perpetrated by one parent against the other?

When domestic violence is identified in school settings, the Office of the Resource Officers

²⁷ Additional information is available at: www.re-market.ge

of Educational Institutions notifies the police and refers the case to the care agency for additional assistance and intervention.

One of the State Care Agency's most significant achievements has been the establishment of the Center for Psychological and Social Services for Children Victims of Violence (BARNAHUS). Launched in Georgia in 2022, the Center is designed to rehabilitate child survivors and ensure a coordinated, multidisciplinary response that prevents re-victimization. Operating on a one-stop-shop model, Barnahus delivers child-focused psycho-social rehabilitation services alongside streamlined, child-sensitive justice processes.

In the penitentiary system, all juvenile convicts are involved in the case management process, which includes evaluation and provision of services according to their individual needs. All specialists working with children undergo a specialization course in juvenile justice, which includes a module on violence against children with the following content: forms of violence against children, causes, signs of identification of child victims of violence, characteristics of communication. In 2023, 30 specialists were trained and in 2024 – 36.

The Probation Agency mandates a specialized training course for all staff members who work with juveniles. Furthermore, all specialists, particularly social workers and psychologists, who are responsible for implementing rehabilitation programs, receive comprehensive training through a specific 'Training of Trainers' program for each rehabilitation program. This ensures the effective implementation of their duties.

The following data represents the number of trained specialists in 2023-2024:

In 2023:

- Specialization in Juvenile Justice - 24 participants;
- Professional Burnout - 34 participants.

In 2024:

- Specialization Course in Juvenile Justice - 14 participants;
- Training of Trainers on "Alcohol Dependence Rehabilitation Program" - 10 participants;
- Training of Trainers on "Interpersonal Communication" - 16 participants;
- Training of Trainers on "Understanding Offending Behavior" - 20 participants;
- Training of Trainers on "Art Therapy" - 5 participants;
- Professional Burnout Prevention - 18 participants.

<p><i>27. Do specialist support services exist that cater to the specific needs of migrant women and girls or those belonging to national or ethnic minorities who are victims of violence</i></p>
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against women, including women and girls seeking asylum and those granted refugee or international protection status?

The services provided by the State Care Agency apply to female victims of violence in the mentioned categories (Article 20: General support services):

- Migrant women and girls;
- National or ethnic minorities who are victims of violence against women;
- Women and girls seeking asylum;
- Granted refugee or international protection status.

As mentioned above, within the framework of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, the Witness and Victim Coordinator Service operates, the main function of which is to support the victims. The coordinator prioritizes communication with victims of domestic violence and violence against women, and informs them about various victim support services available in the state. It is worth noting that all services defined by the mandate of the Witness and Victim Coordinator can be used by migrant women seeking asylum, receiving international protection, etc.

It is also worth noting that the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs periodically holds meetings with asylum seekers and persons with international protection on the topic of violence against women and domestic violence. For example, with the involvement of relevant departments of the Ministry, meetings were held with asylum seekers and persons with international protection on the topics of violence against women and domestic violence, as well as trafficking in human beings. The participants of the meetings were provided with information about the legislation in force in Georgia, the practice of combating these crimes, approaches and state services for the protection of victims.

In 2024, the Training Center of Justice of Georgia conducted training sessions on the prevention of violence against women and domestic violence for national minorities in Georgia, in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. Overall, 9 Armenian training sessions and 19 Azerbaijani training sessions were held, with 123 and 357 participants respectively.

Article 25: Support to victims of sexual violence

28. Please indicate if any of the below services are available in your territory:

a. sexual violence referral centres (e.g. specialist support services offering immediate medical care, forensic examination and crisis intervention to victims of sexual violence);

b. rape crisis centres (e.g. specialist support services offering long-term counselling, therapy and support to victims of sexual violence regardless of whether the sexual violence occurred recently or in the past);

c. any other specialised services offering short-term and/or long-term medical, forensic and psycho-social support to victims of sexual violence.

While the crisis centers and shelters operated by the State Care Agency are not formal referral centres, they do offer immediate support services to individuals who have experienced sexual violence. Access is granted to survivors who have either been officially recognized as victims under the Criminal Code of Georgia or have self-reported an incident of sexual violence within the last 36 months. When necessary, beneficiaries' risks and needs are evaluated using a specialized assessment tool, which determines their eligibility for the required support services.

A key development in Georgia's response to child victims of sexual violence—is the establishment of the Center for Psychological and Social Services for Children Victims of Violence, which began operating in 2022. Based on the internationally recognized Barnahus model, this service provides a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and child-friendly response to violence. The center offers coordinated access to justice, medical care, forensic interviews, and psycho-social rehabilitation, with the primary aim of minimizing re-traumatization and ensuring a safe environment for recovery.

29. Please provide information on the number of such services and the number of women and girls supported annually.

As previously noted, the State Care Agency oversees coordination of six victim service shelters and seven crisis centers. In 2024, the creation of the Division of Trafficking and Violence Victim Services at the State Care Agency substantially strengthened service delivery, improving both coordination and operational efficiency.

The State Care Agency regularly monitors service utilization statistics, disaggregated by gender.

The figures are as follows:

2024

- **Shelters:** 182 women and girls (victims and their dependents)
- **Crisis centers:** 273 women and girls (victims and their dependents)

2023

- **Shelters:** 194 women and girls (victims and their dependents)
- **Crisis centers:** 201 women and girls (victims and their dependents)

30. Please indicate the procedures and time frames for collecting and storing forensic evidence in cases of sexual violence (e.g. existence of protocols, use of rape kits) in the relevant services.

By Resolution No. 14 of the Government of Georgia dated January 16, 2023, "On the Approval of Service Tariffs for the Levan Samkharauli National Bureau of Forensic Expertise," the procedure for conducting a "forensic medical examination in cases of sexual acts" is defined.

The same Resolution of the Government of Georgia also defines the procedure for "determining the presence of injury to a living person, the object causing the injury, its age, and severity, visually and/or through medical documentation."

Within the scope of forensic medical examination, the procedure for "determining the presence of injury to a living person, the object causing the injury, its age, and severity, visually and/or through medical documentation" includes the identification of the presence or absence of bodily injuries, and in cases where injuries are present — the determination of their nature, localization, severity, and age.

Within the scope of "forensic medical examination in cases of sexual acts," the examination determines whether the integrity of the hymen is intact, the age of any disruption to its integrity, the presence, nature, and age of mechanical injuries (such as bruises, abrasions, etc.) on the hymen and external genital organs, as well as the presence or absence of mechanical injuries in the anal area; if such injuries are present, their nature and age are also determined.

Examinations of this nature are conducted in accordance with the questions specified in the appointment document/resolution, and the questions set out in the resolution are, in accordance with the applicable legislation, mandatory for the expert to address within the scope of their competence.

In cases involving acts of a sexual nature, the examination is carried out by two or more experts.

Medical examination (forensic examination) and sample collection from victims of sexual

violence are conducted in accordance with appropriate medical methodology and the theoretical principles of forensic medicine, as well as in line with the standard operating procedures for sample collection and forensic examination in cases of sexual violence against minors.

During the conduct of medical examinations, the forensic medical expert is guided by the principles and practices established in the medical specialty of "forensic medicine."

Forensic medical experts working at the Bureau are specialists in specific medical fields with higher medical education and are certified in the specialty of "forensic medicine."

Forensic medical examination in cases of sexual acts committed against a minor is conducted with additional requirements, specifically; such examination is carried out only based on a court order. Furthermore, the examination is conducted with the participation of experts of the same sex as the individual under investigation. A procedural representative and/or social worker is present during the examination.

Examination of minors is conducted at the Center for Psychological and Social Services for Children Victims of Violence (BARNAHUS). The center ensures a child-friendly process in order to prevent secondary victimization of the minor.

In the case of examining an adult individual, the conduct of the forensic examination depends on the will of the person to be examined. Prior to the examination, the individual provides consent for the examination to be conducted. If the individual consents, the examination may be carried out by a forensic medical expert of the opposite sex.

If the adult individual refuses to be examined by an expert of the opposite sex, the Bureau ensures the participation of a forensic medical expert of the same sex in the examination. A forensic examination shall not be conducted without consent.

If necessary, a medical specialist (e.g., a gynecologist or others) may be involved in the examination process.

Following the examination, a conclusion is prepared by the forensic medical experts and submitted to the appointing authority. The information contained in the conclusion is confidential.

As for the collection of samples, this is carried out on the basis of a relevant document submitted by the appointing authority (appointment document, resolution, or request), which specifies the task concerning the collection of a particular sample. The forensic medical expert carries out this task within the scope of their competence. The collected samples are handed over to the appointing authority.

In a criminal case, evidence is obtained in accordance with the criminal procedure

legislation. Following this, a forensic examination is appointed, and subsequently, the evidence, along with the expert's report, is attached to the criminal case file. The criminal case is stored in the investigative unit for the duration of the statute of limitations, which varies depending on the severity of the crime. After the expiration of this period, the criminal case, along with the evidence, is transferred to the archive of the investigative unit.

31. Please describe any applicable access criteria for use of these services (e.g. affiliation with a national health insurance, residence status, prior reporting of the case to the police, other).

As noted above, any individual who has experienced sexual violence within the past 36 months—whether formally recognized as a victim under the Criminal Code or by self-report—may access services at a crisis center or shelter. Their risks and needs are evaluated using a specialized assessment tool, which determines their eligibility for support. Moreover, following the December 2022 amendments to Georgian law, the requirement for formal “victim status” to receive support services was abolished. Consequently, service providers now exercise full discretion in deciding whether to deliver assistance.

Article 31: Custody, visitation rights and safety

32. Please indicate whether under national law incidents of violence covered under the scope of the convention must be taken into account in the determination of custody and visitation rights of children. If this is the case, please clarify to what extent these provisions:

a. explicitly list domestic violence as a criterion to be taken into account when deciding on custody and/or visitation rights in the applicable legislation. If so, please clarify whether this criterion is/has been applied in practice in the determination of both custody and visitation rights;

Article 14 of the Law of Georgia “On the Elimination of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence, and the Protection and Support of Victims of Such Violence” explicitly sets this criterion in case of the separation of a minor (child) from an abusive parent or other legal representative. The courts actively and consistently apply this provision - including when deciding on custody and/or visitation rights - in accordance with Article 26 of the law of Georgia the “Code on the Rights of the Child”, which establishes the general impermissibility of separating a child from his/her parent.

b. acknowledge the harm that witnessing violence by one parent against the other has on a child;

Article 5 of the “Code on the Rights of the Child”, which emphasizes the importance of prioritizing the best interests of the child and establishing standards for his/her harmonious development, considers violent relationships between parents – even if the violence is not expressly directed at the child – as negative behavior towards the child. Such actions are incompatible with the principles enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is recognized as a form of violence against the child. This perspective is supported by relevant case law of the Common Courts.

c. ensure that custody with the non-violent parent is preferred over foster-care;

According to the Law of Georgia “On the Elimination of Violence Against Women and/or Domestic Violence, and the Protection and Support of Victims of Such Violence”, as well as the Code “on the Rights of the Child” and the Statute of the LEPL Agency for State Care and Assistance for the (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking, the issue of placing a child in foster care is considered by the court. Pursuant to Article 14 of the Law of Georgia “on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and/or Domestic Violence, and the Protection and Support of Victims of Such Violence” when making a decision, the court’s primary task is to discuss the possibility of leaving the child with his/her biological parent in a safe environment for the child, provided that the violence is not inflicted by this parent, the child expresses a desire to remain with him/her, and the reports from a social service representative and psychologist indicate positive factors essential to the child's harmonious development.

d. foresee the screening of civil proceedings related to the determination of custody or visitation rights for a history of domestic violence among the parties;

According to Georgian legislation, judges reviewing cases related to a child's rights have the discretion, depending on the importance of the case, to request documents (without a motion from the parties), or case materials pertaining to a child.

e. foresee that judges conduct risk assessments or request the disclosure of risk assessments drawn up by law-enforcement agencies or other competent stakeholders for victims of domestic violence, with a view to taking them into account and determining the best interest of the child in the context of custody and visitation decisions.

The separation of a child from his/her parent(s) is a temporary measure applied until the threats to the child are eradicated. When considering the issue of returning a child to the family, the court employs a multidisciplinary approach involving the child, social workers, child psychologists, and the parents. The decisions regarding separation involve placing the child in a foster family or allowing the child to remain with one parent while being separated from the other. The separation of the child is carried out for a specific period of

time. Thus, the circumstances of the separation are also subject to re-evaluation by the court. In the process of deciding on custody and/or visitation rights, judges routinely conduct risk assessments. The court is obliged to examine all circumstances essential for the child at that particular moment (for a certain period of time) to achieve his/ her safety and harmonious development. Importantly, all relevant authorities necessary for resolving the matter are involved in this process.

The examination of cases arising from family law relations is separated as a distinct chapter in the Civil Procedure Code of Georgia due to its specific characteristics. This distinctiveness is determined by the specificity of family relationships, which primarily bear a personal and continuous nature. One of the fundamental peculiarities in examining family law disputes, as opposed to other categories of cases, is the broader application of the inquisitorial principle. Although family legal relations belong to the sphere of private law, the entire society has an interest in the development and strength of these relationships. This explains why the court retains the right to establish those circumstances which necessitate the adoption of the most favorable decision primarily for the interests of the minor. Consequently, the court examining a specific family law dispute is granted the authority, in accordance with Article 4, Part 2, and Article 354, Part 1 of the Civil Procedure Code of Georgia, not to be satisfied merely with the evidence presented by the parties, and on its own initiative to determine the scope of circumstances without which it would be impossible to correctly resolve the case (the subject of proof).²⁸

When examining disputes related to the legitimate interests of minors, following the European Court of Human Rights, the Court of Cassation indicates in numerous decisions that the court's guiding principle is not to consider the child as an object of protection, but rather to recognize and protect their rights as a subject.²⁹ Moreover, priority is given to the necessary preconditions for the child's upbringing, development, and successful adaptation in society.³⁰ Accordingly, when resolving any issue concerning a minor, the court is guided by the best interests of the child.

Parents, or where appropriate their lawful guardians, bear the primary duty to nurture and foster a child's upbringing and development. Article 1197 of the Civil Code of Georgia enshrines the principle of parental equality. The Cassation Court has repeatedly stressed that parents' foremost obligation is to secure the child's harmonious growth and to provide a supportive family environment; accordingly, in every decision affecting the child, the minor's genuine interests must prevail. Consequently, any intervention—whether by state authorities or the court—is permissible only if it is demonstrably the sole appropriate and acceptable means to safeguard the child's development as a future full-fledged and dignified member of society.³¹

²⁸ Decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia dated 23 December 2022, Case No. AS-1076-2022.

²⁹ Decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia of 24 April 2024, Case No. AS-414-2024.

³⁰ See Decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia dated 23 December 2022, Case No. AS-1076-2022.

³¹ Decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia of 11 May 2023, Case No. AS-159-2023.

A child has the right to live and be raised within a family (Article 1197 of the Civil Code of Georgia). If, due to divorce or for other reasons, the parents live separately, it shall be determined by their agreement with whom the minor child is to reside. In the absence of an agreement, the dispute concerning with whom the minor child is to reside shall be resolved by the court, taking into consideration the best interests of the child.³²

In numerous rulings, the Cassation Court has underscored that national courts are obligated to facilitate both the restoration and the strengthening of family ties—an obligation grounded, above all, in the child’s genuine and best interests. The concept of “family reunification” encompasses not only co-residence under one roof but also the cultivation of a close parent-child relationship. The court must support that relationship in every possible respect, so long as nothing arises that would run counter to the child’s best interests. In balancing the rights of the parent against the welfare of the child, it is the child’s interests that serve as the paramount and guiding criterion for the judiciary—and for all administrative or other authorities—frequently outweighing those of the parent.³³ After the parents’ divorce, the non-custodial parent—that is, the parent with whom the child does not reside—not only retains the right to maintain contact but is under a positive obligation to do so. Such contact must be effective and, to the greatest extent practicable, regular, unless exceptional circumstances justify otherwise.³⁴ It is essential for the child’s well-being that the relationship with the non-custodial parent be preserved, thereby ensuring that the parent not living under the same roof continues to participate actively in the child’s life.³⁵

Furthermore, the Cassation Court clarifies that a child not only has the right to be raised and to develop in a healthy, nurturing, and safe environment, but it is also their right to be protected from any potential actions, including those of a parent, which pose a threat to the child’s psycho-emotional development and health.³⁶ A parent’s right cannot be exercised if the improper performance of parental duties conflicts with even one of the child’s interests (such as health, emotional development, education, etc.); that is, the parent’s natural right to have contact with the child, stemming from the minor’s interests, is not considered an absolute and unrestricted right and, taking into account specific circumstances, is subject to a degree of control by the state.³⁷

When determining a child’s place of residence and establishing rules for interaction with the child, the child’s views and expressed opinions must be taken into account and, most

³² In this case, the parent’s right to act as the child’s representative in court proceedings is suspended. The guardianship and custody authority appoints a representative for the child, who represents the child’s interests during the judicial consideration of the case (Article 1201 of the Civil Code of Georgia).

³³ Decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia of 11 May 2023, Case No. AS-159-2023.

³⁴ Decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia of 16 June 2020, Case No. AS-1837-2019.

³⁵ Decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia of 24 April 2024, Case No. AS-414-2024.

³⁶ Decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia of 11 May 2023, Case No. AS-159-2023; Decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia of 24 April 2024, Case No. AS-414-2024.

³⁷ Decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia of 11 May 2023, Case No. AS-159-2023.

importantly, their true interests.³⁸ According to legislative regulations, in administrative proceedings and court proceedings related to a child, the child is guaranteed the opportunity to express their own opinion regarding the case at any stage of the proceedings (Article 78, Part 1 of the Code of Rights of the Child of Georgia). The child's right to be heard cannot be restricted by reference to their age or other circumstances; the child must be given the opportunity to express their opinion in a form desirable to them (Article 78, Part 2 of the Code of Rights of the Child of Georgia). In assessing and determining the best interests of the child, the court takes into account the child's opinions. Following Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Court of Cassation repeatedly notes that a child has the right to "freely express their views." Freely means that manipulation of the child or exerting unjustified influence or pressure on them is impermissible. "Freely" is inherently connected to the child's "own" opinion: the child has the right to express their own opinions and not the opinions of others.³⁹ This acquires particular importance when there is a conflictual/tense relationship between parents, since often the child's disposition and desires are influenced by the conflicting parents and their family members, which restricts the minor's ability to independently express their opinion and desire.

It is clear that conflictual/tense relationships between parents constitute, in themselves, a risk factor for the normal psychosocial development of the child. Accordingly, when a case concerns determining a minor's place of residence and regulating relationships with separately living parents, the court approaches with particular caution the conclusions made by persons working on juvenile cases or relevant specialists⁴⁰ (including social workers, psychologists) (which are based on conclusions made through conversations with both the child and the parents). The court primarily respects the child's right to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis, except in cases where this contradicts the best interests of the child. From the perspective of maintaining the stability of the minor's psychological and emotional state, the court considers that the parent with whom the child does not reside should be given the opportunity to continue and develop the relationship with their child.

The state bears a positive obligation to implement active measures for the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of minors. A court decision rendered on behalf of the state, which concerns the interests of a minor, is the clearest example of the fulfillment of the state's positive obligation.

33. Please describe the measures in place to ensure that judges, court-appointed experts and other legal professionals:

a. have sufficient knowledge of the law and understanding of the dynamics of intimate partner violence, including the psychological impact of witnessing violence on the child;

³⁸ Decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia of 23 December 2022, Case No. AS-1076-2022.

³⁹ Decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia of 23 December 2022, Case No. AS-1076-2022.

⁴⁰ Decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia of 27 November 2024, Case No. AS-1306-2024.

b. duly take into account victims' grievances in cases of domestic violence and hear children victims/witnesses, where applicable, in the determination of custody and visitation rights;

c. are informed of the unfoundedness of notions of "parental alienation"⁴¹ or analogous concepts that are used to overshadow the violence and control exerted by perpetrators of domestic violence over women and their children.

Annual training sessions on *Violence against Women and Domestic Violence* are held for judges and court officials. Since 2021, the training has been conducted eight times, with the participation of 70 judges and 63 court professionals.

The training covers several key components:

- Types and impact of violence – Explains various forms of violence against women and domestic violence, including their psychological effects on victims and the impact on children who witness such violence;
- Legal definitions – Clarifies the concepts of "family member" and "child victim." Psychologists and experts provide insights into the psychological trauma experienced by victims and child witnesses;
- Risk assessment – Provides comprehensive knowledge on identifying risk factors for violence against women;
- Judicial responsibilities – Emphasizes the role of judges in handling violence against women cases, particularly in case management and sentencing. Training includes ensuring women's access to justice, effective courtroom management, and reducing the influence of stereotypes;
- Standards of evidence and judicial practice – Reviews evidentiary standards and discusses relevant Georgian judicial practice;
- Challenging harmful myths – Addresses misconceptions and denial regarding violence against women and domestic violence, examines the characteristics of abusers, and explains secondary victimization and victim-blaming.

⁴¹ ² In its baseline evaluation reports GREVIO has consistently referred to the statement of December 2017 by the European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP), which draws attention to the fact that the concepts of "parental alienation syndrome" (PAS) and "parental alienation" (PA) are unsuitable for use in any psychotherapeutic practice. This statement by the EAP, which is made up of 128 psychotherapy organisations from 41 European countries, acts as a guiding principle for European psychotherapists. Moreover, in February 2020 the World Health Organisation (WHO) published its new draft International Classification of Diseases, 11th Revision (ICD-11) and confirmed that it had removed parental alienation from index term in the final ICD-11. See also the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform) statement of May 2019 "[Intimate partner violence against women is an essential factor in the determination of child custody, say women's rights experts](#)".

This training equips judges and court officials with the legal knowledge, psychological understanding, and practical tools necessary to respond effectively to cases of domestic violence, prioritize victims' rights, hear the voices of child victims/witnesses, and reject unfounded concepts such as "parental alienation" that can obscure the reality of abuse and coercive control.

34. Please provide details on the procedures in place to ensure that the competent court for family-related issues co-operate/communicate with other relevant bodies/professionals, including, but not limited to, criminal courts, law-enforcement agencies, health and education authorities and specialist women's support services when taking decisions on custody and visitation or when offering family law mediation. Please specify whether the law provides a legal framework for any of the procedures in place.

In accordance with the Code on the Rights of the Child, the Civil Code of Georgia and the Juvenile Justice Code, issues related to the rights of the child shall be examined by the court under a multidisciplinary approach with the involvement of specialized professionals, including lawyers, judges, prosecutors, investigators, social workers, witness and victim coordinators, and psychologists. To ensure that all cases related to the rights of the child are resolved in accordance with the best interests of the child, all aforementioned specialists are required to be specialized in accordance with the standards of specialization established by law.

35. Please provide detailed information on the procedures in place (including, if applicable, the relevant personnel used, the specific infrastructure available), in the exercise of custody and visitation rights, to:

- a. eliminate the risk for the abused parent to be subjected to further violence;*
- b. eliminate the risk for the child to witness or experience violence;*
- c. ensure that the responsible personnel are trained and that the facilities are suited to enable safe supervised visitation.*

When a social worker initiates the reintegration process for a child separated from their family, they may register the parent(s) as a visitor and escort based on the decision of the Guardianship and Custody Board. This is done for the purpose of assessment and observation of the parent-child relationship. The meeting between the parent and child, acting as the visitor, can be organized by the social worker at the agency's premises. If, during the meeting, the parent displays an aggressive attitude towards the child, or attempts psychological or other forms of abuse, the specialist, prioritizing the child's best interests, may terminate the process. In extreme cases, they may contact the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Additionally, as was highlighted above, within the framework of the Human Rights Protection Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, there is a Witness and Victim Coordinator Service. Along with other functions defined by the legislation of Georgia, the Witness and Victim Coordinator Service ensures the following, in accordance with the procedure established by the Witness and Victim Coordinator of the Ministry:

- and the investigative and procedural actions taken by them, as well as the progress of the investigation;
 - Explanation to the witness and the victim, in a language they understand, of their rights and obligations, as well as of the legal procedures related to the investigation;
 - Attending investigative and procedural actions conducted with the participation of the witness and the victim during the investigation in order to provide emotional support to them;
- Provision of the information to the witness and victim about the legal, psychological, medical and/or other services they need and, if necessary, assisting them in contacting the relevant authority/organization, etc.

Moreover, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, within its competence, refers the case to the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Protection of Georgia.

36. Please indicate whether national provisions foresee the withdrawal of parental rights in criminal sentences if the best interest of the child, which may include the safety of the victim, cannot be guaranteed in any other way.

Article 1205¹ (6) of the Civil Code of Georgia addresses the suspension of parental rights in cases of domestic violence. According to the provision, in the event of domestic violence, as a result of which a parent is subject to a restraining or protective order, or upon a decision on separation of the child from the parent is taken by a social worker, the parent's representative right and/or the parent's right to determine with whom and where the child should live shall be deemed suspended for the duration of the restraining or protective order/for the period during which the social worker's decision remains in effect.

Article 1206 of the Civil Code addresses the deprivation of parental rights and responsibilities. Under this article, a parent may be deprived of parental rights if there is no positive parenting and antisocial behavior is observed on the part of the parent—especially in cases where the parent has committed acts of violence against the child, as established under the rules of criminal procedure.

Article 48: Prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes or sentencing

37. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes are prohibited in criminal proceedings related to

cases involving the different forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention.

According to Georgian legislation, launching investigation and prosecution on cases of violence against women, sexual violence or any other crime envisaged by the Criminal Code of Georgia, is not dependent whether the victim submits their complaint or not. Pursuant to Article 100 of Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia, when notified of the commission of a crime, an investigator, prosecutor shall be obliged to initiate an investigation. A prosecutor is obligated to launch / pursue prosecution based on public interest, even if a victim is refusing to testify or changes their testimony.

The guidelines devoted to Domestic Crimes highlights important issues such as conducting investigation and collecting evidence in a timely manner, instantly granting the victim status, prioritizing involvement of witness and victim coordinator in cases of domestic violence, and importance of interagency coordination with regard to woman victims.

In the guidelines, a separate chapter addresses the importance of immediate launching of investigation into reports of violence against women and domestic crime. According to the guidelines, an instant response to the fact of violence against women and domestic crime significantly facilitates the effective investigation of this event and reduces the risk of recurrence of violence and even more serious consequences.

Furthermore, the initiation of administrative proceedings by a police officer on the fact of violence - the issuance of a restraining order against the abuser - does not constitute an alternative measure of criminal proceedings on the same fact and grounds not to open an investigation. Despite the administrative nature of the response, which has a restraining and deterrent effect, in the presence of signs of a crime, the investigation is launched immediately. The practice of issuing so-called "warning letters" by police officers has been eliminated in full manner.

38. Where voluntary alternative dispute resolution processes exist for any criminal offences within the remit of the Istanbul Convention, such as conciliation or mediation, please provide information on the safeguards incorporated to ensure the free and informed consent of the victim to such processes and the measures taken to avoid that direct or indirect pressure is placed on the victim. Please also state whether the offer of alternative dispute resolution processes may result in the discontinuation of criminal investigation and prosecution or other consequences for the victim.

Pursuant to amendments to Article 50 of Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia, a close relative of the accused in the criminal case for domestic violence under Article 126¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia, or in the criminal case for domestic crime under Article 11¹ of the same Code, who has directly sustained moral and physical injury and property damage as a result of the said crime, before enjoying the right provided for by paragraph (1) (*refusal*

to testify against one's close relative or hand out any object, document or information relevant to the case) of this article, shall be offered by a person conducting examination the consultation with a witness and victim coordinator and the enjoying of a 3-day period for making a decision before the relevant decision is made them.

The main purpose of this article is to ensure that, before testifying in court, the victim fully understands their rights and obligations, their role in the legal proceedings, the importance of testifying, purpose of administering justice and risks and outcomes of reoccurring violence.

In addition, by communicating with the victim the prosecutor/coordinator makes sure that no unlawful influence is being exerted on the victim and determines any possible subjective or objective reasons for the victim's refusal to testify, such as threats, coercion, ask, economic difficulties, need of homing or other. This helps determining psychological, physical and economic needs of the victim and relevant support.

In order to ensure effective implementation of the abovementioned article, the Department of Supervision of Prosecutorial Activities and Strategic Development developed and distributed guideline on "Application of Article 50 §5 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia". Statistical data collection module was also introduced, that allows abovementioned department to collect, monitor and analyse data.

In 2022, exercising the rights envisaged by the Article 50 §5 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia was offered to 365 victims, in 29 structural units. Out of 365, 237 victims (65%) were defendant's spouses or ex-spouses, 65 victims (18%) were parents, 34 victims (9%) were children and 29 victims (8%) had other affiliation with defendant. Out of 365 victims, who were offered reflection period and consulting with witness and victim coordinator, 154 (42%) refused the offer and 211 (58%) victims expressed their desire to enjoy the reflection period and consult with witness and victim coordinator.

In 2023, exercising the rights envisaged by the Article 50 §5 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia was offered to 336 victims, in 24 structural units. Out of 336, 203 victims (61%) were defendant's spouses or ex-spouses, 77 victims (23%) were parents, 38 victims (11%) were children and 18 victims (5%) had other affiliation with defendant. Out of 336 victims, who were offered reflection period and consulting with witness and victim coordinator, 109 (32%) refused the offer and 227 (68%) victims expressed their desire to enjoy the reflection period and consult with witness and victim coordinator.

In 2024, exercising the rights envisaged by the Article 50 §5 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia was offered to 309 victims, in 21 structural units. Out of 309, 203 victims (66%) were defendant's spouses or ex-spouses, 54 victims (17%) were parents, 25 victims (8%) were children, 21 victims (7%) were siblings and 6 victims (2%) were defendant's grandparents. Out of 309 victims, who were offered reflection period and consulting with witness and victim coordinator, 122 (39%) refused the offer and 187 (61%) victims

expressed their desire to enjoy the reflection period and consult with witness and victim coordinator.

39. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that alternative dispute resolution processes such as mediation or procedures which can be considered tantamount to the latter are not used in family law proceedings such as divorce proceedings or proceedings related to custody and visitation of children, where there is a history of violence.

Georgian legislation does not provide for the possibility of using court mediation to resolve family disputes if there is a history of violence. Article 187³ of the Civil Procedure Code of Georgia specifies the disputes subject to judicial mediation. It explicitly states that judicial mediation may apply to family disputes, except for disputes related to adoption, annulment of adoption, revocation of adoption, restriction of parental rights, deprivation of parental rights, and violence against women and/or domestic violence.

Articles 49 and 50: General obligations and immediate response, prevention and protection

40. Please describe the human, financial and technical resources provided to law enforcement agencies to diligently respond to and investigate all cases of violence against women, including their digital dimension.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia implements preventive and responsive measures to combat all forms of violence against women and domestic violence. The agency constantly cares about improving the qualifications of its employees. Employees of all relevant units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia periodically undergo training in areas such as domestic violence and violence against women, crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability, sexual harassment, specifics of conducting individual investigative and procedural actions, etc.

According to the criminal legislation of Georgia, upon receipt of information about a crime, the investigator is obliged to initiate an investigation. Within the framework of the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, criminal case related crimes (including crimes of violence against women and domestic violence) are responded to and investigated by territorial units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. These 12 units cover the entire territory of Georgia and are responsible for crime prevention, investigation and other repressive actions.

It is also worth noting that there is a special unit at the Ministry, the Human Rights Protection Department, which, on a daily basis, within the scope of its competence, monitors the quality of administrative and criminal proceedings and identifies

shortcomings in the process of case processing. The goal of monitoring is to ensure timely response to cases of this category and effective legal proceedings in this regard. It is worth noting that all 12 territorial units have a representative from the Human Rights Protection Department attached to them, who, if necessary, provides additional consultations to the investigators in cases of domestic violence, gender-based violence or other types of crimes, depending on their specifics.

In addition, it is noteworthy that the monitoring process of the Human Rights Protection Department also includes analyzing the legal proceedings related to the cases of crime and/or violence, observing challenges and trends, and preparing guidance documents, as a result of which, measures are planned to improve the quality of legal proceedings, including the qualification of police officers and raising awareness among the population, on annual basis.

Also, as mentioned above, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia has developed and implemented a tool for assessing the risks of recurrence of violence in order to combat violence against women and domestic violence, which allows police officers to timely identify risks of recurrence of violence and use related operational mechanism such as a restraining order to prevent it.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia has also implemented an electronic surveillance system (electronic bracelet), which allows for real-time monitoring of the process of the perpetrator's compliance with the obligations imposed by the restraining order, namely the prohibition of approaching the victim, their home, workplace, or other predetermined places.

41. Which measures have been taken to ensure that the premises of police stations are accessible and suitable for receiving and interviewing victims of violence while ensuring their privacy? Is it possible to report cases of violence against women elsewhere than in police stations, including through digital means?

According to Article 100 of the Criminal Procedural Code of Georgia: "In the event of receiving information about a crime, the investigator and prosecutor are obliged to initiate an investigation. The investigator shall immediately notify the prosecutor of the initiation of the investigation." Based on Parts 1 and 2 of Article 101 of the same Code: "The basis for initiating an investigation is information about a crime that was provided to the investigator or prosecutor, was revealed during criminal proceedings, or was published in the mass media. Information about a crime may be written, oral, or otherwise recorded."

It is also necessary to consider Part 3 of Article 101 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, according to which: "The investigator is authorized to initiate an investigation based on an anonymous report of a crime..."

At the same time, according to Article 4, Paragraph 2, Subparagraph “b” of the Law of Georgia “On the Public Law Legal Entity of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia – Public Safety Command Center “112”” and Article 2, Paragraph 2, Subparagraph “a” of the Order No. 108 of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia of December 27, 2019 “On Approval of the Regulations of the Public Law Legal Entity of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia – Public Safety Command Center “112””: “The functions of the Public Safety Command Center “112” are [among others]: receiving, processing and providing information to relevant entities for appropriate response to an emergency situation, a crime/violation, and other cases requiring emergency assistance.”

It should also be noted that, in accordance with Article 191 of the Law of Georgia “On the Prevention of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence, Protection and Assistance to Victims of Violence”, a free, 24-hour emergency service hotline shall be established to provide assistance to victims and consultation on relevant issues, which shall be available throughout the country. Through the free, 24-hour emergency hotline, any interested person shall be provided with information on response mechanisms in cases of violence against women and/or domestic violence and measures to protect victims. The telephone assistance network shall operate in a confidential manner. Disclosure of information received through this network shall be prohibited, except for the exceptions established by the legislation of Georgia.

Accordingly, the victim's reporting of information about the crime may be done in writing, orally, or in any other form (including electronic form).

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, within the existing capacity of resources, strives to ensure that confidentiality is protected to the maximum extent possible when interviewing victims/witnesses/survivors of domestic violence and violence against women. The current practice is aimed at protecting confidentiality and excludes the interference of third parties in the interview process.

In addition, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia identifies infrastructure-related challenges and is actively working to strengthen existing capabilities in this area, including the allocation and maintenance of appropriate spaces.

It is noteworthy that children’s rooms operate in several territorial divisions of the Ministry. The agency continues to work in this direction, and the Ministry's medium-term action plan for 2024-2027 includes a component for creating the child-friendly spaces.

Based on the specifics of crimes committed against and by minors and the best interests of the child, since 2020, juvenile affairs departments have been operating in the Tbilisi Police Department, and since 2024 - within the Adjara Police Department. The units are staffed by specialized investigators and detectives who constantly undergo advanced training on juvenile justice.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia actively cooperates with the Center for Psychological and Social Services for Children Victims of Violence (BARNAHUS). In the territory of Tbilisi, except for the cases exempted by law, all investigative and procedural actions are carried out at the center. Police officers are guided by the “Standard Operating Procedures for Investigating Facts of Sexual Violence against Children” approved by the decree of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia receives information about alleged human rights violations both in writing and orally, both from individual citizens and from human rights organizations:

- An e-mail address has been created - adamianisuflebebi@mia.gov.ge, to which notifications about alleged cases of violation of rights are sent. Information is also received from various state agencies, including the Public Defender's Office, the Mandatory Service, the Social Service Agency, citizens, etc.
- It is noteworthy that both the Public Defender and representatives of various organizations have verbal communication with the employees of the Human Rights Protection Department, who share information about alleged facts of violence.
- The Human Rights Protection Department can also be contacted through the official page on the social network - "Facebook" – „ადამიანის უფლებების დეპარტამენტი“.

42. Please explain whether specialist police/prosecution units exist to investigate and prosecute violence against women and specify:

- a. which forms of violence against women they are competent for;*
b. whether such units exist in all police/prosecution districts throughout the country.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs

As mentioned above, within the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, criminal offenses (including crimes of violence against women and domestic violence) are investigated by territorial units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs throughout Georgia. Accordingly, investigators of 12 territorial units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, who, within the scope of their competence, respond to and investigate gender-motivated crimes of violence against women and domestic violence, undergo permanent training both before the employment (within the framework of formal education (MIA Academy)), and after employment - within the framework of various training activities organized by the Ministry and international partners. In addition, a special unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia - the Human Rights Protection Department, monitors all cases of violence against women and/or domestic violence and family crimes on a daily basis. Along with monitoring criminal cases, the department is actively involved in the processes of issuing restraining orders and establishing electronic surveillance by the police.

As already noted, from May 1, 2024, the Human Rights Protection Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia continues its activities with an expanded mandate. The competence of the Department includes ensuring timely response to and effective investigation of crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability, family crimes, domestic violence, violence against women, crimes committed on the grounds of intolerance on the grounds of discrimination, human trafficking and crimes committed by/against minors. Also, it includes monitoring the quality of administrative proceedings related to domestic violence, violence against women, discrimination, sexual harassment and minors and identifying shortcomings in the process of case processing.

The Department has established a Main Division for Quality Assurance of Legal Proceedings to identify and subsequently analyze/eliminate shortcomings in the relevant legal proceedings. The structural changes implemented in the Department serve to increase the quality of legal proceedings within the Ministry.

Along with the structural changes, in order to improve the monitoring process, a special electronic program and monitoring implementation methodology were created, which is used to systematize the information processed during the monitoring process. This program ensures the identification of existing gaps, trends and needs in the investigation process, with the aim of subsequently planning appropriate measures and activities.

The Department carries out analytical activities in order to establish best and uniformal practices within the Ministry's system, namely - it conducts evidence-based research on various investigative/procedural actions and administrative measures, relevant legal framework and practice. It also develops relevant proposals and recommendations to eliminate identified shortcomings.

The Human Rights Protection Department has begun developing recommendations in a new audio/video format, which ensures the accessibility and practicality of the instructions. They reflect both theoretical issues and the latest police practice. The document also integrates relevant practical examples. It is worth noting that the new format allows a police officer, if necessary, to review only a specific part of the instruction instead of reviewing the entire one. The audio/video instruction is posted on the information portal of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, in the recommendations field, and can be viewed at any time.

The following recommendations were developed and made available to police officers in 2024:

- Instructions for filling out a restraining order report and establishing electronic surveillance;
- Instructions for filling out the administrative detention report;

One of the main tasks of the department was defined as coordinating the activities of the Ministry's system units in the field of human rights protection and promoting the improvement of existing standards of rights protection.

Also, from May 1, 2024, the Witness and Victim Coordinator Service was established as a structural unit of the Department. The purpose of this change is to strengthen the Coordinator Service, ensure effective coordination of their activities, and establish common approaches and standards so that the functions for supporting victims are performed in a quality and result-oriented manner. This service also supervises the implementation of issues stipulated by the order of the Minister of Internal Affairs in order to prevent and control crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability.

In particular, in order to tighten criminal law policy and prevent the aforementioned crimes against persons who commit crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability of minors, the Law "On Combating Crimes Against Sexual Freedom and Inviolability" has been enacted. Persons who commit crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability of minors is deprived of a number of rights (including the right to work in educational institutions) after a court has rendered a guilty verdict.

The changes implemented in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia also included the creation of a registry of persons convicted of sexual violence, and an electronic program for monitoring persons convicted/deprived of their rights for committing crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability has been created. The effective implementation of measures to prevent recidivism by persons convicted/deprived of their rights for sexual crimes is ensured by representatives of the territorial bodies of the Ministry - case managers. It is the Witness and Victim Coordinator Service that effectively coordinates the activities of case managers.

The Department continues to actively work and implement innovations in order to fulfill the tasks and obligations defined by the legislation.

The Prosecution Service

Since 2018, only specialised prosecutors have been carrying out procedural supervision and prosecution in domestic violence and domestic crime criminal cases. Currently, there are 257 specialised employees of the Prosecution Service (for domestic violence and domestic crime), including 38 managers, 184 prosecutors, 25 investigators and 10 witness and victim coordinators.

Since September 1, 2020, in accordance to the decree of the Prosecutor General, specialised prosecutors have been carrying out procedural supervision over hate crime criminal cases, including crimes committed with gender-based intolerance motive. All specialised prosecutors underwent training course supported by Council of Europe. Currently, there are 163 specialised employees of the Prosecution Service (for hate crime), including 33 managers, 102 prosecutors, 12 investigators and 16 witness and victim coordinators.

Since April 10, 2021, in accordance to the decree of the Prosecutor General, only specialised investigators and prosecutors of the Prosecution Service have been exercising official prosecutorial and investigative duties in criminal cases of sexual offences. Currently, there are 173 specialised employees of the Prosecution Service (for sexual offences), including 38 managers, 101 prosecutors, 16 investigators and 18 witness and victim coordinators.

There are 333 employees of the Prosecution Service, who are specialised in juvenile justice, including 107 managers, 188 prosecutors, 28 investigators and 10 witness and victim coordinators.

43. Please describe any measures taken to ensure swift investigation into and effective prosecution of cases of violence against women and domestic violence such as prioritisation through fast-tracking, benchmarking or other initiatives, without compromising the thoroughness of the investigation.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, within its competence, implements the measures envisaged by the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia. It is noteworthy that the relevant units of the Ministry and their investigators conduct criminal investigations within the framework of the procedural guidance of the Prosecutor General's Office of Georgia. Accordingly, it is appropriate for the Prosecutor General's Office to submit information on the indicated issue.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia continues to use existing mechanisms to effectively protect victims and monitor the processes underway in this direction.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia also actively continues to use the Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool, which allows police officers to timely identify the threat of recidivism and use an operational mechanism such as a restraining order to prevent violence. With these tools, law enforcement officers better identify the risks expected from the perpetrator and plan and implement effective measures to prevent recidivism against the victim.

A decision is made to ensure the protection of the victim in accordance with the identified risk level. Also, in accordance with Decree No. 100 of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia, a monitoring process is planned to monitor the fulfillment of the obligations imposed on the perpetrator by the issued restraining order. If the risk is high, the control of the perpetrator becomes more intensive. The perpetrator is monitored both through electronic communication and through personal meetings/visits.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia also continues to use an electronic surveillance

system (electronic bracelet), which allows the Ministry to monitor in real time the process of the perpetrator's fulfillment of obligations imposed by the order, namely the prohibition of approaching the victim, his home, workplace, or other predetermined places.

The Human Rights Protection Department continuously monitors administrative and criminal proceedings in police departments regarding cases of domestic violence and violence against women. This department also oversees that legal processes are conducted in a victim-centered manner and, most importantly, that all relevant services and protection mechanisms are offered to the citizen involved in the processes.

The Prosecution Service

The Prosecution Service of Georgia annually analyses case law of the Supreme Court, current practices in imposing measure of restraint and sentencing in criminal cases of gender-based violence against women, domestic violence, femicide and sexual offences. Conclusions of the analysis are distributed to the prosecutors and are incorporated in training programmes for prosecutors.

In order to respond to gender-based violence against women and domestic crimes, femicide, hate crime, as well as crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability and crimes committed against minors effectively, the Prosecution Service of Georgia has active cooperation with other relevant agencies.

Since 2022, with the support of Council of Europe and Rule of Law Program (USAID), Justice Coordinating Council meetings (Bench and Bar) have been held on topic “Issues of violence against women and domestic violence”, which is attended by prosecutors, judges and attorneys.

Since 2023, with the support of UN Women and the Council of Europe and at the initiative of the Prosecution Service of Georgia, coordination meetings have been held to discuss practical challenges in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating sexual violence cases. The goal of the meeting is to implement best practices in accordance with international standards. Representatives of the Prosecution Service, Judiciary and investigative bodies attend the coordination meeting.

In order to establish uniform practice, working meetings of prosecutors and judges are held annually on relevant topics of effective procedural guidance over crimes committed on grounds of discrimination, including gender-based intolerance. In 2021-2024, with support of Council of Europe the Prosecution Service organised four (4) workshops on hate crime, which were attended by specialised prosecutors and judges along with investigators and representatives of the Supreme Court. National and international standards for identifying the bias motive in criminal cases and victim-centered approaches introduced in the legal proceedings for this category of crimes were discussed during the meeting.

44. Are any measures taken to encourage women and girls who experience any of the forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention to report incidents of violence to the authorities? Please provide examples of any measures taken to instill confidence in law-enforcement officials, including those aimed at addressing any language or procedural difficulties they encounter when lodging complaints, in particular those of migrant women, asylum-seeking women, women with disabilities, women with addiction issues and other women and girls at risk of intersectional discrimination.

Measures to Encourage Women to Report Incidents of Violence

In cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and partner organizations, hundreds of information brochures and posters in Georgian, Azerbaijani and Armenian languages (in regions populated by minorities) are periodically distributed to raise awareness among the population. Informational videos and banners of various contents are also produced on violence against women and domestic violence, early and forced marriage, prohibition of discrimination, sexual harassment and other important issues.

Along with meetings with the population, the Ministry also disseminates information on the punishment of violence against women and/or domestic violence, as well as on ways to contact the police in case of violence, through electronic communication. For example, in 2022, in order to raise mass awareness among the population, as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women global campaign, 2,440,000 subscribers received a short text message containing information on the punishment of violence against women and/or domestic violence and ways to contact the police in case of violence. Information is also disseminated through video clips and brochures.

The agency continues to work continuously to increase the number of victims/witnesses/affected persons who address the police. It is worth noting the informational meetings with members of the public, which have been ongoing for years. Also, visits by agency representatives to TV and radio programs. Additionally, the awareness-raising campaigns detailed in the questions above also serve to increase the number of victims/witnesses/affected persons turning to the police.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia periodically sends notifications to citizens, the goal of which is to inform millions of people about alternative ways to report a crime to the police.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia has implemented an innovative and modern technology, the “112” mobile application, as one of the ways to contact the police, through which any person on the territory of Georgia has the opportunity to use such important functions as sending a silent alarm to “112” (SOS) and communicating with the operator (“chat”). The user can use these functions in cases where they do not have the opportunity to talk or are in danger by making a call. The main advantage of the application is the immediate determination of the person’s location, which significantly reduces the time for

emergency services to arrive at the location. This application is available in the following languages: Georgian, English, Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian.

It is worth noting that the Human Rights Protection Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia receives information about specific cases both in writing and orally. An e-mail address has also been created - adamianisuflebebi@mia.gov.ge, to which representatives of organizations and citizens send messages regarding issues falling within the competence of the department. Information is also received from various state agencies and civil organizations in this way.

In addition, a Facebook page of the Human Rights Protection Department has been created, "ადამიანის უფლებების დაცვის დეპარტამენტი" – (<https://www.facebook.com/adamianisuflebatadacvisdepartamenti?mibextid=LQQJ4d>), which, on the one hand, contributes to raising public awareness about the legal mechanisms in the country and of the activities carried out by the agency, and, on the other hand, ensures effective communication between the department and citizens.

Over the years, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia has maintained a high level of reporting of domestic violence and violence against women, which is reflected in the statistical indicators of registered crimes and restraining orders issued by the Ministry.

45. Please indicate whether protocols/standard operating procedures or guidelines for police officers are in place providing guidance on how to receive reports, interview victims, investigate and collect evidence in cases of rape and sexual violence, domestic violence, psychological violence, stalking, sexual harassment (including their online manifestation), forced marriage, female genital mutilation and forced sterilisation/abortion. Please provide information on how the authorities ensure the comprehensive collection of evidence beyond the victim's testimony.

Employees of the Human Rights Protection Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia provide legal/practical consultation to police officers on ongoing cases, and in order to improve the monitoring process, a special electronic program is used to systematize the information processed during the monitoring process, observe trends, identify findings, challenges, and plan/implement appropriate measures.

The Ministry has created an electronic program and registry/electronic database for monitoring persons convicted/deprived of their rights for crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability.

In addition, the Department, within its competence, provides research and analysis of investigative and procedural actions, as well as shortcomings identified during administrative proceedings, in order to establish best and uniformal practices. It also develops relevant proposals and recommendations to eliminate identified issues.

It is noteworthy that the above-mentioned recommendations - in audio/video format - are available to MIA investigators, which ensures the accessibility and practicality of the instruction. They reflect both theoretical issues and the latest police practice. The document integrates practical examples relevant to the issue. The instruction in audio/video format is posted on the information portal of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, in the recommendations field, and can be viewed by a police officer at any time.

- As of 2025, the following recommendations have been developed and are available to police officers:
- Instructions for filling out the restraining order protocol and establishing electronic supervision;
- Instructions for filling out the administrative detention report;
- Crime of Sexual Harrasment;
- Effective investigation of crimes committed under the pretext of child marriage;
- Instruction on separating the abuser from the victim;
- Informing the victim if the perpetrator leaves the prison
- Recommendations regarding the issuance of a restraining order, etc.

In order to prevent and control crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability, the fulfillment of obligations stipulated in the Decree of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia “On Approval of the Rules for the Prevention and Control of Crimes Against Sexual Freedom and Inviolability by the Authorized Bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia” is supervised by the Witness and Victim Coordinator Service of the Human Rights Protection Department.

The units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia employ investigators who have completed a specialization course on sexual violence cases. It is also worth noting that since September 2023, in accordance with the Decree of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia No. 1/345 of September 7, 2023, with the involvement of the Human Rights Protection Department, permanent support for the improvement of the qualifications of investigators has been underway at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, including training on crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability and sexual harassment.

The agency actively cooperates with the Center for Psychological and Social Services (BARNAHUS). Within the territory of Tbilisi, except for cases exempted by law, all investigative and procedural actions are carried out at the center. Police officers are guided by the “Standard Operating Procedures for Investigating Facts of Sexual Violence Against Children” approved by the Decree of the Minister of Internal Affairs during legal proceedings.

In July 2023, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia placed information banners on the topic of sexual harassment to raise public awareness. The information banners were

produced with the support of the US Department of State's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Cooperation Bureau (INL) and placed on buses, bus stops, and the Tbilisi Metro stations in major cities - Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi, and Rustavi. The banners informed the population about sexual harassment in public places as a form of violence. They also indicated the need to contact the police if they had information about sexual harassment.

46. Please describe the efforts taken to identify and address all factors that contribute to attrition (the process whereby cases drop out of the criminal justice system) in cases of violence against women and domestic violence.

According to the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia, the Prosecutor's Office carries out procedural guidance of the investigation and also supports the state prosecution in court. To ensure efficiency of prosecutorial activities, improvement of their quality, and the uniform interpretation and implementation of legal norms in practice, the Prosecution Service of Georgia periodically develops guidelines and revises, updates, and systematises existing instructions.

The guidelines oblige the prosecutor to exercise thorough procedural guidance so that the investigation is conducted comprehensively, thoroughly and impartially. The prosecutor carefully assesses cases where the victim changes their testimony or refuses to testify and determines the motives behind the victim's decision in order to rule out possible illegal influence on the victim.

For the purposes of carrying out effective procedural guidance and defining a unified policy in criminal case of domestic crimes, the recommendation identifies points such as: obligation of the prosecutor to pay attention to any information (oral reports/written statements) about domestic disputes when carrying out procedural guidance, definition of forms of violence against women and domestic violence as provided for in the Criminal Code of Georgia and etc.

The focus is on the necessity to identify both: individual cases of violence and multiple forms of violence simultaneously. A separate chapter of the recommendation is dedicated to identifying one of the main motives for domestic crimes committed against women – gender-based discrimination and the influence of gender stereotypes in society.

Moreover, the guideline specifically indicates that, when determining gender as a bias motive in domestic crime cases, prosecutors must refer to the motive in the decree on indictment and highlight it in the interrogations conducted during the court hearing or in the opening and closing statements.

With the support of UN Women, the Council of Europe and the international women's rights organization Equality Now, a guideline on investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating sexual offences has been developed. The guideline covers techniques and

methodologies developed based on international human rights law and local and international best practices.

Moreover, the Prosecution Service of Georgia has a guideline "On the Investigating and Conducting Procedural Guidance on Crimes against Sexual Freedom and Inviolability". The guideline covers issues related to the legal qualification of sexual offences, in particular, the standards for granting a victim status, the standards for launching a criminal prosecution, evidentiary standards, different aspects of court trial, and the necessity to involve a witness and victim coordinator and a psychologist in the case.

By decree of the Prosecutor General of Georgia, two guidelines have been approved for prosecutors and investigators of the Prosecution Service:

- Guideline on "Standards and methods of working with a witness, a victim and a defendant with disabilities"; and
- Guideline on "Standards and methods of working with a minor witness/victim/defendant with disabilities".

The aims to achieve that, while carrying out prosecutorial and investigative activities, prosecutors and investigators take individual needs and interests of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, into account and ensure their equal, full and effective participation at all stages of legal proceedings.

These guidelines envisage specifics of investigating and prosecuting crimes committed against women and girls with disabilities, investigative techniques, instructions for investigators and prosecutors to exercise their rights and obligations defined by the legislation in a manner that effectively protects the interests of persons with disabilities, ensures consideration of their individual needs and the principle of reasonable accommodation.

In order to improve access to justice for women and girls with disabilities and implement international standards in practice, the Human Rights Protection Department of the Prosecution Service of Georgia has been monitoring criminal cases involving victims, including women and girls with disabilities and compliance of prosecutorial and investigative activities to guidelines on "Standards and methods of working with a witness, a victim and a defendant with disabilities" and "Standards and methods of working with a minor witness/victim/defendant with disabilities" since 2022.

After conducting the monitoring, analyses of crimes committed against persons with

disabilities, including women and girls, for 2021⁴², 2022⁴³, 2023⁴⁴ and 2024⁴⁵ were prepared, which cover trends and challenges in criminal cases involving persons with disabilities, including women and girls. The aforementioned analyses were published in Georgian and English on the website of the Prosecution Service of Georgia.

Based on the monitoring of criminal cases involving victims with disabilities and in accordance with the identified practical challenges, guideline on “Eliminating Shortcomings Identified in Criminal Cases Involving Persons with Disabilities” were approved for prosecutors and investigators of the Prosecution Service in 2024.

The guideline focuses on issues such as ensuring effective access to justice for persons with disabilities in criminal cases of violence against women and domestic violence, effective procedural guidance, special terminology, the importance of identifying bias motive and obtaining evidence to support it, etc.

Combating intersectional discrimination and hate crime is a priority for the Prosecution Service of Georgia. In this regard, the Human Rights Protection Department of the Prosecutor General's Office of Georgia monitors hate crime criminal cases on a daily basis. After conducting the monitoring, analyses of hate crime criminal cases for 2021⁴⁶, 2022⁴⁷, 2023⁴⁸ and 2024⁴⁹ were prepared, which include criminological and legal aspects of hate crime, as well as current trends and challenges. The aforementioned analyses were published in Georgian and English on the website of the Prosecution Service of Georgia.

In 2022, a Council of Europe expert developed a guideline on “Principles for investigating hate crime according to international standards” for specialised prosecutors, which analyses

⁴² https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpREaGEu.pdf

https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpPL5Noc.pdf

⁴³ https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpgR6ons.pdf

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https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpzoiwBY.pdf

https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpUubQ6.pdf

⁴⁴ https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpubmVk8.pdf

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⁴⁵ https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phptYtgrZ.pdf

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⁴⁶ https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/php8LBjd1.pdf

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⁴⁷ https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phptHTWhW.pdf

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⁴⁸ https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpfkV7AW.pdf

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⁴⁹ https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/php3k8Yyi.pdf

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trends of the European Court of Human Rights decisions on cases involving various grounds of discrimination, including gender.

In accordance with the challenges identified in practice and through monitoring of criminal cases of hate crime, new guideline on “Eliminating Shortcomings Identified in Criminal Cases of Hate Crime” was developed for prosecutors and investigators of the Prosecution Service. The guideline was approved by the decree of the Prosecutors General of Georgia in 2024.

47. Please indicate if legislative or other measures have been taken to issue a renewable residence permit to migrant women who have become a victim of any of the forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention if the competent authority considers that their stay is necessary for the purpose of their co-operation in investigation or criminal proceedings.⁵⁰

The Law of Georgia on the “Legal Status of Foreigners and Stateless Persons” provides a provision of a temporary residence permit, to be granted to a foreigner who, under the Law of Georgia on the “Elimination of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence, Protection and Support of Victims of Domestic Violence” is recognized a victim, when restraining order or a protective order has been issued, criminal proceedings related to violence against women and/or domestic violence are in place, and/or when individual benefits from the services of the shelter/crisis center for victims of violence against women and/or domestic violence. The current regulation of the Law entered into force on July 1st, 2023. Prior to the amendment, the right to obtain a temporary residence permit was granted to those foreigners who had already been assigned the status of a victim in accordance with the Law of Georgia “On the Prevention of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence, Protection and Assistance to Victims of Violence”.

The LEPL „Public Service Development Agency“ of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia issues a temporary residence permit on the basis of the request of an institution that provides services for the victims of domestic violence or a body conducting criminal proceedings.

From January 2023 till April 2025, the LEPL „Public Service Development Agency“ has granted 9 temporary residence permits to the foreigners based on the above-mentioned grounds.

Article 51: Risk assessment and risk management

⁵⁰ This question refers to the obligation contained in Article 59, paragraph 3. State parties that have entered a reservation in respect of Article 59 may reply to this question but are not required to do so.

48. Please describe any standardised and mandatory risk assessment tools in use by all relevant authorities in all regions for forms of violence against women such as stalking, violence committed in the name of so-called honour and domestic violence and to what extent these tools are being used in practice to assess the lethality risk, the seriousness of the situation and the risk of repeated violence with a view to preventing further violence. Please specify whether the following elements are considered as red flags when carrying out the risk assessment:

- a. the possession of or access to firearms by the perpetrator;*
- b. the filing for separation/divorce by the victim or the break-up of the relationship;*
- c. pregnancy;*
- d. previous acts of violence;*
- e. the prior issue of a restrictive measure;*
- f. threats made by the perpetrator to take away common children;*
- g. acts of sexual violence;*
- h. threats to kill the victim and her children;*
- i. threat of suicide;*
- j. coercive and controlling behaviour.*

Risk-Assessment Tools of the Law Enforcement

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia has implemented a tool for assessing the risks of recurrence of violence and detailed rules for monitoring restraining orders. Law enforcement officers use a structured questionnaire to collect comprehensive information about the fact of violence and the persons involved in it, and to better identify the risks expected from the perpetrator. The police officer also has the opportunity to implement effective measures to prevent repeated violence.

The amendments made in 2023 to the Decree No. 81 of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia of July 13, 2018 “On Approval of the Forms of Restraining Order and Restraining Order Protocol, as well as Determination of Persons Authorized to Draw Them Up” have regulated the mechanism for assessing the risk of recurrence of violence in a new way. In particular, three-point questions indicate the risk of repeated violence, while five-point questions determine a high risk of repeated violence.

It is noteworthy that in order to eliminate the shortcomings identified in practice, the range of questions that, if answered positively and with the appropriate number of points, will allow for electronic supervision, has been increased. This ensures more effective implementation of measures against violence against women and domestic violence by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

The Human Rights Department continuously monitors the ongoing legal proceedings in police departments regarding cases of domestic violence and violence against women. This

department also oversees that legal processes are conducted in a victim-centered manner and, most importantly, that all relevant services and protection mechanisms are offered to the citizen involved in the processes.

The agency also has an electronic monitoring mechanism in place. In accordance with the challenges identified by the Human Rights Protection Department during the monitoring process, it became necessary to review the existing mechanisms, implement changes, and develop more victim-centered approaches.

The process of changes was preceded by an assessment of the mechanism for assessing the risks of recurrence of violence according to international standards by experts from the non-governmental organization - "Global Rights for Women", with the support of UN Women, as well as working meetings with representatives of both police units and the NGO sector and the Public Defender's Office.

As of May 1, 2023, the Restraining Order and Risk Assessment Tool have been implemented in an updated form. The purpose of the relevant amendments to the legal acts was to increase the effectiveness of the fight against violence against women and/or domestic violence and family crime and to create a more effective mechanism for supervising the perpetrator.

Changes were made in several following areas:

- ✓ The questions were modified in terms of content, becoming even more victim-oriented;
- ✓ The scoring system was modified and positive answers to medium risk questions are now assessed as high risk;
- ✓ Low risk questions were eliminated;
- ✓ Risks of recurrence of violence are assessed only as risk and high risk;
- ✓ New risk assessment questions were added to the instrument, in accordance with the needs identified in practice.

With the changes, the process of assessing the risks of violence recurrence is more victim-centered. The updated structured questionnaire allows the authorized police officer to take effective measures to protect the victim and restrict certain actions of the perpetrator. Also, the updated tool has changed the standard for establishing electronic monitoring, which allows more victims to use an effective mechanism for preventing violence.

Along with the amendment of the restraining order, a cascade of retraining of employees took place. In all regional police units of Georgia, police officers were provided with information on the changes made to the tool and electronic surveillance. A manual on the procedures for establishing electronic surveillance was prepared and distributed to territorial units.

The European Commission's report of November 8, 2023, positively assessed the updating and increasing the effectiveness of the risk assessment tool by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

Risk-Assessment by the Court

In cases of violence against women and domestic violence crimes, as well as other categories of crimes, decisions made through the cassation review process of criminal cases are based on a comprehensive and objective examination of evidence in full compliance with legal requirements. These decisions rely on a coherent set of clear and convincing evidence of individual factual circumstances that establishes beyond reasonable doubt that the accused committed the incriminated crime.

Taking into account the specific factual circumstances of the case and the personal characteristics of the accused, the judge—exercising his discretionary authority—selects, from among the alternative sanctions prescribed by the legislature, the particular punishment to be imposed, and must provide a reasoned justification for that choice. Punishment is the law's response to a committed offence; accordingly, in each individual case it must be tailored, proportionate, and bear a strictly personal character. The court has repeatedly observed that, on the one hand, imposing a sentence that is unduly severe for the offender engenders a sense of injustice; on the other hand, extending excessive leniency and imposing an unduly mild penalty may instill in the offender a sense of impunity and—even to some degree—serve to encourage him.⁵¹

In the determination of a sentence, the court shall take into consideration the aggravating and mitigating circumstances relevant to the offender's liability. These encompass such factors as: the motive and purpose of the offence; the wrongfulness of the intent manifested in the act; the nature and extent of the breach of obligations; the manner and method employed in the commission of the act; the unlawful consequence resulting therefrom; the offender's background; and other pertinent factors (pursuant to Article 53, Part 3 of the Criminal Code of Georgia). Evidently, the presence of circumstances aggravating liability indicates a heightened degree of culpability on the part of the individual who perpetrated the criminal act.

Furthermore, according to Article 53¹, part 1 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, committing a crime with a discriminatory motive, including gender discrimination motive (in the new edition: intolerance towards equality between women and men) is considered an aggravating circumstance for liability. The Court of Cassation explains in numerous decisions that *"a crime is committed with a gender intolerance motive if evidence confirms facts of a man restricting a woman's freedom, forcing her into established stereotypical frameworks, and controlling her, and precisely this reason is the leading factor in the emergence of criminal intent."*⁵² To establish the gender motive of a specific crime, the

⁵¹ For example, the judgment of the Tbilisi City Court of October 4, 2023, Case No. 1/5969-22.

⁵² For example, Decision No 203ap.-22 of the Supreme Court of Georgia, dated 20 June 2022.

motive must relate to the relevant episode of violence and requires appropriate factual confirmation.⁵³

Additionally, the legislator has defined as aggravating circumstances the commission of a crime by one family member against another family member, against a minor or in a minor's presence, using a weapon or threatening to use a weapon, and others (Article 53¹, part 2 of the Criminal Code of Georgia). The latter is particularly noteworthy since common court practice demonstrates that in most cases violence is accompanied by threats - a person threatens a specific individual with committing a specific violent act, and the threat is expressed in such a manner that gives the recipient reasonable fear that the threat will be carried out, often including demonstrations of weapons. This serves not only as a demonstration of power and means of controlling the victim but also increases the risk of homicide. Consequently, to prevent violence and avoid its harmful consequences, common courts pay due attention to information about whether perpetrators of violence possess or have access to firearms.⁵⁴

Article 53¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia is all the more important because, where the aggravating circumstances provided for by this provision apply, the term of imprisonment imposed must exceed by at least one year the minimum sentence prescribed for the committed offence under the relevant Article or paragraph of the Code (see paragraph 3 of Article 53¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia). However, when determining the penalty, the aggravating circumstances set out in Article 53¹ shall not be taken into consideration if the specific Article or paragraph of the Special Part of the Code already incorporates qualifying circumstances that correspond to those in Article 53¹, since the offender's punishment must not be increased on account of circumstances that are already subsumed within the legal qualification of the offence.

The court pays special attention to the systematic and continuous nature of violence (including taking into consideration restraining and protective orders and the grounds for their issuance), as this is important for preventing future violence and providing real protection to victims, since the repetition of violent acts by the same person is associated with increased risks. Additionally, the Criminal Code punishes non-compliance with the requirements and obligations provided for in a restraining order or protective order, and/or intrusion by the abuser into the alarm zone defined by the rules of electronic supervision during the implementation of electronic supervision, and/or failure of the abuser to comply with an authorized person's request to leave the alarm or buffer zone, or the abuser's evasion of electronic supervision, i.e., an action that made it impossible to implement electronic supervision (Article 381¹ of the Criminal Code).

⁵³ *ibid.*,

⁵⁴ According to Article 52¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia, restriction of weapon-related rights may be imposed as an additional punishment, which means restricting or prohibiting the manufacturing, acquisition and/or storage, carrying or/and use of weapons (including service weapons). Importantly, when imposing restriction of weapon-related rights as an additional punishment, it is not necessary for the weapon to be the subject of the crime or intended for committing the crime. The restriction of weapon-related rights is imposed as a punishment for a period of one to five years.

Common courts emphasize in numerous decisions the state's obligation to take all measures to ensure that responsible law enforcement agencies respond quickly and appropriately to all forms of violence by offering adequate and immediate protection to victims. Furthermore, responsible law enforcement agencies should promptly and properly implement prevention and protection from all forms of violence, including the use of preventive operational measures and collection of evidence, as well as conducting effective investigation of crimes and ensuring criminal prosecution. The authorized state bodies have a primary role in properly assessing existing risk and managing it to prevent fatal incidents. The assessment of the risk of fatal outcomes and repeated violence should be conducted through coordinated work of all government bodies.⁵⁵To illustrate this issue, an important example is the ruling of April 14, 2022, by the Administrative Chamber of the Supreme Court of Georgia, which reveals that a female victim experienced systematic physical and psychological violence from her husband (and later ex-husband), for protection from whom she had appealed to law enforcement agencies 16 times over the years. Despite this, state authorities did not use effective measures provided by law. In February 2017, the woman was found dead, and her former husband was prosecuted for driving her to suicide (however, the Supreme Court ultimately qualified the criminal case as domestic violence). The deceased's mother appealed to the court and demanded compensation for moral damage from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the General Prosecutor's Office - as state bodies failed to protect her daughter's right to life, despite appealing for help 16 times.

The court of first instance imposed the obligation to compensate for moral damages exclusively on the Ministry of Internal Affairs. On appeal, the appellate chamber held that, alongside the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Office of the Prosecutor General must also bear responsibility for such compensation, since the Prosecutor's Office had failed to duly consider the victim's repeated complaints and the perpetrator's conduct and had not taken the legally prescribed measures to ensure the timely establishment of the perpetrator's liability.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the General Prosecutor's Office did not acknowledge any violation and appealed the decision to the Supreme Court; however, the Court of Cassation declared their appeals inadmissible and consequently upheld the obligation imposed on the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the General Prosecutor's Office to compensate for damages.

The cassation chamber's ruling is based on the obligations under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights, decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, the Istanbul Convention, the general comments of the CEDAW Committee, and relying precisely on these, the chamber considered that *"law enforcement authorities, who had a real prospect of changing or mitigating the tragic outcome, through their obvious disregard of various protective measures directly available to them (failure by the Ministry of Internal*

⁵⁵ Order No. BS-719 (23-20) of the Supreme Court of Georgia dated 14 April 2022.

Affairs of Georgia to use all necessary measures and mechanisms to protect the victim and to conduct a complete and effective investigation; failure by the General Prosecutor's Office of Georgia to conduct an effective investigation of the crime and ensure criminal prosecution), failed to demonstrate special diligence in preventing gender-based violence against the plaintiff's daughter, which resulted in her suicide several hours after one such instance of violence."⁵⁶

The present case is of a precedential nature, inasmuch as it represents the first example wherein, within the specific context of preventing actions culminating in suicide [or: preventing incitement to suicide / preventing circumstances leading to suicide], the obligation to impose liability for damages upon state authorities has been examined, where said authorities knew, or ought to have known, of a risk to the victim's life and health, and failed to afford protection utilizing the means available to them.

49. Please specify how effective co-operation is ensured between the different statutory authorities and specialist women's support services in making risk assessments and whether the risks identified are managed by law enforcement agencies on the basis of individual safety plans that include also the safety of the victim's children.

Effective Cooperation and Risk Assessment in Women's Referral Mechanism

As mentioned previously, the 2024 Government Resolution No. 14, Georgia approved the National Referral Procedures for Women Victims of Violence and/or Domestic Violence, which formalize interagency cooperation and ensure timely identification, protection, and support of victims. These procedures apply a victim-centered, multi-sectoral approach, involving the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Prosecution Service, Ministry of Justice, Health and Social Protection authorities, and others. Risk assessment is integrated into the actions of medical, law enforcement, and social service actors, including initial screening, documenting abuse, identifying the level of danger, and determining appropriate support and protection measures such as protective and restraining orders, shelter placement, or psychological services.

Healthcare professionals are responsible for conducting initial on-site assessments and risk evaluations if they suspect or confirm violence, using official documentation forms. They must also provide emergency assistance, notify the appropriate authorities, and refer victims for further support. Law enforcement agencies, in turn, may initiate electronic surveillance or issue protective orders. The referral procedures require rapid and coordinated communication between agencies, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) are being elaborated across all institutions to detail their roles in risk assessment and protection planning.

⁵⁶ *ibid.*,

Child Protection Referral and Risk Assessment Procedures

For child victims, the Child Protection Referral Procedures, in force since 2016 (Government Decree No. 437), establish mandatory reporting obligations and coordinated responses across education, health, social, and law enforcement sectors. The Social Service Agency (SSA) is the central actor responsible for evaluating reported cases, identifying risk levels to the child's safety and well-being, and organizing appropriate protection, including removal from the abusive environment when necessary. Social workers conduct home visits and family assessments, focusing on both immediate threats and systemic vulnerabilities (e.g., substance abuse, poverty, or previous violence).

Educational and healthcare institutions play a critical role in initial identification of risks through behavioral signs or disclosures and are required to inform the SSA promptly. These reports trigger multi-agency cooperation, and decisions about child protection and potential court involvement are made based on comprehensive risk analysis.

For more information on risk-assessment mechanisms of the law enforcement, see previous answers.

50. Please describe the efforts made to analyse retrospectively all cases of gender-based killings of women, in the context of domestic violence and other forms of violence against women to identify the existence of possible systemic gaps in the institutional response of the authorities with the aim of preventing such acts in the future.

Efforts of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia actively implements measures to combat domestic and/or violence against women and uses all preventive and response mechanisms at its disposal, as evidenced by high statistical indicators:

- Risk assessment tool, restraining order, electronic surveillance;
- Special mechanisms for monitoring obligations specified in restraining orders and electronic surveillance;
- Special unit - Human Rights Protection Department, which monitors all cases of violence against women or domestic violence and family crimes on a daily basis, is actively involved in the processes of issuing restraining orders and establishing electronic surveillance by the police;
- Constant readiness and work on improving the qualifications and professional training of employees;
- Various types of public awareness raising activities.

The goal of all of the above components is to prevent cases of violence and increase the population's willingness to address them, which ultimately helps prevent serious cases of

domestic violence and violence against women.

Efforts of the Prosecution Service

The Prosecution Service of Georgia pursues a strict criminal justice policy in cases of murder and attempted murder motivated by gender intolerance. In 2022-2024, the Prosecution Service of Georgia had special focus on femicide.

In 2022, by decree of the Prosecutor General of Georgia, the Prosecutor General's advisory body "Council for Reviewing Complaints of Victims of Violation of Right to Life", was established, which reviews complaints from victims. The Council is authorized to establish supervision, before making a final decision on the matter, the Council is also authorized, if necessary, to submit a proposal to the Prosecutor General regarding the application of disciplinary liability against the prosecutor/investigator of the Prosecution Service.

Since 2022, the Council, upon the instructions of the Prosecutor General and based on the applications of the victims, has examined 43 criminal cases. In the process of reviewing the applications/complaints received by the Council, the Council Secretariat directly examined the criminal cases, interviewed the applicants, investigators and supervisor prosecutors of the criminal case. The Council issued 59 recommendations on 30 criminal cases.

The Human Rights Protection Department of the Prosecutor General's Office of Georgia monitors criminal cases of gender-based murder and attempted murder of women. Within the framework of monitoring criminal cases of femicide, trends of investigation and procedural guidance over the criminal case were identified and the court decisions were analysed. Based on the monitoring results, in 2023, an analysis of femicide case for 2014-2022 was prepared, and in 2025, an analysis of femicide cases for 2023-2024 was prepared. The aforementioned analyses were published in Georgian and English on the website of the Prosecution Service of Georgia.

In 2024, in order to eliminate shortcoming in the procedural guidance over the investigation, which were identified through monitoring of investigative and procedural documents, and establish uniform practice, also, in order to effectively respond to femicide, by decree of the Prosecutor General of Georgia, guideline on "Eliminating Shortcomings Identified in Criminal Cases of Femicie" was approved for prosecutors and investigators of the Prosecution Service.

In order to establish uniform practice, working meetings for prosecutors and judges are held annually on relevant issues of effective procedural guidance over criminal cases of femicide. Organised by the Prosecution Service of Georgia and supported by UN Women, 2 working meetings were held in 2024. Along with specialized prosecutors and judges, representatives of the Supreme Court and the Public Defender's Office also attended the meetings. The attendees discussed current trends and challenges in combating femicide, including practical aspects of gender-sensitive administration of justice, prosecution and trial of femicide.

In 2022-2024, 100 prosecutors and managers at the Prosecution Service were trained within the framework of 6 training activities on the effective investigation and prosecution of gender-based murder of women (femicide). The Prosecution Service managers and specialised prosecutors who provide procedural guidance over criminal cases of femicide participated in the training.

The training course covered the latest decisions against Georgia by the European Court of Human Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as well as and the state's obligations in the process of effective implementation of the decisions. Participants also discussed the types and forms of femicide in accordance to international and national legislation and practice.

Article 52: Emergency barring orders

51. Have any legislative or other measures been taken to introduce and/or amend the legal framework governing emergency barring orders in order to align it with the requirements of Article 52? If yes, please specify whether:

- a. emergency barring orders may remain in place until a victim can obtain a court-ordered protection order in order to ensure that gaps in the protection do not arise;*
- b. support and advice are made available to women victims of domestic violence in a pro-active manner by the authority competent to issue an emergency barring order;*
- c. children are specifically included in contact bans issued under the emergency barring order;*
- d. any exceptions to contact bans are made and in which circumstances.*

No changes were made to legislative or subordinate normative acts during the period under review.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia actively continues to use the tool for assessing the risk of recurrence of violence, which allows the police officer to timely identify the threat of repeated violence and use such an operational mechanism as a restraining order for the prevention of violence. A decision is made to ensure the protection of the victim in accordance with the level of risk identified. Also, in accordance with Decree No. 100 of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia, a monitoring process is planned for the fulfillment of the obligations imposed on the perpetrator by the issued restraining order. If the risk is high, control of the perpetrator becomes more intensive. Monitoring of the fulfillment of the obligations imposed on the perpetrator is carried out both through electronic communication and personal meetings/visits. Personal meetings/visits are carried out with both the victim and the perpetrator. It is worth noting that the time of the meetings may be both planned and unplanned (which further allows for the identification of cases of possible violations of the obligations imposed by the order).

The Ministry also continues to use an electronic surveillance system (electronic bracelet), which allows the police officers to monitor in real time the process of the perpetrator's compliance with the obligations imposed by the order, namely the prohibition of approaching the victim, their home, workplace, or other predetermined places.

If the monitoring process reveals person's failure to comply with the requirements and obligations stipulated in the restraining or protective order; and/or during the implementation of electronic supervision, the perpetrator enters the alarm zone defined by the rules for implementing electronic supervision; and/or the perpetrator fails to comply with the request of an authorized person to leave the alarm or buffer zone; or the perpetrator evades electronic supervision, i.e. an action that made it impossible to implement electronic supervision - the perpetrator shall be held criminally liable in accordance with Article 3811 of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

52. Please provide information on the measures taken to enforce emergency barring orders and on responses to any violations of such orders.

No changes were made to legislative or subordinate normative acts during the period under review.

According to the Law "On Prevention of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence, Protection and Assistance to Victims of Violence", the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia is defined as one of the main agencies implementing preventive measures. According to the Law of Georgia - "On Police", "in order to ensure the performance of its functions, the police shall issue a restraining order as a temporary measure within the scope of its competence... it shall supervise the fulfillment of the requirements and conditions stipulated in the issued protective and restraining orders. Also, as per the Criminal Code of Georgia the violation of the rules of a restraining/protective order and electronic surveillance is punishable offence.

To perform the functions stipulated by the Law of Georgia "On Police", a police officer also utilizes internal legal acts issued by the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia, such as:

- ✓ Decree No. 81 of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia "On Approval of the Forms of Restraining Order and Protocol of Restraining Order, as well as Determination of Persons Authorized to Draw Them Up"
- ✓ Decree No. 100 of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia "On Approval of the Rules for Supervision of Compliance with Requirements and Conditions Provided for by Protective, Restraining and Weapon-Related Rights Restriction Orders"
- ✓ Decree No. 126 of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia "On Approval of the Rules for Implementing Electronic Surveillance"
- ✓ Decree No. 127 of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia "On Approval of the

Form of the Protocol on the Implementation of Electronic Surveillance"

- ✓ Regulations and guiding documents for structural units and police units responding to cases of violence.

All of the above-mentioned legislative acts regulate the issues of responding to cases of domestic violence and violence against women, including the assessment of the risks of repeated violence, relevant issues of issuing warrants and supervision.

Article 53: Restraining or protection orders

53. Have any legislative or other measures been taken to introduce and/or amend the legal framework governing restraining and protection orders in order to align it with the requirements of Article 53? If yes, please specify whether:

- a. restraining or protection orders are available – in the context of criminal proceedings and/or upon application from civil courts - to women victims of all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention, including domestic violence, stalking, sexual harassment, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, violence related to so-called honour as well as digital manifestations of violence against women and girls;*
- b. children are specifically included in protection orders;*
- c. any exceptions to contact bans are made and, if so, in which circumstances these may be made.*

No changes were made to legislative or subordinate normative acts during the period under review.

However, it is noteworthy that Articles 3 and 31 of the Law of Georgia “On Prevention of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence and the Protection and Assistance to Victims of Violence” define the concepts of “domestic violence” and “violence against women.”

According to the above, domestic violence refers to the violation of the constitutional rights and freedoms of another family member by neglect and/or physical, psychological, economic, sexual violence or coercion.

As for violence against women, the latter refers to all acts of violence committed against women in public or private life due to intolerance of equality between women and men, which result in or are likely to result in physical, psychological or sexual suffering or economic harm to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty. At the same time, for the purposes of this law, a female minor under the age of 18 is also considered a woman.

Also, based on Article 10 of the Law of Georgia “On Prevention of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence and the Protection and Assistance to Victims of Violence”: In order to ensure the protection of the victim and the restriction of certain actions of the perpetrator, a restraining order or protective order may be issued as a temporary measure by the relevant authorized body, in order to respond promptly to the fact of violence against women and/or domestic violence. Accordingly, this issue has already been regulated in accordance with Georgian legislation.

The Detailed information with Judicial Data (Annex No.1) is provided under Article 11 Data collection and research.

54. Please provide information on the measures taken to enforce protection orders and on responses to any violations of such orders.

In accordance with Order No. 100 of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia, a monitoring process is planned for the fulfillment of obligations imposed on the perpetrator by a protective order issued by the court. In case of violations are identified during the monitoring process, an investigation is launched in the relevant unit of the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The Detailed information with Judicial Data (Annex No.1) is provided under Article 11 Data collection and research.

Article 56: Measures of protection

55. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure the following:

a. that the relevant agency informs the victim when the perpetrator escapes or is released temporarily, at least when they or their family might be in danger (paragraph 1 b);

In accordance to Article 57 §1 “i” of Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia, upon request victim has right to obtain information on the measure of restraint applied against the accused, and information on the leaving of a penitentiary institution by the accused/convicted person, unless this creates a risk for the accused/convicted person.

In accordance to Article 171 §4 of Law of Georgia “On the Elimination of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence and the Protection and Support of Victims of Such Violence”, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia shall, based on the information furnished by the penitentiary institution, immediately notify a victim of the release or escape from the penitentiary institution, as well as a short leave from the prison facility under the procedure envisaged by Article 125 of the Penitentiary Code, also of the leaving

of the prison facility for the preparation for release envisaged by Article 34 §12 of the same Code, of the person (the perpetrator) having committed violence against him/her (the victim); the Ministry shall also take the measures provided for by Article 11 § 2 of this Law.

In particular, in the circumstances provided for in Article 171 §4 of the abovementioned Law, an authorized employee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia assesses the information provided by the victim. In the risk assessment process, the employee is authorized to request an individual assessment report of the convict from the penitentiary institution. If the received information provides sufficient grounds to assume that violence against the victim may be repeated, an employee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia shall determine the whereabouts of the person released from the penitentiary institution and after receiving the relevant explanations from them, the employee of the MIA decides whether to issue a restraining order or not.

b. the protection of the privacy and the image of the victim (paragraph 1 f);

c. the possibility for victims to testify in the courtroom without being present or at least without the presence of the alleged perpetrator, notably through the use of appropriate communication technologies, where available (paragraph 1 i);

To reduce the risks of secondary victimisation and re-victimisation, avoid and prevent intimidation and reprisal, the victim may exercise rights and measures provided for by the Law of Georgia “On the Elimination of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence and the Protection and Support of Victims of Such Violence”, as well as the measures of protection provided for by the Criminal Procedure Code, including special measures to protect the participant of the criminal proceedings. Necessity of using such special protective measures is assessed by the prosecutor.

Article 243(3) of the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia sets a general rule for remote examinations of witnesses. According to the provision, by a court decision, upon motion of a party, a witness may be examined remotely, by using technical means from the same or another court or any other place, of which the parties shall be notified in advance.

Article 40 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia envisages restriction of the right of the accused to be present; in particular, when interrogating a witness, a judge may deny the defendant the right to attend the hearing if one of the special measures of protection of a witness are applied.

Chapter IX of the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia envisages grounds and procedure for applying special measures of protection of participants in criminal proceedings.

Article 243 of the same Code envisages remote examination of a witness by using technological means from the same or another court or any other place, of which the parties shall be notified in advance.

By the Article 182 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia envisages the procedure of closing the court hearing in full or in part in order to protect the victim or their family member; in particular, the judge may, on his/her initiative, close a court hearing in full or in part:

- a) for the purpose of protecting personal data, or professional or commercial secrets;
- b) for the purpose of personal security of a participant in proceedings and/or of his/her family member (close relative), or if a special measure of protection is applied with respect to a participant in proceedings, which requires the closing of a trial session;
- c) for the purpose of defending the interests of a victim of sexual offence, trading in persons (trafficking) or domestic crime;
- e) when a person whose personal correspondence or personal communications is to be produced in the trial does not give his/her consent;
- f) if the participant of the criminal proceedings was involved in a operative-investigative or covert investigative actions.

Article 24 of Juvenile Justice Code of Georgia, provides measures to protect minor witnesses in order to prevent re-victimisation and secondary victimisation. In particular, to protect the best interests of minor witnesses, a judge may, on their own initiative or on the motion of a minor witness, their legal representatives, or a lawyer or prosecutor, deliver a decision:

- a) on interrogation of the minor witness by using a device that alters the image and/or voice of a witness, or interrogation behind a non-transparent screen, or interrogation remotely;
- b) on interrogation of the minor witness before a court hearing with the participation of the lawyer of the defendant and with a video recording of the interrogation process;
- c) on the partial or full closure of a court hearing;
- d) on the temporary removal of the defendant from the courtroom if the minor witness refuses to give testimony in the presence of the defendant or if the existing circumstances suggest that the minor witness might refrain from telling the truth in the presence of the defendant, or that secondary victimisation of the minor witness might occur. In this case, the participation of the lawyer of the defendant in the court hearing is compulsory.

It should be noted, if a victim refuses to testify against a perpetrator in the court, pursuant to Article 50 §5 of Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia, a prosecutor offers them (victim) the consultation with a witness and victim coordinator, so that the victim can make an informed decision on refusal to testify against a close relative. In this regard, the victim is informed about the importance of testifying, reasons for the victim's refusal to testify is determined – whether the victim was threatened or underwent any unlawful act from the perpetrator or any other person. Moreover, possibility of re-victimisation and secondary victimisation is assessed and relevant legal response is granted, if necessary.

d. the provision of appropriate support services for victims so that their rights and interests are duly presented and taken into account (paragraph 1 e).

In Georgia, victims of violence against women and domestic violence have access to free legal consultations and representation through the Legal Aid Service, as provided by the Law on Legal Aid. Specialised support for women victims of gender-based violence is available via 18 Legal Aid Bureaus, 42 Consultation Centers, and a mobile unit, as well as online platforms, social media channels, and dedicated helplines.

The Witness and Victim Coordinator Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs ensures that victims are informed of their rights, obligations, and investigative procedures, receive emotional support during investigative actions, and are referred to legal, psychological, medical, or other necessary services.

The Witness and Victim Coordinator Service of the Prosecutor's Office provides similar support throughout investigations and court proceedings, facilitates referrals to relevant service providers, and, by order of the Prosecutor General, is mandatorily involved in cases of femicide, gender-based violence, sexual offences, domestic crimes, crimes against minors, human trafficking, and intolerance-motivated crimes.

Part III: Emerging trends on violence against women and domestic violence

56. Please provide information on new developments since the adoption of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report on your country concerning:

a. emerging trends in violence against women and domestic violence, including its digital manifestations (types of perpetration, groups of victims, forms of violence);

Emerging Trends in Online and Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women and Children

Within the framework of monitoring of criminal cases of domestic violence and violence against women, particular attention is paid to online violence, especially cases of sexual violence and sexual exploitation committed against children, including online.

The Strategy of the Prosecution of Georgia for 2022-2027 identifies protection of children from sexual violence and exploitation as a priority area and the Prosecution Service has strict criminal policy towards these crimes. In investigative and prosecutorial practice, special attention is paid to the implementation of international principles and standards established by conventions. Sexual violence and exploitation of children is particularly dangerous with the development of cyberspace and the increasing availability of digital

communication tools. In order to carry out the tasks provided by the Strategy, relevant activities have been outlined in the action plans, which will contribute to the detection and prevention of crimes committed online against children.

Although online sexual violence against a child is not a separate crime under Georgian legislation, the composition of this crime may be included in separate articles, including lewd act (Article 141 of CCG), offering a meeting of a sexual character to a minor or illegal production of a pornographic work (Article 255² of CCG), coercion into penetration of a sexual nature or into another action of a sexual nature (Article 139 of CCG) and etc.

The Department of Supervision of Prosecutorial Activities and Strategic Development of the Prosecutor General's Office of Georgia monitors criminal cases of sexual violence and sexual exploitation committed against children, including online, on a daily basis. The focus is on recognising minors as victims and launching criminal prosecutions without undue delay.

In October 2022, a UN Women expert group meeting was held on the topic of "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls". In addition, the publication "Strengthening prevention and response mechanisms for violence against women and girls committed in the digital space and facilitated by information and communication technologies" was published. The publication states that "there is no universally accepted definition of violence against women and girls committed in digital space and facilitated by information and communication technologies so far, but it can be defined as any act of gender-based violence that is committed, assisted, aggravated and amplified in part or fully by the use of information and communication technologies (such as mobile phone, internet, social network platforms or an e-mail) against a person on the basis of their gender or if the violence disproportionately affects women."

Taking abovementioned into consideration, the Human Rights Protection Department of the Prosecutor General's Office of Georgia deemed it necessary to study cases of violence committed in digital space and has been studying and collecting statistical data on hate crimes committed by the use of information and communication technologies since 2023.

Pursuant to GREVIO's general recommendation on the digital dimension of violence against women, the Human Rights Protection Department of the Prosecutor General's Office of Georgia monitored more than 2,000 criminal cases of gender-based and other intolerance-motivated crimes against women. As a result, the department prepared analyses of criminal cases for 2023 and 2024, which include criminological and criminal aspects, current trends and challenges of hate crimes committed in digital space and/or using computer technology or devices.

In 2024-2025, the Department of Supervision of Prosecutorial Activities and Strategic Development of the Prosecutor General's Office of Georgia processed statistical data on

prosecutions and victims of the sexual violence and exploitation of children online for 2017-2024. This process, along with monitoring of the criminal cases, allows the department to analyse and evaluate the existing criminal justice policy on these crimes.

Continuous Developments within the Ministry of Internal Affairs to Address Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia works on a daily basis to ensure that the methods and means of combating violence against women and domestic violence are effective and result-oriented. The reorganization of the Human Rights Protection Department - expanding its mandate, focusing on work in detail on defined areas, merger of the Coordinator's Service to the Department, constant observation and analysis of legal practice, permanent development of recommendations and guidance documents for the police officers and planning/implementation of awareness-raising activities serve precisely to the end of effectively combat violence against women and domestic violence.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia continues to actively work and take effective steps to combat domestic violence and violence against women.

<i>b. emerging trends in domestic case law related to violence against women</i>
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The Court of Cassation has in its case law repeatedly emphasized that the fairness of criminal proceedings is reflected in the imposition of a fair sentence, during which the court is bound by the obligation to ensure that the sentence it imposes is effective and proportionate. Proportionality of the sentence implies its application in a significantly individualized manner, taking into account the severity of the crime, the offender's culpability, and the harm caused by the offense. In addition, the court takes into account both mitigating and aggravating circumstances of liability, specifically: the motive and purpose of the crime, the unlawful intent expressed in the act, the nature and extent of the breach of duty, the manner and method of committing the act, the unlawful outcome, the offender's past conduct, personal and economic conditions, behavior following the act, and other relevant circumstances.⁵⁷

When imposing a sentence, the court takes into account the objectives of punishment: the restoration of justice, the prevention of further offenses, and the resocialization⁵⁸ of the offender. The purpose of the sentence is achieved through its impact on the convicted person and others, encouraging a sense of respect for the rule of law and responsibility before the law.⁵⁹ Legislation obliges the court to impose a fair sentence on the offender and prioritizes the use of less severe forms of punishment, except in cases where such measures

⁵⁷ Article 53, Part 3 of the Criminal Code of Georgia

⁵⁸ Article 39, Part 1 of the Criminal Code of Georgia

⁵⁹ Article 39, Part 2 of the Criminal Code of Georgia

fail to meet the aforementioned objectives of the sentence.⁶⁰

For instance, the Court of Cassation has repeatedly emphasized in its practice the particularly grave nature of sexual violence and its devastating impact on the victim. Accordingly, it has underscored the state's obligation to protect individuals from sexual violence, and in cases where such crimes have already been committed, to identify the perpetrator and impose an appropriate sentence. Additionally, the court has highlighted the necessity of providing the victim with proper moral and psychological support.⁶¹

Within the scope of their discretionary authority, a judge makes a decision regarding the application of a specific type of punishment from among the alternative sanctions established by the legislator, and this decision must be duly substantiated. Statistical data on judgments delivered during the reporting period indicate that, in most cases of violence against women and domestic violence, first instance courts tend to impose severe penalties, such as imprisonment. (Please see the detailed judicial data enclosed in the appendix to the report).

c. emerging trends in the allocation of funding and budgeting by your state authorities

Over the past few years, substantial progress has been achieved both at the legislative level and in expanding social and financial assistance for survivors. Within the mandate of the State Care Agency, key accomplishments include:

- Abolishing the requirement for formal “victim status” to access support services;
- Expanding the network of shelters and crisis centers;
- Sustained participation in the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign;
- Institutional capacity-building for staff on these issues;
- Relocating helpline operations to the Agency's central office;
- Establishing the Division for Trafficking and Violence Victim Services;
- Creating the Analytics and Statistics Unit;
- Ensuring uninterrupted delivery of support services;
- Renewing and upgrading infrastructure.

Thus, guided by best international practices and tailored to Georgia's context, the country continually enhances its support services for survivors each year.

d. innovative approaches to primary prevention, for example new target audiences and means of communication, public/private partnerships etc.

⁶⁰ Article 53, Part 1 of the Criminal Code of Georgia

⁶¹ The decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia of 22 April, 2024, Case No.139533-23

N/A

e. emerging trends related to access to asylum and international protection for women victims of violence against women.

N/A

Part IV: Administrative data and statistics

57. Please provide annual statistics for two complete calendar years prior to receiving this questionnaire on administrative and judicial data on:

a. the number of reports, investigations opened, prosecutions, final convictions secured and sanctions imposed in respect of all forms of violence against women and domestic violence covered by the Istanbul Convention;

Statistical Data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

According to the statistical data produced and published by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, thousands of cases of domestic violence and domestic crimes are recorded annually, while the rate of resolution of cases constantly maintains a high level.

Statistical data, in Georgian and English, are publicly available to all interested parties on the website of the National Statistics Service:

<https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/680/hate-crimes-statistics>

The rate of resolution of domestic violence crimes has been steadily exceeding 85% in recent years.

Statistical Data of the Prosecution Service

Domestic Crime

- **Prosecution**

In 2023-2024, the high rate of reporting domestic crimes to law enforcement agencies and initiation of criminal prosecution by the prosecutor's office has been maintained. In particular, in 2023, criminal prosecution for domestic violence and domestic crimes was launched against 5,286 individuals, and in 2024 - against 5,003 individuals.

- **Sex of defendants**

2023:

- Women - 285 individuals;
- Men - 5001 individuals;

2024

- Women - 269 individuals;
- Men - 4734 individuals;

The majority of those prosecuted are men, accounting for 95% in both years.

- **Age of defendants**

2023

- 14-17 – 14 individuals;
- 18-24 -338 individuals;
- 25-34 – 1460 individuals;
- 35-44 – 1833 individuals;
- 45-54 – 1022 individuals;
- 55-64 – 436 individuals;
- 65< - 183 individuals;

2024

- 14-17 – 19 individuals;
- 18-24 -269 individuals;
- 25-34 – 1260 individuals;
- 35-44 – 1787 individuals;
- 45-54 – 1072 individuals;
- 55-64 – 429 individuals;
- 65< - 167 individuals;

Territorial distribution (Defendants)

2023

- Tbilisi - 1432 individuals;
- Shida Kartli and Mtkheta-Mtianeti - 619 Individuals;
- Kvemo Kartli - 804 Individuals;
- Kakheti - 500 individuals;
- Samtskhe-javakheti - 181 individuals;

- Western Georgia - 725 individuals;
- Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 201 individuals;
- Adjara - 801 individuals;
- Aphkhazeti - 4 individuals;
- Departments of the General Prosecutor's Office - 19 individuals;

2024

- Tbilisi - 1356 individuals;
- Shida Kartli and Mtkheta-Mtianeti - 556 individuals;
- Kvemo Kartli - 750 individuals;
- Kakheti - 398 individuals;
- Samtskhe-javakheti - 168 individuals;
- Western Georgia - 758 individuals;
- Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti -223 individuals;
- Adjara - 768 individuals;
- Aphkhazeti - 3 individuals;
- Departments of the General Prosecutor's Office - 23 individuals;

- **Victims**

The number of victims of domestic violence and domestic crimes in 2023 was 6,062 people, and in 2024 - 5,789 people.

- **Sex of Victims**

2023

- Women - 5063 individuals;
- Men - 999 individuals;

2024

- Women - 4828 individuals;
- Men - 961 individuals;

- **Age of Victims**

2023

- Under 18 - 909 individuals;
- 18-24 - 590 individuals;
- 25-34 - 1389 individuals;
- 35-44 - 1264 individuals;
- 45-54 - 707 individuals;
- 55-64 – 537 individuals;

- 65< - 665 individuals;
- Unidentified - 1 individuals.

2024

- 18 - 843 individuals;
- 18-24 - 498 individuals;
- 25-34 - 1275 individuals;
- 35-44 - 1309 individuals;
- 45-54 - 761 individuals;
- 55-64 - 475 individuals;
- 65< - 628 individuals.

Territorial distribution (Victims)

2023

- Tbilisi - 1595 individuals;
- Shida Kartli and Mtkheta-Mtianeti - 749 individuals;
- Kvemo Kartli - 815 individuals;
- Kakheti - 700 individuals;
- Samtskhe-javakheti - 221 individuals;
- Western Georgia - 778 individuals;
- Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 266 individuals;
- Adjara - 918 individuals;
- Aphkhazeti - 4 individuals;
- Departments of the General Prosecutor's Office - 16 individuals.

2024

- Tbilisi - 1531 individuals;
- Shida Kartli and Mtkheta-Mtianeti - 669 individuals;
- Kvemo Kartli - 766 individuals;
- Kakheti - 557 individuals;
- Samtskhe-javakheti - 194 individuals;
- Western Georgia - 864 individuals;
- Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 276 individuals;
- Adjara - 905 individuals;
- Aphkhazeti - 3 individuals;
- Departments of the General Prosecutor's Office - 24 individuals.

Forms of Violence

2023

- Physical violence - 226;
- Psychological violence - 2516;
- Physical, Psychological violence - 2981;
- Sexual violence - 95;
- Coercion -151;
- Economic Violence - 93;

2024

- Physical violence - 203;
- Psychological violence - 2502;
- Physical, Psychological violence - 2779;
- Sexual violence - 81;
- Coercion -150;
- Economic Violence - 74.

Crime against Sexual Freedom and Sexual Inviolability

In 2023, criminal prosecution was launched against 231 individuals under Articles 137-141 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and 258 individuals were recognized as statutory victims.

In 2024, criminal prosecution was launched against 213 individuals under Articles 137-141 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and 237 individuals were recognized as victims.

As for the statistical data on sexual crimes committed against women, they are as follows:

- **Prosecution**

2023

In 2023, prosecution was launched against 227 men for committing sexual crimes against women under the following articles of the CCG:

Article 137 of the Criminal Code (Rape) - 87 individuals;
 Article 138 of the Criminal Code (Another action of a sexual nature) - 38 individuals;
 Article 139 of the Criminal Code (Coercion into penetration of a sexual nature into the body of a person, or into another action of a sexual nature) - 12 individuals;
 Article 140 of the Criminal Code (Penetration of a sexual nature into the body of a person below 16 years of age) - 49 individuals;
 Article 141 of the Criminal Code (Lewd act) - 41 individuals.

2024

In 2024, prosecution was launched against 198 individuals for committing sexual crimes against women, out of which one woman is charged under Article 137 of the Criminal Code of Georgia. The statistical data of the criminal prosecution are as follows:

Article 137 of the Criminal Code (Rape) – 81 individuals;
Article 138 of the Criminal Code (Another action of a sexual nature) - 36 individuals;
Article 139 of the Criminal Code (Coercion into penetration of a sexual nature into the body of a person, or into another action of a sexual nature) - 11 individuals;
Article 140 of the Criminal Code (Penetration of a sexual nature into the body of a person below 16 years of age) - 42 individuals;
Article 141 of the Criminal Code (Lewd act) - 28 individuals.

- **Victims**

2023

In 2023, a total of 249 women, including 1 transgender woman, were recognized as victims under Articles 137-141 of the Criminal Code of Georgia. The statistical data on the recognition of victims are as follows:

Article 137 of the Criminal Code (Rape) - 88 women;
Article 138 of the Criminal Code (Another action of a sexual nature) - 41 women;
Article 139 of the Criminal Code (Coercion into penetration of a sexual nature into the body of a person, or into another action of a sexual nature) - 11 women;
Article 140 of the Criminal Code (Penetration of a sexual nature into the body of a person below 16 years of age) - 60 women;
Article 141 of the Criminal Code (Lewd act) - 49 women.

2024

In 2024, a total of 219 women, including 1 transgender woman, were recognized as victims under Articles 137-141 of the Criminal Code of Georgia. The statistical data on the recognition of victims are as follows:

Article 137 of the Criminal Code (Rape) – 82 women;
Article 138 of the Criminal Code (Another action of a sexual nature) – 38 women;
Article 139 of the Criminal Code (Coercion into penetration of a sexual nature into the body of a person, or into another action of a sexual nature) – 15 women;
Article 140 of the Criminal Code (Penetration of a sexual nature into the body of a person below 16 years of age) - 42 women;
Article 141 of the Criminal Code (Lewd act) – 42 women.

- **Age of Victims**

2023

Under 18 - 171 women;

18-24 - 27 women;
25-34 - 19 women;
35-44 - 18 women;
45-54 - 9 women;
Above 65 - 5 women.

2024

Under 18 - 143 women;
18-24 - 25 women;
25-34 - 31 women;
35-44 - 13 women;
45-54 - 2 women;
55-64 - 2 women;
Above 65 - 3 women

Territorial distribution (Victims)

2023

Tbilisi - 53 women;
Shida Kartli - 23 women;
Kvemo Kartli - 32 women;
Kakheti - 46 women;
Samtkhe-Javakheti - 7 women;
Western Georgia - 30 women;
Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 16 women;
Adjara - 34 women;
Aphkhazeti - 2 women;
Departments of the General Prosecutor's Office - 6 women.

2024

Tbilisi - 43 women;
Shida Kartli - 15 women;
Kvemo Kartli - 42 women;
Kakheti - 28 women;
Samtkhe-Javakheti - 6 women;
Western Georgia - 32 women;
Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 12 women;
Adjara - 32 women;
Aphkhazeti - 1 women;
Departments of the General Prosecutor's Office - 8 women.

Gender-based Violence

In 2023, prosecution was launched against 1 169 individuals on the grounds of gender intolerance. This figure is a 9.4% increase compared to the statistical data of 2022.

In 2024, the highest rate of identification of gender discrimination motives in criminal cases of violence against women and domestic violence was observed. Specifically, in 2024, prosecution was launched against 1 192 individuals on the grounds of gender intolerance. This figure is 2% higher than the statistical data for 2023.

- **Sex of Defendants**

2023

- Men - 1145 individuals;
- Women - 24 individuals;

2024

- Men - 1172 individuals;
- Women - 20 individuals;

- **Age of Defendants**

2023

- Under 18 - 13 individuals;
- Above 18 - 1156 individuals;

2024

- Under 18 - 3 individuals;
- Above 18 - 1189 individuals;

- **Territorial distribution (Defendants)**

2023

- Tbilisi – 341 individuals;
- Kvemo Kartli – 201 individuals;
- Adjara – 188 individuals;
- Western Georgia – 188 individuals;
- Shida Kartli – 105 individuals;
- Kakheti - 69 individuals;
- Samtskhe-Javakheti – 43 individuals;
- Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti – 34 individuals.

2024

- Tbilisi - 349 individuals;

- Western Georgia - 214 individuals;
- Adjara - 194 individuals;
- Kvemo Kartli - 166 individuals;
- Shida Kartli - 100 individuals;
- Kakheti - 79 individuals;
- Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 54 individuals;
- Samtskhe-Javakheti - 35 individuals;
- Aphkhazeti - 1 individual.

The statistical data of victim recognition in 2024 are 4% higher than the number of 2023 (1,177 victims), while the data of 2023, in turn, is 8% higher than the statistical data of 2022 (1,090 victims).

In 2023, 1,177 persons were recognized as victims of gender and other grounds of discrimination (sexual orientation, religion, nationality, age, and disability), out of which 1,164 were women, 1 was transgender woman, and 12 were men.

In 2024, 1,222 persons were recognized as victims of gender and other grounds of discrimination (sexual orientation, religion, nationality, age, and disability), out of which 1,209 were women, 2 were transgender women, and 11 were men.

- **Sex of Victims**

2023

- Women - 1164 individuals;
- Men - 12 individuals;
- Transgender woman - 1 individual.

2024

- Women - 1209 individuals;
- Men - 11 individuals;
- Transgender women - 2 individuals.

- **Age of Victims**

2023

- 18-60 - 1083 individuals;
- Under 18 - 63 individuals;
- Above 60 -31 individuals;

2024

- 18-60 - 1116 individuals;
- Under 18 - 80 individuals;
- Above 60 - 26 individuals;

- **Territorial distribution (Victims)**

2023

- Tbilisi – 349 individuals;
- Western Georgia – 195 individuals;
- Adjara - 193 individuals;
- Kvemo Kartli - 189 individuals;
- Shida Kartli - 106 individuals;
- Kakheti - 70 individuals;
- Samtskhe-javakheti - 40 individuals;
- Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 35 individuals;

2024

- Tbilisi - 359 individuals;
- Western Georgia - 229 individuals;
- Adjara - 197 individuals;
- Kvemo Kartli - 162 individuals;
- Shida Kartli - 102 individuals;
- Kakheti - 83 individuals;
- Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 55 individuals;
- Samtskhe-javakheti - 34 individuals;
- Aphkhazeti - 1 individual.

- **Form of Violence**

2023

- Physical, Psychological - 542;
- Psychological - 306;
- Physical - 248;
- Psychological, Sexual - 18;
- Physical, Psychological, Sexual -18;
- Sexual - 15;
- Physical, Psychological, Economic - 14;
- Physical, Economic - 6;
- Psychological, Economic - 5;
- Economic - 3;
- Psychological, Sexual - 2.

2024

- Physical, Psychological - 552;

- Psychological - 374;
- Physical - 241;
- Sexual - 12;
- Psychological, Sexual - 9;
- Physical, Psychological, Sexual - 9;
- Physical, Psychological, Economic - 8;
- Psychological, Economic - 5;
- Economic - 4;
- Physical, Economic - 3;
- Physical, Sexual - 3;
- Psychological, Sexual, Economic - 2.

- **Relation of Defendant to Victim**

2023

- Spouse - 707;
- Intimate Partner - 137;
- Ex-spouse - 134;
- Acquaintance - 89;
- Other family member - 65;
- Parent - 44;
- Stranger - 25;
- Child - 14.

2024

- Spouse - 839;
- Intimate Partner - 149;
- Acquaintance - 101;
- Parent - 56;
- Other family member - 54;
- Stranger - 23;
- Child - 20.

Intersectional Discrimination

In 2023, prosecution was launched against 5 individuals on the basis of an intersectional discrimination on the grounds of gender and other elements of discrimination (sexual orientation, religion, nationality, age and disability) out of the total number of prosecutions initiated on the grounds of gender intolerance (1,169 persons prosecuted).

In 2024, prosecution was launched against 7 individuals on the basis of a intersectional discrimination on the grounds of gender and other elements of discrimination (nationality,

ethnicity, age, disability, gender identity) out of the total number of prosecutions initiated on the grounds of gender intolerance (1,169 persons prosecuted).

Murder of women

2023

16 women have been murdered as a result of **domestic crimes**. Out of these, prosecution was launched on 13 facts against 12 individuals, under the Article 11¹-109 of the Criminal Code of Georgia. In 1 case, criminal prosecution was not initiated due to the death of the person to be held criminally liable, and in 2 cases, the perpetrator of the crime has not been identified at this stage. **Gender-based motive was identified in the murder of 7 women.**

The ages of the victims are as follows: under 18 years old - 1 woman; 18 to 30 years old - 2 women; 30 to 40 years old - 2 women; 50 to 60 years old - 3 women; 60 to 70 years old - 4 women; 70 years and over - 4 women.

The territorial distribution of the crime is as follows: Tbilisi - 4 women; Shida Kartli - 4 women; Kakheti - 3 women; Kvemo Kartli - 2 women; Samegrelo - 1 woman; Adjara - 1 woman; Western Georgia - 1 woman.

As for the relationship between the defendant/ person to be held criminally liable and the victim, in 10 cases the murder was committed by the husband/ex-husband against the wife, in 2 cases - by the son against the mother, in 1 case - by a granddaughter towards her grandmother, in 1 case - by a former son-in-law towards his mother-in-law, in 2 cases the social connection is unknown at this stage.

7 women have been murdered as a result of **non-domestic crimes**. Out of these, prosecution was launched on 5 facts against 5 individuals: under the Article 109 of the Criminal Code of Georgia - against 2 individuals, under the Article 108 of the Criminal Code - against 3 individuals, and in 2 cases the perpetrator of the crime has not been identified at this stage. **Gender-based motive was identified in the murder of 1 woman.**

The ages of the victims are as follows: under 18 years old - 1 woman; 30 to 40 years old - 1 woman; 40 to 50 years old - 2 women; 50 to 60 years old - 2 women; 70 years old and over - 1 woman.

The territorial distribution of the crime is as follows: Tbilisi - 2 women; Kakheti - 2 women; Kvemo Kartli - 1 woman; Samegrelo - 1 woman; Adjara - 1 woman.

As for the relationship between the defendant and the victim, in 3 cases the murder was committed by an acquaintance, in 2 cases - by an intimate partner, and in 2 cases the social connection is unknown at this stage.

2024

15 women have been murdered as a result of **domestic crimes**. Out of these, prosecution was launched on 14 facts against 13 individuals, under the Article 11¹-109 of the Criminal Code of Georgia. In 1 case, criminal prosecution was not initiated due to the death of the person to be held criminally liable. **Gender-based motive was identified in the murder of 12 women.**

The ages of the victims are as follows: 18 to 30 years old - 4 women; 30 to 40 years old - 4 women; 40 to 50 years old - 4 women; 50 to 60 years old - 1 woman; 60 to 70 years old - 1 woman; 70 years and over - 1 woman.

The territorial distribution of the crime is as follows: Tbilisi - 2 women; Shida Kartli - 1 woman; Kakheti - 2 women; Kvemo Kartli - 4 women; Samegrelo - 2 women; Adjara - 2 women; Western Georgia - 2 women.

As for the relationship between the defendant/ person to be held criminally liable and the victim, in 12 cases the murder was committed by the husband/ex-husband against the wife, in 1 case - by the son against the mother, in 1 case - by a brother towards his sister, in 1 case - by a former son-in-law towards his mother-in-law.

8 women have been murdered as a result of **non-domestic crimes**. Out of these, prosecution was launched on 6 facts against 6 individuals: under the Article 109 of the Criminal Code of Georgia - against 4 individuals, under the Article 108 of the Criminal Code - against 1 individual, and under the Article 19-109 of the Criminal Code - against 1 person (Attempted murder against two or more persons, one of whom survived); In 2 cases the perpetrator of the crime has not been identified at this stage. **Gender-based motive was identified in the murder of 1 woman, and gender identity and gender-based motive were identified in the murder of 1 woman.**

The ages of the victims are as follows: 18 to 30 years old - 2 women; 40 to 50 years old - 1 woman; 70 years old and over - 5 women.

The territorial distribution of the crime is as follows: Tbilisi - 3 women; Shida Kartli - 1 woman; Kvemo Kartli - 1 woman; Samegrelo - 1 woman; Adjara - 1 woman, Western Georgia - 1 woman.

As for the relationship between the defendant and the victim, in 4 cases the murder was committed by an acquaintance, in 2 cases - by an intimate partner, and in 2 cases the social connection is unknown at this stage.

Attempts of women murders

2023

10 individuals have attempted to murder 10 women as a result of **domestic crimes**. Prosecution was launched against 9 individuals under the Article 11¹-19-109 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, in 1 case, prosecution was not launched due to the fact that the perpetrator committed a suicide. **Gender-based motive was identified in the attempted murders of 6 women.**

The ages of the victims are as follows: 18 to 30 years old - 2 women; 30 to 40 years old - 3 women; 40 to 50 years old - 4 women; 50 to 60 years old - 1 woman.

The territorial distribution of the crime is as follows: Tbilisi - 2 women; Shida Kartli - 1 woman; Kvemo Kartli - 1 woman; Kakheti - 1 woman; Samtskhe-Javakheti - 1 woman; Western Georgia - 2 women; Adjara - 2 women.

As for the relationship between the defendant and the victim, attempted murder was committed in 8 cases by a husband/ex-husband against his wife, in 1 case by a son against his mother, and in 1 case by a person living in a joint household.

5 individuals attempted to murder 7 women as a result of **non-domestic crimes**. Prosecution was launched against all the perpetrators, including 3 individuals under the Article 19-108 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and 2 individuals under the Article 19-109 of the Criminal Code.

The age of the victims is as follows: 18 to 30 years old - 1 woman; 30 to 40 years old - 1 woman; 40 to 50 years old - 1 woman; 50 to 60 years old - 2 women; 60 to 70 years old - 2 women.

The territorial distribution of the crime is as follows: Tbilisi - 1 woman; Western Georgia - 2 women; Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 1 woman; Adjara - 3 women.

As for the relationship between the accused and the victim, the attempted murder in all cases was committed by an acquaintance.

2024

8 individuals have attempted to murder 9 women as a result of **domestic crimes**. Prosecution was launched against all the perpetrators under the Article 11¹-19-109 of the Criminal Code of Georgia. **Gender-based motive was identified in the attempted murders of 8 women.**

The ages of the victims are as follows: 18 to 30 years old - 1 woman; 30 to 40 years old - 2 women; 40 to 50 years old - 4 women; 50 to 60 years old - 1 woman, 70 years and over - 1 woman.

The territorial distribution of the crime is as follows: Tbilisi - 2 women; Kvemo Kartli - 2 women; Kakheti - 1 woman; Western Georgia - 4 women;

As for the relationship between the defendant and the victim, attempted murder was committed in 7 cases by a husband/ex-husband against his wife, in 1 case by a son against his mother, and in 1 case by a son-in-law against his mother-in-law.

An attempted murder of 1 woman was committed by 2 individuals, as a result of both **domestic and non-domestic crimes, on the grounds of gender intolerance**. Prosecution was launched against both individuals, one of whom was prosecuted under the Article 11¹-19-109 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and the other under the Article 19-109 of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

The age of the victim is as follows: 30 to 40 years old - 1 woman;

The territorial distribution of the crime is as follows: Kvemo Kartli - 1 woman;

As for the relationship between the defendant and the victim, the attempted murder was committed by the ex-husband and an acquaintance (the husband's relative).

3 individuals attempted to murder 3 women as a result of **non-domestic crimes**. Prosecution was launched against all the perpetrators, including 1 individual under the Article 19-108 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and 2 individuals under the Article 19-109 of the Criminal Code. **Motive of Sexual orientation was identified in the attempted murder of 1 woman.**

The age of the victim is as follows: 18 to 30 years old - 1 woman; 40 to 50 years old - 1 woman; 50 to 60 years old - 1 woman.

The territorial distribution of the crime is as follows: Tbilisi - 1 woman; Kakheti - 1 woman; Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 1 woman;

As for the relationship between the defendant and the victim, the attempted murder in all cases was committed by an acquaintance.

Preparation of women murders:

In 2023, 1 person committed the preparation of woman murder as a result of **domestic crime**. Prosecution was launched against this person under the Article 11¹-18-109 of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

The age of the victim is as follows: over 70 years old - 1 woman.

The territorial distribution of the crime is as follows: Tbilisi - 1 woman;

As for the relationship between the defendant and the victim, the preparation of murder was committed by the grandson against his grandmother.

Incitement to suicide of women

2023

Prosecution was launched against 1 person for the incitement to suicide of a woman, **as a result of non-domestic crime**, under the Article 115, Part 2, Subparagraph “a” of the Criminal Code of Georgia, **on the grounds of gender intolerance**.

The age of the victim is as follows: under 18 years old - 1 woman;

The territorial distribution of the crime is as follows: Adjara - 1 woman;

As for the defendant's relationship with the victim, the incitement to suicide of a woman was committed by the intimate partner.

2024

Prosecution was launched against 1 person for the incitement to suicide of a woman, **as a result of domestic crime**, under the Article 115, Part 2, Subparagraph “a” of the Criminal Code of Georgia, **on the grounds of gender intolerance**.

The age of the victim is as follows: 50 to 60 years old - 1 woman;

The territorial distribution of the crime is as follows: Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 1 woman;

As for the defendant's relationship with the victim, the incitement to suicide of a woman was committed by the husband against his wife.

Attempts of suicide of women:

2023

Prosecution was launched against 9 persons for the incitement to attempted suicide of 9 women, **as a result of domestic crimes**. Out of these, 1 person was prosecuted under the Article 11¹-115, Part 1 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and 8 persons were prosecuted under the Article 11¹-115, Part 2, Subparagraph “a” of the Criminal Code of Georgia, **on the grounds of gender intolerance**.

Age of the victim: up to 18 years old - 1 woman; 18 to 30 years old - 3 women; 30 to 40 years old - 4 women; 40 to 50 years old - 1 woman.

Territorial distribution of the crime: Tbilisi - 2 women; Shida Kartli - 2 women; Kvemo Kartli - 2 women; Western Georgia - 1 woman; Samtskhe-Javakheti - 1 woman; Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 1 woman.

As for the defendant's relationship with the victim, in 7 cases the incitement to attempted suicide of women were committed by the husbands against their wives, and in 2 cases by the fathers against their children.

2024

Prosecution was launched against 3 persons for the incitement to attempted suicide of 3 women, **as a result of domestic crimes**. Out of these, 1 person was prosecuted under the Article 11¹-115, Part 1 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and 2 persons were prosecuted under the Article 11¹-115, Part 2, Subparagraph “a” of the Criminal Code of Georgia, **on the grounds of gender intolerance**.

Age of the victim: 18 to 30 years old - 2 women; 40 to 50 years old - 1 woman.

Territorial distribution of the crime: Tbilisi - 2 women; Shida Kartli - 1 woman;

As for the defendant's relationship with the victim, in 2 cases the incitement to attempted suicide of women was committed by the husband against his wife, and in 1 case by the father-in-law against his daughter-in-law.

Prosecution was launched against 1 person for the incitement to attempted suicide of 1 woman, **as a result of non-domestic crime**, under the Article 115, Part 2, Subparagraph “a” of the Criminal Code of Georgia, **on the grounds of gender intolerance**.

Age of the victim: 40 to 50 years old - 1 woman.

Territorial distribution of the crime: Kvemo Kartli - 1 woman;

As for the defendant's relationship with the victim, the incitement to attempted suicide of a woman was committed by the former intimate partner.

Intentional infliction of serious health injury to women, resulting in death:

In 2023, intentional infliction of serious health injury to women, resulting in death was not recorded.

In 2024, intentional infliction of serious health injury, resulting in death was committed against 1 woman, **as a result of non-domestic crime**. Prosecution was launched against 1 person, under the Article 117, Part 4 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, **on the grounds of gender intolerance**.

The age of the victim is as follows: 40 to 50 years old - 1 woman;

The territorial distribution of the crime is as follows: Tbilisi - 1 woman;

As for the defendant's relationship with the victim, intentional infliction of serious health injury to women, resulting in death was committed by the intimate partner.

Femicide/ Attempted Femicide:

Out of the abovementioned statistical data for 2023, femicide was identified in 9 cases, and attempted femicide in 14 cases.

Out of the abovementioned statistical data for 2024, femicide was identified in 16 cases, and attempted femicide in 13 cases.

Crimes committed against women via digital technologies:

In 2023, prosecution was launched against 147 individuals for the crimes committed via digital technologies, motivated by intolerance, and crimes provided for in Articles 255-255² of the Criminal Code of Georgia. 150 individuals were recognized as victims. Out of these, 140 individuals were prosecuted for crimes committed against women on the grounds of gender, gender and age, as well as ethnicity, and 143 women were recognized as victims.

In 2024, prosecution was launched against 256 individuals for the crimes committed via digital technologies, motivated by intolerance, and crimes provided for in Articles 255-255² of the Criminal Code of Georgia. 265 individuals were recognized as victims. Out of these, 252 individuals were prosecuted for crimes committed against women on the grounds of gender, gender and age, as well as ethnicity, and 259 women were recognized as victims.

Trafficking in women and girls

In 2023, prosecution was launched against 7 traffickers for the fact of trafficking in women and girls. Including 2 persons under the Article 143¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and 5 persons under the Article 143² of the Criminal Code of Georgia. 5 women and 5 girls were recognized as victims. As for the forms of exploitation, 5 girls and 2 women were the victims of labor exploitation, while 3 women were victims of sexual exploitation⁶².

In 2024, prosecution was launched against 12 traffickers for the fact of trafficking in women and girls. Including 3 persons under the Article 143¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and 9 persons under the Article 143² of the Criminal Code of Georgia. 4 women and 8 girls were recognized as victims. As for the forms of exploitation, 8 girls were the victims of labor exploitation, while 4 women were victims of sexual exploitation⁶³.

Torture and inhumane treatment of women and girls

In 2023, prosecution was launched against 8 individuals for facts of torture and inhumane treatment of women and girls. Among them, 1 person was prosecuted under the Article 144¹ (torture) of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and 7 persons were prosecuted under the Article 144³ (inhuman and degrading treatment) of the Criminal Code of Georgia. Gender-based discrimination motive was identified against 5 defendants. 7 women were recognized as victims, under the Article 144³ of the Criminal Code (inhuman and degrading treatment) and 1 girl, under the Article 144¹ of the Criminal Code (torture).

In 2024, prosecution was launched against 6 individuals for facts of torture and inhumane treatment of women and girls. Among them, 2 persons were prosecuted under the Article 144¹ (torture) of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and 4 persons were prosecuted under the Article 144³ (inhuman and degrading treatment) of the Criminal Code of Georgia. Gender-based discrimination motive was identified against 5 defendants. 4 women were recognized as victims, under the Article 144³ of the Criminal Code (inhuman and degrading treatment) and 1 girl, under the Article 144¹ of the Criminal Code (torture).

⁶² https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/php3Qbh3Y.pdf
https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpA5TwYD.pdf

⁶³ https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpHTx5yD.pdf
https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpOJxo3T.pdf

Statistical Data of the District (City) Courts

Statistical Data on a Total Number of Cases for 2023

In the district (city) courts of Georgia, with regard to all forms of violence committed in the context of crimes involving violence against women and/or domestic violence:

- In 2023, a total of 3,828 cases were reviewed involving 3,965 individuals.
 - 133 cases involving 137 individuals were terminated;
 - 21 cases involving 23 individuals were returned to the Prosecutor's Office;
 - Acquittals were issued in 436 cases involving 462 individuals;
 - Convictions were delivered in 3,238 cases involving 3,343 individuals,

Types of Sentences Imposed on Convicted Persons in 2023

In 2023, for crimes involving violence against women and/or domestic violence, 3,343 individuals were convicted. The types of penalties imposed were as follows:

- Imprisonment: imposed on 2,614 individuals, of which
 - 1,366 sentences were suspended (conditional);
- Fines: imposed on 311 individuals;
- Community service: imposed on 388 individuals;
- House arrest: imposed on 3 individuals;
- 24 individuals were released due to amnesty or other legal grounds;
- In 3 cases, the execution of the sentence was postponed.

Additionally, in 2023, out of those convicted for crimes of violence against women and/or domestic violence, 717 individuals were convicted for crimes committed with the motive of gender-based intolerance.

Statistical Data on a Total Number of Cases for 2024

- In 2024, a total of 3,475 cases were reviewed involving 3,616 individuals in the district (city) courts of Georgia.
 - 200 cases involving 211 individuals were terminated;
 - 17 cases involving 23 individuals were returned to the Prosecutor's Office;
 - Acquittals were issued in 445 cases involving 461 individuals;
 - Convictions were issued in 2,813 cases involving 2,921 individuals

Types of Sentences Imposed on Convicted Persons in 2024

- Imprisonment: 2,289 individuals, of which
 - 1,182 sentences were suspended (conditional);
- Fines: 288 individuals;
- Community service: 320 individuals;

- House arrest: 8 individuals;
- 16 individuals were released due to amnesty or other legal grounds.

Additionally, in 2024, 665 individuals were convicted for crimes committed with the motive of gender-based intolerance.

*Detailed information on cases reviewed in 2023–2024 related to crimes of violence against women and/or domestic violence, including data on the age, gender, social relationships of victims and perpetrators, as well as their regional distribution, can be found in **Annex No. 2 (Tables 1–6)**.*

Femicide

(Cases Involving the Death of a Woman – Articles 108, 109, 115, Paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article 117, and Paragraph 3 of Article 118 of the Criminal Code of Georgia)

- In 2023, a total of 26 femicide cases were reviewed.
 - 4 cases were dismissed,
 - 1 case resulted in an acquittal,
 - and 21 cases resulted in convictions.
 - All 21 convicted individuals were sentenced to imprisonment, including 3 who received life sentences.
 - The average length of the imposed prison sentences was 16 years.
 - Among the convicted, 8 individuals were found guilty of committing the crime with a gender-based discriminatory motive.
- In 2024, a total of 16 femicide cases were reviewed.
 - All cases resulted in convictions.
 - All 16 convicted individuals were sentenced to imprisonment, including 5 who received life sentences.
 - The average length of imprisonment was again 16 years.
 - Among these, 9 individuals were convicted for crimes committed with a gender-based discriminatory motive.

Attempted Femicide

(Articles 19-108, 19-109, 19-111, 19-115, and Parts 1 and 3 of Article 117 of the Criminal Code of Georgia)

- In 2023, a total of 46 attempted femicide cases were reviewed:
 - 5 cases were dismissed,
 - 12 cases resulted in acquittals,
 - and 29 cases resulted in convictions.
 - All 29 convicted individuals were sentenced to imprisonment, including 4 individuals whose sentences were suspended.
 - The average length of imprisonment was 10 years.
 - Of the convicted individuals, 10 were found guilty of committing the crime with a gender-based discriminatory motive.

- In 2024, a total of 26 attempted femicide cases involving 27 defendants were reviewed:
 - 7 cases were dismissed,
 - 5 cases resulted in acquittals,
 - and 14 cases resulted in convictions.
 - 15 individuals were convicted and all received prison sentences, with 1 sentence suspended.
 - The average prison sentence was 15 years.
 - Among those convicted, 8 individuals were found guilty of committing the crime with a gender-based discriminatory motive.

*Detailed information on cases reviewed in 2023–2024 related to femicide and attempted femicide, including the age, gender, social ties, and regional distribution of both victims and perpetrators, can be found in **Annex No. 3 (Tables Nos. 1–6)**.*

Crimes Against Sexual Freedom and Inviolability (Articles 137–141 of the Criminal Code)

- In 2023, a total of 207 cases involving sexual offenses were reviewed concerning 210 individuals.
 - 7 cases were terminated,
 - 1 case was returned to the prosecution,
 - 51 cases ended with an acquittal,
 - 148 cases resulted in a conviction involving 151 individuals,
 - Among these, 45 cases (involving 46 individuals) pertained to rape (including attempts).

Of the 151 individuals convicted of sexual offenses in 2023:

- 150 were sentenced to imprisonment, including 36 individuals whose sentences were conditionally suspended.
- Regarding rape (including attempted rape), all 46 convicted individuals were sentenced to imprisonment, including 2 individuals who received life imprisonment.
- The average length of imprisonment imposed was 9 years, while for rape-related crimes, the average was 11 years.

In 2024, a total of 175 cases involving sexual offenses were reviewed concerning 178 individuals, according to the district (city) courts of Georgia.

- 11 cases were terminated,
- 1 case was returned to the prosecution,
- 49 cases ended with an acquittal,

- 114 cases resulted in a conviction involving 116 individuals,
 - Among these, 32 cases (involving 33 individuals) concerned rape (including attempted rape).

Of the 116 individuals convicted of sexual offenses in 2024:

- All 116 were sentenced to imprisonment, with 5 sentences conditionally suspended.
- For rape-related crimes (including attempts), all 33 convicted individuals were sentenced to imprisonment.
- The average length of imprisonment imposed was 9 years, while for rape-related offenses, the average reached 12 years.

*Detailed information on cases reviewed in 2023–2024 regarding Crimes Against Sexual Freedom and Inviolability, including data on the age, sex, social relationships of the victim and perpetrator, and regional distribution, can be found in **Annex No. 4 (Tables 1–6)**.*

Forced Marriage (Article 150¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia)

2023:

- A total of 6 cases involving 7 individuals were reviewed.
- 2 individuals were acquitted.
- In 4 cases, 5 individuals were convicted.
- All 5 convicted individuals were sentenced to imprisonment, which was converted to a suspended sentence.
- Among the convicted cases, 1 case involving 2 individuals concerned the forced marriage of a minor, with the perpetrators being family members.

2024:

- A total of 6 cases involving 7 individuals were reviewed.
- 2 individuals were acquitted.
- In 4 cases, 5 individuals were convicted.
- All 5 convicted individuals were sentenced to imprisonment, 3 of which were converted to suspended sentences.
- Among the convicted cases, 3 cases involving 4 individuals concerned the forced marriage of a minor, with family members identified as the perpetrators.

Stalking (Article 151¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia)

2023:

- A total of 54 cases involving 54 individuals were reviewed.

- 3 individuals were acquitted.
- 51 individuals were convicted.
- Sentencing details for the convicted individuals:
 - 43 individuals were sentenced to imprisonment, of which 23 sentences were suspended.
 - 5 individuals received fines.
 - 3 individuals were sentenced to community service.

2024:

- A total of 41 cases involving 42 individuals were reviewed.
- 3 cases were dismissed.
- 2 individuals were acquitted.
- 37 individuals were convicted across 36 cases.
- Sentencing details for the convicted individuals:
 - 33 individuals were sentenced to imprisonment, of which 20 sentences were suspended.
 - 2 individuals received fines.
 - 1 individual was sentenced to community service.
 - 1 individual was released under amnesty or another legal basis.

Sexual Harassment (under Article 166¹ of the Code of Administrative Offenses of Georgia (Sexual Harassment))

2023:

- Rulings were issued against 54 individuals, including:
 - 15 cases were dismissed.
 - 6 individuals received verbal warnings.
 - 33 individuals were held administratively liable (fined).

2024:

- Rulings were issued against 65 individuals, including:
 - 16 cases were dismissed.
 - 5 individuals received verbal warnings.
 - 44 individuals were held administratively liable (fined).

Statistical Data of the Special Investigation Service

2023

- In 2023, a total of **576** reports were received by the Special Investigation Service, involving **392** women.
- In 2023, the Special Investigation Service launched investigations into cases of violence against women and domestic violence in a total of **185** criminal cases involving **202** alleged female victims.
- Of the above 202 cases, **184** involved psychological violence, and **18** involved physical violence.
- In 2023, criminal prosecutions were initiated in **61** criminal cases against **69** individuals in cases of violence against women and domestic violence.
- In 2023, there were **143** cases of online violence against women and domestic violence against **159** female victims.

2024

- In 2024, a total of **570** reports were received by the Special Investigation Service, involving **448** women.
- In 2024, the Special Investigation Service launched investigations into cases of violence against women and domestic violence in a total of **197** criminal cases involving **216** alleged female victims.
- Out of 216 cases, **160** cases involved psychological violence, and **56** cases involved physical violence.
- In 2024, criminal prosecutions were initiated in **59** criminal cases against **65** individuals in cases of violence against women and domestic violence.
- In 2024, there were **151** cases of online violence against women and domestic violence against **151** female victims.

b. the number of emergency barring orders issued by the competent authorities, the number of breaches of such orders, and the number of sanctions imposed as a result of these breaches

The detailed information is provided under Article 11 (paragraph 7, subparagraph A)

c. the number of protection orders issued, the number of breaches of such orders and the number of sanctions imposed as a result of such breaches;

The detailed information is provided under Article 11 (paragraph 7, subparagraph A)

d. data on the number of decisions issued by family courts on custody/visitation/residence of children that have expressly taken into account incidents of domestic violence.

The detailed information is provided under Article 11 (paragraph 7, subparagraph B)

APPENDIX

Table 1: Initial training (education or professional training)

Please fill in the table and list the professionals (in the area of healthcare, law enforcement, criminal justice, social welfare, education, asylum and migration, media/journalism and support services) which have received initial training on violence against women. Please place each category of professional in a separate line.

Professionals	Do they benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?	Is this training mandatory?	Are training efforts supported by guidelines and protocols?	Who funds the training?	Please describe the content and the duration of the training
Justice listeners	Yes	Yes	Yes	High School of Justice	16 hours. The procedural rights of child victims/witnesses, including the rules and methodology of interrogation, to exclude their secondary victimization; Issues of conducting psychological and forensic medical examinations of children; the right to compensation for child victims of sexual abuse; issues of psychologist, victim, and social worker attendance at the trial and ensuring their maximum involvement to avoid secondary victimization of victims during the trial.
Investigators of the Special Investigation Service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Special Investigation Service	The 1-day (8-hour) training covered international standards on violence against

					women and domestic violence, legal frameworks, victim-centered approaches, risk assessment, referral mechanisms, and effective communication with victims (part of the general initial training).
Employees of the Investigation Quality Monitoring and Analytical Department at the Special Investigation Service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Special Investigation Service	The 1-day (8-hour) training covered international standards on violence against women and domestic violence, legal frameworks, victim-centered approaches, risk assessment, referral mechanisms, and effective communication with victims (part of the general initial training).
Victims and Witnesses Counselor of the Victims' Rights Protection Unit at the Special Investigation Service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Special Investigation Service	The 1-day (8-hour) training covered international standards on violence against women and domestic violence, legal frameworks, victim-centered approaches, risk assessment, referral mechanisms, and effective communication with victims (part of the general initial training).
Special Penitentiary Service staff	Yes, they benefit from initial training through the "Basic Orientation Program – Universal Training."	Yes	Yes	Special Penitentiary Service	"Basic Orientation Program – Universal training" is a 9 - day training that includes a 2 - hour session on Gender and violence against women: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender and feminism

	Violence against women is included as one of the subtopics within this course				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence against women: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The phenomenon of violence against women; ○ Types of violence; ○ Femicide; ○ Perpetrator behavior correction; • Victim Support
Preparation learning program for the Prosecutor's office internship candidates - Module "Violence against women and domestic Violence"	Yes	Yes	Order of the General Prosecutor of Georgia - "On the Determination of the Procedure for Undergoing Internship in the Prosecution Service of Georgia". Thematic training modules have been developed by trainer-prosecutors.	Prosecutor's Office	Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Domestic Crimes: Techniques for Investigating Domestic Crimes and Procedural Issues; Gender-based Discrimination Motive; Functions of the Witness and Victim Coordinator. Duration of the module - 4 hours. During the reporting period (in 2022 and 2024), 2 groups of the Prosecutor's office internship candidates (87 interns) were trained.
Specialization course for prosecutors, investigators of the Prosecutor's Office, and witness and victim coordinators - on combating domestic violence and	Yes, because on cases of domestic violence and domestic crimes, only specialized prosecutors, investigators, and witness and victim coordinators of the Prosecutor's	Yes	Order of the General Prosecutor of Georgia on "Measures Necessary for Effective Implementation of Investigation, Procedural Supervision,	Prosecutor's Office/ Donor Support	International and regional legal framework - women's rights, gender-based violence and domestic violence against women and girls; other legal mechanisms for combating domestic violence and their connection to criminal proceedings; implemented legislative

domestic crimes	Office of Georgia conduct investigations, provide procedural supervision, and support the state prosecution during trials.		and State Prosecution in Cases of Domestic Crimes in the Prosecution Service”; Guidelines on Violence against women and Domestic Violence.		changes and practice; role of the prosecutor in ensuring women's access to justice; trends in domestic crimes, investigation shortcomings, recommendations; psychological aspects of violence against women and domestic violence. Duration of the specialization course is 17 hours. During the reporting period (2021, 2022, 2023, and as of April 2025), 5 specialization courses were conducted. As a result of these courses, 100 employees were retrained. As of April 2025, 276 current employees have been fully retrained.
Specialization course for prosecutors, investigators of the Prosecutor’s Office, and witness and victim coordinators - on crime against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability	Yes, because on cases of crimes against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability, only specialized prosecutors, investigators, and witness and victim coordinators of the Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia conduct investigations, provide procedural	Yes	Order of the General Prosecutor of Georgia on “Measures Necessary for Effective Implementation of Investigation, Procedural Supervision, and State Prosecution in Cases of crimes against sexual freedom and	Prosecutor’s Office/ Donor Support	Sexual abuse - international standards and positive obligations of the State; sexual offenses - overview of article 137 (rape) of the criminal code; Sexual offenses - distinction issues of articles 137 and 140 of the criminal code (crimes against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability); Sexual offenses - overview of Article 139 of the criminal code (coercion into

	supervision, and support the state prosecution during trials.		sexual inviolability in the Prosecution Service”; Guidelines on investigation and procedural supervision of crimes against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability.		penetration of a sexual nature into the body of a person, or into another action of a sexual nature); Sexual offenses - overview of Article 138 of the criminal code (other action of a sexual nature); Sexual Offenses - issues of distinction between articles 138 (other action of a sexual nature) and 141 (lewd act) of the criminal code and sexual harassment; problematic topics in investigating sexual offenses - evidence and proof standard for sexual offenses; victim-centered approach; issues related to minor victims; gender-based discrimination motive in sexual offenses; persons with disabilities; psychological aspects of sexual abuse. Duration of the Specialization Course is 24 hours. During the reporting period (2021, 2022, 2023), 9 specialization courses were conducted. As a result of these courses, in total 182 employees were retrained. As of April 2025, 172 current employees have
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					been fully retrained.
Specialization training course for prosecutors, investigators of the Prosecutor's Office, and witness and victim coordinators - on hate crimes	Yes, because to ensure effective procedural supervision and prosecution on hate crimes cases, to ensure support for victims of hate crimes, to achieve the objectives set out in the Council of Europe Convention and other international treaties, only specialized prosecutors, investigators, and witness and victim coordinators of the Prosecutor's Office conduct investigations, provide procedural supervision, and support the state prosecution during trials.	Yes	Order of the General Prosecutor of Georgia on "Measures Necessary for Effective Support of State Prosecution on Hate Crime Cases in the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia"; Guidelines on the elimination of shortcomings identified in the monitoring of hate crime cases.	Prosecutor's Office/ Donor Support	Overview of national anti-discrimination legislation; Concept of intolerance-motivated crime, indicators, evidence of motive; gender-based intolerance; Intolerance on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity; Motive of intolerance on grounds of disability and access to justice for persons with disabilities; Intolerance on grounds of religion and race; Intolerance on grounds of other signs of discrimination as provided for under Article 53 ¹ of the Criminal Code and motive of intolerance on grounds of intersectionality; Indicators of the motive of intolerance. The relationship of the European Convention on Human Rights to the Constitution of Georgia; The force and consequences of the judgments of the ECHR; The principle of subsidiarity and the margin of appreciation; Psychological aspects of crimes committed on grounds of intolerance, etc. The duration of the course is 23 hours.

					<p>During the reporting period (2022, 2023), 2 specialization courses were held.</p> <p>As a result of these courses, in total 42 employees were trained.</p> <p>As of April 2025, 163 current employees have been fully retrained.</p>
Law Enforcement Officers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Ministry of Internal Affairs	<p>Within the framework of the special professional educational program for basic training of police officers, the subject "Violence against women and/or domestic violence" is being taught at the MIA Academy.</p> <p>The duration of training is 12 hours.</p>

Table 2: In-service training

Please fill in the table and list the professionals (in the area of healthcare, law enforcement, criminal justice, social welfare, education, asylum and migration, media/journalism and support services) which receive in-service training on violence against women. Please place each category of professional in a separate line.

Professionals	Number of professionals trained	Is this training mandatory?	Frequency	Training efforts supported by guidelines and protocols	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – HELP training course on violence against women and domestic violence	63	Not mandatory, however, it is regularly conducted for the employees specialized on domestic violence and domestic crimes.	In 2021-2024, HELP training course on violence against women and domestic violence was conducted three times.	No	Response mechanisms and instruments on violence against woman and domestic violence, which carry utmost significance in effective procedural supervision of domestic crime cases. The course encompasses national and international sections. The international section was developed by international experts of the CoE and includes international legal framework, criminal law, civil law and administrative law response mechanisms, issues related to the protection and support of the victims, etc. HELP course lasted for three months.
Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – gender-motivated killings of women (femicide)	100	No	In 2021-2024, the training was conducted for 6 groups.	No	Types and categories of femicide according to international and national legislation and practice; administration of gender-sensitive justice on femicide

					crimes; Georgian practice and statistics; effective execution of judgments adopted against Georgia on cases of gender-based violence against women; the analysis of cases of gender-motivated killings of women and consequences of monitoring. The training duration amounts to nine hours.
Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – HELP training course on women's access to justice	56	No	In 2021-2024, HELP training course was conducted for four groups.	No	The aim of these training activities is to support the professional development of prosecutors specialized on domestic violence and domestic crimes and to provide information about the obstacles that women face when cooperating with law enforcement agencies. The HELP course lasted for 5 months.
Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – HELP training course on hate crime and hate speech	42	No	In 2021-2024, HELP training course was conducted for two groups.	No	The aim of these training activities is to support the professional development of prosecutors and investigators of the Prosecutor's Office specialized on intolerance-motivated crimes. The course participants were introduced to international standards on hate speech, the legislative framework for the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of intolerance-motivated crimes, international instruments and materials prepared by international experts of the Council of Europe. The HELP course lasted for 3 months.

Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – HELP training course on European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) General Policy Recommendation N°15 on Combating Hate Speech	7	No	In 2022 and 2023, training course was conducted for two groups.	No	The aim of this training activities is to familiarize participants with the definitions, standards and approaches of the General Policy Recommendation No. 15 on combating hate speech of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI); to build capacity in the use of the diverse tools proposed in the General Policy Recommendation No. 15 to combat hate speech; to inform participants about the legal and institutional standards on hate speech in Georgia; to support individuals/groups targeted by hate speech. The course lasted for 2 months.
Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – mentoring training of trainers on the topic – women's access to justice	10	No	In 2022 and 2023, as a result of study visit, two groups were trained.	No	Prosecutors specialized on domestic violence and domestic crimes from the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia participated. The program includes the following issues: administration of gender-sensitive justice, identification of barriers to women's access to justice, ensuring women's access to justice in cases of violence against women and domestic violence, application of international standards in national legislation and judicial practice, identification of gender stereotypes and motives of gender-based discrimination, etc. The training of trainers

					lasted for 3 days.
Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – mentoring program on women's access to justice	20	No	In 2023 and 2024, as a result of mentoring program, two groups were trained.	No	The mentoring program aims to interconnect theories of access to justice, international human rights law and the daily work of practicing lawyers. Mentees themselves determine the direction of the learning process, which ensures utmost relevance of the mentoring program to their professional experience. The program included discussions on theoretical issues and non-formal education components. The program lasted for 9 months.
Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – training of trainers for specialized prosecutors on combating domestic violence and domestic crimes	10	No	In 2021, one group was trained.	No	The training course discussed: trends in prosecution of domestic violence cases; challenges related to the collection of evidence in domestic violence cases; the training of trainers lasted for 2 days.
Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – training on the Council of Europe standards on combating hate speech	2	No	In 2021, one group was trained.	No	The training course discussed: definitions and approaches defined in the General Policy Recommendation N15 of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) on Combating Hate Speech; Hate speech: forms, degree of harm caused, analysis model; Cases and consequences related to hate speech – the basis for an intervention model. The training lasted for 2 days in an online format.

Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – a workshop on the best practices of investigating hate crimes: factors worth consideration during the investigation according to the case-law of the ECHR	10	No	In 2021, one group was trained.	No	The workshop discussed: discriminatory stereotypes and a review of national legislation; circumstances hindering effective criminal proceedings for intolerance-motivated crimes and a recommendation on the identification and effective investigation of intolerance-motivated crimes; Investigation of crimes committed on the grounds of intolerance based on gender identity and sexual orientation: an overview of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. The workshop lasted for 3 days.
Study visit for the employees of the Prosecutor's Office – domestic and gender-based violence	2	No	In 2022, the study visit was carried out once.	No	The study visit was carried out in Budapest, Hungary. The training covered: investigation of domestic violence and gender-based violence cases, social, legal and cultural aspects of sexual abuse and gender-based violence. Evidence collection techniques, including principles of interviewing children victims of sexual exploitation and information about social media. It was particularly valuable for the prosecutor's office employees to hear information about the trainers' personal practice, identification of mistakes made during the investigation of this category of crimes, review of the analysis process and ways to setting them right. Also, familiarization with

					techniques of communication with perpetrators and victims. The study visit lasted for 5 days.
Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – training on international landmark judgments on the crime of rape	9	No	In 2022, the training was conducted once.	No	the training for prosecutors specialized on crimes against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability, within the framework of cooperation with the organization "Safari", covered the following topics: stereotypes and gender bias, international precedent judgments on sexual offenses, elements of sexual offenses (ACTUS REUS), sexual abuse and psychological trauma, presumptions on the lack of consent. The training lasted for 2 days in an online format.
Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – in-depth training of prosecutors specialized on intolerance-motivated crimes on the topic of effective procedural supervision of investigation and practical aspects of prosecution	15	No	In 2022, the training was conducted once.	No	Public attitudes towards intolerance-motivated crimes and assessment of the effectiveness of the prosecution by external actors; Practical aspects of the effective response to gender-based and intersectional intolerance-motivated crimes; Practical aspects of the effective response to sexual orientation-based and gender identity-based (SOGI) intolerance-motivated crimes; Guiding principles for investigating intolerance-motivated crimes according to international standards. The training lasted for 2 days.
Study visit for the employees of the	2	No	In 2022, the training was	No	The study visit was carried out in Budapest, Hungary.

Prosecutor's Office – intolerance-motivated crimes			conducted once.		The following topics were discussed during the visit: hate crimes, victims of hatred, trends in hate crimes, development of a strategy to combat hate crimes, and prosecution of hate crimes. The study visit lasted for 5 days.
Study visit for the employees of the Prosecutor's Office – sexual abuse, domestic violence and fight for changes	1	No	In 2023, the study visit was conducted once.	No	The study visit was carried out in Chicago, the USA. The conference discussed: domestic violence; sexual offenses; strengthening the judiciary. The conference lasted for 3 days.
Study visit for the employees of the Prosecutor's – European conference on domestic violence	3	No	In 2023, the study visit was conducted once.	No	The following topics were discussed at the European conference on domestic violence held in Reykjavik, Iceland: responding to domestic violence: prevention and intervention strategies; intersectional approaches; forms and contexts of violence. The conference lasted for 3 days.
Study visit for the employees of the Prosecutor's Office – forensic medical examination nurses – science and practice	1	No	In 2023, the study visit was conducted once.	No	The annual international conference was held in Arizona, USA on "Forensic medical examination nurses - Science and Practice", attended by forensic medical examination nurses (SANE), forensic medical experts, victim and witness support services. The study visit lasted for 9 days.
For the employees of the Prosecutor's Office – training on domestic violence and gender-based violence	4	No	In 2023, the training was conducted for one group.	No	The following issues were discussed during the training: domestic violence; victim-centered interviewing; hate-motivated / discrimination-based crimes; investigation of

					sexual abuse; investigation of violence against children; the training lasted for 5 days.
Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – training on the investigation of domestic violence, gender-based violence and sexual abuse	6	No	In 2023, the training was conducted for two groups.	No	The following issues were discussed during the training: characteristics of domestic violence and gender-based violence; cycle of violence; stages of investigation of sexual abuse and violence against children; victim-centered approaches; practical cases, etc. The training lasted for 5 days.
For the employees of the Prosecutor's Office – a webinar on hate speech – crime, investigation and accountability	3	No	In 2023, the webinar was conducted once.	No	The webinar reviewed the following topics: identifying hate crimes; investigating crimes; supporting victims. The webinar lasted 1 hour and 30 minutes.
Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – training on the best practices of investigating and prosecuting intolerance-motivated crimes: factors worth consideration during the investigation according to the case-law of the ECHR	14	No	In 2023, the training was conducted for one group.	No	The following issues were discussed during the training: effective state response to intolerance-motivated crimes; circumstances hindering effective criminal proceedings against intolerance-motivated crimes and recommendations on the identification and effective investigation of intolerance-motivated crimes; obligation to effectively investigate crimes committed with the motive of intolerance on grounds of discrimination by perception and association, hate speech as an indicator of the intolerance motive; contradictory testimonies, determination of the intolerance motive and presumption of innocence,

					legal qualification of action; secondary victimization. The training lasted for 3 days.
Employees of the Prosecutor's Office – training on the development of human rights-based narratives to counter hate speech in Georgia	2	No	In 2023, the training was conducted for one group.	No	The following issues were discussed during the training: Hate speech - definition and anatomy; Causes and consequences of hate speech; Target groups of hate speech. The training lasted for 3 days.
Study visit for the employees of the Prosecutor's Office – sharing Norway's experience on investigating hate crimes and collection / analysis of pertaining data	2	No	In 2023, the study visit was conducted once.	No	A study visit was carried out in Oslo, Norway. The following issues were discussed during the visit: general legal and policy framework in Norway for tackling hate crimes; action plan to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics; strategy to combat hate speech; approaches to discrimination, hate crime and hate speech. The study visit lasted for 3 days.
Study visit for the employees of the Prosecutor's Office – multidisciplinary group visit on domestic violence	3	No	In 2024, the study visit was conducted once.	No	A study visit was conducted in the USA, and the following issues were discussed during the visit: domestic violence; gender-based violence; violence against women; victim-centered approaches; the importance of a multi-agency approach in domestic violence cases; judicial practice, etc. The study visit lasted for 10 days.

Employees of the Prosecutor's Office– a webinar on the suitable treatment of hate crime victims	2	No	In 2025, the webinar was conducted once.	No	The webinar reviewed the following topics: The impact of hate crimes on society; The needs of hate crimes victims; The essential principles of treating victims with sensitivity and respect. The webinar lasted 1 hour and 30 minutes.
Law Enforcement Officers - “Investigators' qualification course on violence against women and/or domestic violence“	2023 – 76 Officers 2024 – 226 Officers)	No	Needs-based	Yes	The special course is conducted at MIA Academy. Duration of training is 3 days (18 hours in total). The trained officers are provided with information with various aspects of on violence against women, particularly: Definition of domestic violence (forms and indicators of violence; Dynamics of domestic violence; Overview of legislation related to domestic violence; Risk assessment and safety issues; Implementing Electronic Surveillance Restraining Order Monitoring, etc.
Law Enforcement Officers	2022 – around 2500 Officers 2023 – around 2000 Officers 2024 – around 3 100 Officers	No	Needs-based	Yes	The Human Rights Protection Department of the Ministry is actively coordinating capacity building and training exercises for MIA Police Personnel on various human rights related issue, including Gender based Violence, Violence against Women, Domestic Violence, sexual harassment and crime, etc. The number hereby refereed to is the number of Law Enforcement Officers

					retrained in aforementioned areas by the experts of the Human rights Department of MIA.
Law Enforcement Officers	2022 – 310 officers 2023 – 352 officers 2024- 59 officers	No	Needs-based	Yes	The International Relations Department of MIA Georgia, with close cooperation and coordination of various Donor and International organizations, ensures capacity building and training of law enforcement personnel in various area, including – Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. To this end, the number hereby referred to is the number of Law Enforcement Officers retrained in aforementioned areas within the scope of donor funded projects.
Judges	64	No	Minimum 2 trainings per year	Yes	16 hours. The procedural rights of child victims/witnesses, including the rules and methodology of interrogation, to exclude their secondary victimization; Issues of conducting psychological and forensic medical examinations of children; the right to compensation for child victims of sexual abuse; issues of psychologist, victim, and social worker attendance at the trial and ensuring their maximum involvement to avoid secondary victimization of victims during the trial.
Court Officials	59	No	Minimum 2 trainings per	Yes	16 hours. The procedural rights of

			year		child victims/witnesses, including the rules and methodology of interrogation, to exclude their secondary victimization; Issues of conducting psychological and forensic medical examinations of children; the right to compensation for child victims of sexual abuse; issues of psychologist, victim, and social worker attendance at the trial and ensuring their maximum involvement to avoid secondary victimization of victims during the trial.
Investigators of the Special Investigation Service	42	Yes	Mandatory, but occasionally depends on donor projects or internal resources.	International standards, including the Istanbul Convention, CEDAW, European Court of Human Rights case law, and GREVIO recommendations.	The 2-day (16-hour) training covered international standards on violence against women and domestic violence, legal frameworks, victim-centered approaches, risk assessment, referral mechanisms, and effective communication with victims.
Operative Employee of the Operative Unit of the Special Investigation Service	3	No	Occasionally, depends on donor projects or internal resources.	International standards, including the Istanbul Convention, CEDAW, European Court of Human Rights case law, and GREVIO	The 2-day (16-hour) training covered international standards on violence against women and domestic violence, legal frameworks, victim-centered approaches, risk assessment, referral mechanisms, and effective communication with victims.

				recommendations.	
Employees of the Investigation Quality Monitoring and Analytical Department of the Special Investigation Service	7	Yes	Mandatory, but occasionally depends on donor projects or internal resources.	International standards, including the Istanbul Convention, CEDAW, European Court of Human Rights case law, and GREVIO recommendations.	The 2-day (16-hour) training covered international standards on violence against women and domestic violence, legal frameworks, victim-centered approaches, risk assessment, referral mechanisms, and effective communication with victims.
Employees of the General Inspection (department) of the Special Investigation Service	2	No	Occasionally, depends on donor projects or internal resources.	international standards, including the Istanbul Convention, CEDAW, European Court of Human Rights case law, and GREVIO recommendations.	The 2-day (16-hour) training covered international standards on violence against women and domestic violence, legal frameworks, victim-centered approaches, risk assessment, referral mechanisms, and effective communication with victims.
Employees of the Legal Department of the Special Investigation Service	2	No	Occasionally, depends on donor projects or internal resources.	international standards, including the Istanbul Convention, CEDAW, European Court of Human Rights case law, and GREVIO recommendations.	The 2-day (16-hour) training covered international standards on violence against women and domestic violence, legal frameworks, victim-centered approaches, risk assessment, referral mechanisms, and effective communication with victims.

Victims and Witnesses Counselor of the Victims' Rights Protection Unit of the Special Investigation Service	1	Yes	Mandatory, but occasionally depends on donor projects or internal resources.	international standards, including the Istanbul Convention, CEDAW, European Court of Human Rights case law, and GREVIO recommendations.	The 2-day (16-hour) training covered international standards on violence against women and domestic violence, legal frameworks, victim-centered approaches, risk assessment, referral mechanisms, and effective communication with victims.
Head of the Operative Unit of the Special Investigation Service	1	No	Occasionally, depending on donor projects	The training was supported by international standards and guidelines on prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), particularly in places of detention, developed by OSCE/ODIHR and other international human rights mechanisms.	The 3-day (20-hour) training focused on understanding SGBV in detention settings, monitoring methodology, identifying risks, working in monitoring teams, and developing monitoring recommendations. The training included expert presentations, group exercises, case studies, and a study visit to the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland.
Investigators of the Special Investigation Service	9	No	Occasionally, depending on donor projects	The training was conducted based on international standards, guidelines, and practical	The 5-day (31 hour) training covered the specifics of domestic and sexual violence, victim-centered approaches, investigation techniques, interviewing victims, hate crimes, crimes against children, and case

				case studies focused on investigating domestic and sexual violence crimes. The program included trauma-informed approaches and victim-oriented interview techniques.	analysis. Practical exercises and real-case discussions were included to enhance participants' skills.
Investigators of the Special Investigation Service	18	Yes	Mandatory, but occasionally depends on donor projects or internal resources.	The training was based on Georgian legislation, international standards, and best practices regarding the investigation of cyber violence as a form of sexual violence. Guidelines on victim-centered approaches and relevant legal frameworks were discussed.	The 3-day (12 hour) training focused on improving the quality of investigation of cyber violence as a form of sexual violence and victim protection. The training covered victim-centered investigation standards, legislative framework of cyber violence, types of cyber violence, investigation challenges, international practices, and possible legislative changes.
Investigators of the Special Investigation Service	36	Yes	Mandatory, but occasionally depends on	The training program was based on the manual	The 3-day (22.5 hour) training was specifically designed for investigators of the Special Investigation

			donor projects or internal resources.	developed by Equality Now, the Council of Europe, and UN Women on the effective investigation, prosecution, and trial of sexual violence cases in Georgia. Additionally, the training incorporated international human rights standards, the Istanbul Convention, and national legal frameworks related to sexual violence crimes. Participants were required to review these materials before the training.	Service. The content covered a wide range of topics related to the investigation of sexual violence crimes, including: understanding sexual violence from a gender perspective, trauma and psychological consequences, victim-centered investigation strategies, myths and stereotypes about sexual violence, evidence collection standards, consent issues under Georgian criminal law, challenges in interviewing victims, investigation of crimes committed by law enforcement officers, and practical exercises such as interview simulations.
Employees of the Legal Department of the Special Investigation Service	1	No	Occasionally, depends on donor projects or internal resources.	The training program was based on the manual developed by Equality Now, the Council of	The 3-day (22.5 hour) training was specifically designed for investigators of the Special Investigation Service. The content covered a wide range of topics related to the investigation of sexual violence crimes, including:

				Europe, and UN Women on the effective investigation, prosecution, and trial of sexual violence cases in Georgia. Additionally, the training incorporated international human rights standards, the Istanbul Convention, and national legal frameworks related to sexual violence crimes. Participants were required to review these materials before the training.	understanding sexual violence from a gender perspective, trauma and psychological consequences, victim-centered investigation strategies, myths and stereotypes about sexual violence, evidence collection standards, consent issues under Georgian criminal law, challenges in interviewing victims, investigation of crimes committed by law enforcement officers, and practical exercises such as interview simulations.
Employees of the Investigation Quality Monitoring and Analytical Department of the Special Investigation Service	2	Yes	Mandatory, but occasionally depends on donor projects or internal resources.	The training program was based on the manual developed by Equality Now, the Council of Europe, and UN Women on the effective	The 3-day (22.5 hour) training was specifically designed for investigators of the Special Investigation Service. The content covered a wide range of topics related to the investigation of sexual violence crimes, including: understanding sexual violence from a gender perspective, trauma and psychological consequences,

				<p>investigation, prosecution, and trial of sexual violence cases in Georgia. Additionally, the training incorporated international human rights standards, the Istanbul Convention, and national legal frameworks related to sexual violence crimes. Participants were required to review these materials before the training.</p>	<p>victim-centered investigation strategies, myths and stereotypes about sexual violence, evidence collection standards, consent issues under Georgian criminal law, challenges in interviewing victims, investigation of crimes committed by law enforcement officers, and practical exercises such as interview simulations.</p>
Employees of the General Inspection (department) of the Special Investigation Service	1	No	Occasionally, depends on donor projects or internal resources.	<p>The training program was based on the manual developed by Equality Now, the Council of Europe, and UN Women on the effective investigation, prosecution, and trial of sexual</p>	<p>The 3-day (22.5 hour) training was specifically designed for investigators of the Special Investigation Service. The content covered a wide range of topics related to the investigation of sexual violence crimes, including: understanding sexual violence from a gender perspective, trauma and psychological consequences, victim-centered investigation strategies, myths and stereotypes about sexual violence, evidence collection</p>

				violence cases in Georgia. Additionally, the training incorporated international human rights standards, the Istanbul Convention, and national legal frameworks related to sexual violence crimes. Participants were required to review these materials before the training.	standards, consent issues under Georgian criminal law, challenges in interviewing victims, investigation of crimes committed by law enforcement officers, and practical exercises such as interview simulations.
Special Penitentiary Service staff	373 participants (From 2023 until 15.04.2025)	Yes	The training is conducted once a month for different groups.		<p>“Basic Orientation Program – Universal training” is a 9-day training that includes a 2-hour session on Gender and violence against women:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender and feminism • Violence against women: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The phenomenon of violence against women; ○ Types of violence; ○ Femicide; ○ Perpetrator behavior correction; <p>Support for victims.</p>
Teachers	2023-42	No	In 2023, a total of 42 teachers were trained in 5	Training efforts are supported by a solid foundation of	The training module "Gender Mainstreaming in Education: Gender-based violence and Domestic Violence" was developed with the joint

			groups, from January to February	national laws, international conventions, resolutions and guidelines.	cooperation of the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia, National Center for Teacher Professional Development and UN WOMEN. The training module covers following issues: Violence against women and girls, domestic violence, discrimination in the workplace, salary, etc. cases of the impact of stereotypes, stigmas and preconceived notions, discussion of the practice of sexual harassment in the workplace, discrimination based on heritage, human trafficking, discussing cases of rape of minors, marriage of children under 18, femicide duration of the training: 8 contact hours
Teachers	2023-364	No	In 2023, 364 teachers were trained in 8 groups from March 2 to June 2.	Training efforts are supported by a solid foundation of national laws, international conventions, resolutions and guidelines.	Training module "Overcoming Violence Against Children, INSPAIR Strategies" covers the consequences of early marriage, violence against children, along with the legislation of Georgia related to marriage. duration of the training: 20 contact hours
Teachers	2023-25	No	In January-March, 2023, a total of 25	Training efforts are supported by a solid	Training-module "Sexual and Reproductive Health for Teachers" covers the consequences of early

			teachers were trained at Edx platform in asynchronous format	foundation of national laws, international conventions, resolutions and guidelines.	marriage in terms of young people's health and rights. Human rights are discussed through the lens of sexual and reproductive rights. The emphasis is placed on equality in all types of relationships. duration of the training:30 contact hours
Teachers	2023- 13, 320	No	In 2023, 13, 320 teachers were trained in 5 groups from June 3 to August 15. at Edx platform in asynchronous format	Training efforts are supported by a solid foundation of national laws, international conventions, resolutions and guidelines.	Training-module "Preventing Bullying in Schools and Promoting the Development of a Tolerant Culture“ discusses the issues of domestic violence against women, essence, causes, and consequences of early marriage, with particular attention given to coercion of adolescents and their rights duration of the training: 20 contact hours
Social workers of the Office of Resource Officers of Educational Institutions	2024- 40	No	annual	Training module for ORO covering all aspects of violence against women (VAW) and domestic violence (DV), along with the reporting obligations associated with these	ToT - 28 hours; training - 8 hours Identifying signs of abuse, trauma care, referral systems, reporting; all aspects of violence against women (VAW) and domestic violence (DV),

				issues developed by UN Women's EU-supported action, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in Georgia (EVAWGG).	
Resource officers of the Office of Resource Officers of Educational Institutions	2024- ToT for 30 Resource officers;	No	annual	Training module for ORO covering all aspects of violence against women (VAW) and domestic violence (DV), along with the reporting obligations associated with these issues developed by UN Women's EU-supported action, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in Georgia	ToT - 28 hours; training - 8 hours Identifying signs of abuse, trauma care, referral systems, reporting; all aspects of violence against women (VAW) and domestic violence (DV),

				(EVAWGG).	
Social workers of the Office of Resource Officers of Educational Institutions	2024- 16	No	annual	Human Rights Education programme developed for the ORO by CoE	ToT - 32 hours Legal and practical aspects of human rights, equality, diversity, the harmful effects of hate speech, non-discriminatory approaches; Recognizing signs of abuse, providing support, fostering a safe learning environment.
Resource officers of the Office of Resource Officers of Educational Institutions	2023- ToT for 20 Resource Officers 2023-2024- 300 Resource Officers	No	annual	Human Rights Education programme developed for the ORO by CoE	ToT - 32 hours; training - 8 hours Legal and practical aspects of human rights, equality, diversity, the harmful effects of hate speech, non-discriminatory approaches; Recognizing signs of abuse, providing support, fostering a safe learning environment.
Education (schoolteachers)	677	No	One time training	Supported by guidelines and protocols, including a summary of key Georgian laws on domestic violence, violence against women, child protection, and sexual harassment.	Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition, characteristics and cycles of domestic violence. • Types of violence, including forced marriage, child marriage and sexual harassment. • Legal mechanisms for protection (criminal, administrative and civil), referral systems and victim support (shelters, hotlines, etc.). Duration: 2 hours

