

Committee of the Parties

Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating violence
against women and domestic violence
(Istanbul Convention)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Reply by Georgia to the reporting form on the implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties adopted on 6 December 2022

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Secretariat of the monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Strasbourg, 3 June 2025

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**Committee of the Parties
Council of Europe Convention
on Preventing and Combating
Violence against Women
and Domestic Violence
(Istanbul Convention)**

Reporting form on the implementation of the recommendations addressed to state parties

Georgia – CoP Questionnaire Response 2025

Secretariat of the monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

In accordance with Article 68, paragraph 12, of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, the Committee of the Parties adopts, on the basis of the report and conclusions of GREVIO, recommendations addressed to state parties concerning the measures to be taken to implement the conclusions of GREVIO.

The applicable procedure for issuing recommendations was settled by the Committee of the Parties at its 4th meeting and is described in document IC-CP(2018)6. In accordance with this procedure, the recommendations call upon state parties to implement all the proposals and suggestions set out in GREVIO's baseline evaluation report. However, the obligation to report on measures taken is limited to those specifically outlined in section A of the recommendation, namely: a) all the proposals and suggestions formulated by GREVIO throughout the report which require immediate action – these are qualified by the use of the verb “urge”, and b) the proposals and suggestions related to Chapters I and II of the convention which require taking remedial action in the near future and are qualified by the use of the expression “strongly encourage”. According to the agreed procedure, state parties are given a period of three years to implement the recommendations of the Committee of the Parties and report back to the Committee.

To facilitate this reporting, state parties are requested to use this questionnaire to report on the implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee of the Parties. Recommendations not issued in relation to Georgia do not need to be reported on. **As a result, the Georgian authorities are not required to answer questions 22 – 24 and 28 - 31 in the reporting form.**

The reporting deadline set by the Committee of the Parties was **4 December 2025**. Information related to the monitoring of Georgia is available on the dedicated country monitoring [webpage](#).

I. Fundamental rights, equality, and non-discrimination (Article 4)		
1	Have your authorities taken measures to ensure that the provisions of the Istanbul Convention are implemented without discrimination on any grounds listed in Article 4, paragraph 3, of the convention, including in terms of the availability of services and the protection by law enforcement agencies?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>Within the reporting period, Georgia has significantly improved its legal and institutional response to violence against women, domestic violence and crimes based on discrimination, aligning its policies with the Istanbul Convention. Through legal reforms and strategic policy initiatives, the country has reinforced measures for prevention, protection, and prosecution.</p> <p>On 5 September 2022, the Government approved the second National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in Georgia 2022-2030, which was subsequently adopted by Parliament in early 2023. 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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. <p>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.</p> <p>Notably, one of the chapters of the document is dedicated to promotion of equality and protection of minority rights. Particular importance is attached to ensuring equality at all levels of the public and private sectors, eliminating conditions conducive to inequality, and combating intolerance and hate crimes and other offenses. The objectives of the chapter include continuous improvement of equality and anti-discrimination legislation and its effective enforcement and improvement of victim-oriented response to crimes committed on grounds of discrimination/intolerance.</p>
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Subsequently to the approval of the Strategy, a multidisciplinary working group with the involvement of civil society representatives elaborating the **Human Rights Action Plan of Georgia for 2024–2026** (AP). The process was inclusive; all relevant organizations and individuals working on human rights issues were involved in the elaboration of the document. On 28 December 2023, the Government officially approved the AP. 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 AP. Based on these submissions, the AoG prepared a consolidated implementation report, which was presented to the Parliament of Georgia. Notably, the 2024 report marks the first monitoring cycle under the current AP; 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: the **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 documents 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.

Both plans included strong anti-discrimination measures. The first plan focused on legal reform, victim support, and training for police and social workers to ensure equal protection and services for all women. The 1325 Action Plan expanded this approach to women affected by conflict, with targeted services for internally displaced and border-zone populations, and training within the military and police. Both

plans are supported by inter-agency coordination, gender-sensitive budgeting, and monitoring frameworks to track progress and ensure accountability.

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 and 1 was partially implemented;
- 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 and 1 - mostly implemented.

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. Notably, 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.

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, a working group was established to assist the responsible state agencies in developing SOPs, which is an obligation under the Referral Mechanism.

Monitoring the quality of investigations into crimes committed with a motive of intolerance based on discrimination is one of the key priorities for the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. For this purpose, the Human Rights Protection Department is involved from the moment a crime report is received and monitors those criminal cases where there are signs that the motive may be based on one of the grounds for intolerance outlined in Article 531 of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

At this stage, in order to identify motives of intolerance based on discrimination, investigative units apply the recommendation developed by the department titled “On the Identification and Effective Investigation of Crimes Committed with a Motive of Intolerance Based on Discrimination.” This recommendation includes important theoretical information about hate crimes and a list of questions recommended to be asked during interviews related to crimes committed with a discriminatory motive. The answers to these questions serve as one of the indicators for identifying a motive of intolerance. In order to improve the quality of investigation of crimes committed with discriminatory motives, the recommendation “On the Identification and Effective Investigation of Crimes Committed with a Motive of Intolerance Based on Discrimination” is being updated, taking into account the trends and challenges revealed through monitoring.

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.¹ 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.

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

¹ Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/php6EGZ3a.pdf (in Georgian)

Since September 1, 2020, in accordance to the decree of the Prosecutor General, specialized prosecutors have been carrying out procedural supervision over hate crime criminal cases, including crimes committed with gender-based intolerance motive. All specialized prosecutors underwent the training course. Currently, there are 163 specialized 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 with the decree of the Prosecutor General, only specialized 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 specialized employees of the Prosecution Service (for sexual offences), including 38 managers, 101 prosecutors, 16 investigators and 18 witness and victim coordinators.

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

In 2023-2024, the **high rate of reporting domestic crimes** to law enforcement agencies and initiation of criminal prosecution by the prosecutor's office was 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. 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.

To ensure efficiency of prosecutorial activities, improvement of their quality, and the uniform interpretation and implementation of legal norms in practice, the Prosecution Service periodically develops **guidelines** and revises, updates, and systematizes 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.

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 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 (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)".

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 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 the 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.

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 was 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.

In order to improve access to justice for women and girls with disabilities and implement international standards in practice, the Human Rights Protection Department 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 2021², 2022³, 2023⁴ and 2024⁵ 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.

Combatting intersectional discrimination and hate crime is a priority for the Prosecution Service. In this regard, the Human Rights Protection Department monitors hate crime criminal cases on a daily basis. After conducting the monitoring, analyses of hate crime

² Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpPL5Noc.pdf

³ Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpzoiwBY.pdf; https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phppUubQ6.pdf

⁴ Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpxzgrOl.pdf; https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpvQnf1K.pdf

⁵ Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpoey2Ql.pdf; https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpX5lXn5.pdf

criminal cases for 2021⁶, 2022⁷, 2023⁸ and 2024⁹ 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.

In 2022, a Guideline on Principles for Investigating Hate Crime According to International Standards for specialized prosecutors was developed, which analyses 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 Prosecutor General of Georgia in 2024.

The Prosecution Service 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, examined 43 criminal cases. In the process of reviewing the applications/complaints received by the Council, the Council Secretariat directly examined the

⁶ Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpc68zwq.pdf

⁷ Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpLjPC9k.pdf

⁸ Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpmJpjKh.pdf

⁹ Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/784444Dgfss.pdf

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 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 analyzed. 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 Femicide 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. 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.

The administrating body of social services, under the control of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia - **Agency for State Care and Assistance for the (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking** (State Care Agency), in administration of social services, adheres to the following principles: the exclusion of any form of discrimination based on an individual's social and economic status, race, skin color, religion, gender, age, sex, political beliefs, or any other characteristic (Resolution of the Government of Georgia No. 58 on the “Approval of the Charter of the Legal Entity of Public Law – Assistance for the (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking”).

Furthermore, 7 crisis centers and 6 shelters administered by the State Care Agency are equally accessible to all victims, without any form of exclusion or bias. This principle is guaranteed by the Order of the Director of State Care Agency (Order No. 1000318 2 23 00000088 of 2023) and the respective statutes.

Specifically, Article 5, paragraph 3, stipulates that the services of shelters and crisis centres are available to all persons, regardless of race, color, language, sex, age, citizenship, origin, place of birth, place of residence, property or social status, religion or belief, national, ethnic or social background, profession, marital status, health condition, disability, sexual orientation, political or other views, or any other status.

The **Legal Aid Service** has taken concrete measures to ensure that the provisions of the Istanbul Convention are implemented without discrimination on any grounds as listed in Article 4, paragraph 3 of the Convention. This includes ensuring equal access to legal services and protection, regardless of sex, gender, race, color, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth, sexual orientation, age, state of health, disability, marital status, migrant or refugee status, or any other status.

Specific measures include non-discriminatory access to legal aid. The Legal Aid Service ensures that victims of gender-based and domestic violence can access free legal aid without any discrimination. Eligibility criteria have been designed to prioritize vulnerable groups, and legal aid is provided regardless of the victim's background or status.

Legal aid providers and public lawyers receive regular training on the principles of non-discrimination, gender sensitivity, and the standards of the Istanbul Convention, to ensure victim-centered and rights-based support.

Special attention is given to ensuring access to justice for marginalized and high-risk groups, such as ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and migrant or refugee women. This includes tailored communication approaches and, when necessary, providing interpretation and translation services.

	<p>The Legal Aid Service coordinates with law enforcement agencies and social service providers to guarantee a comprehensive and non-discriminatory response for victims of violence. Referral mechanisms are in place to ensure that victims receive both protection and legal support seamlessly.</p> <p>The Legal Aid Service monitors the delivery of services to identify and address any potential barriers or discriminatory practices. Data is disaggregated where appropriate to assess whether all groups are effectively accessing support.</p>		
1.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
2	<p>Have your authorities taken measures contributing to prevent and combat violence against women who are or might be exposed to intersectional discrimination?</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>The National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in Georgia for 2022-2030 (Strategy) demonstrates Georgia’s strong commitment to advancing equality and addressing the needs of diverse groups through an inclusive, rights-based approach. Intersectional considerations are reflected across several priority areas, including equality and minority rights, equality between women and men, disability rights, children’s rights, and the protection of conflict-affected populations. The Strategy emphasizes the continuous improvement of anti-discrimination legislation and its enforcement, the inclusion of ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities in state service planning, and the promotion of equal participation in social, economic, cultural, and political life. It also highlights tailored measures for vulnerable groups such as women, children, elderly persons, internally displaced persons, and those living near occupation lines, ensuring their protection and participation.</p> <p>Both the 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 demonstrate Georgia’s commitment to addressing intersectional forms of discrimination. The plans recognize and include measures</p>		

targeting specific vulnerable groups such as women with disabilities, those living in rural areas, ethnic minorities, and conflict-affected women, including internally displaced persons and women residing near the occupied territories. They also incorporate steps toward improving data collection and disaggregation, thereby laying important groundwork for more nuanced and inclusive policymaking. By acknowledging the diverse experiences and needs of different groups of women and girls, these action plans represent a meaningful step toward more targeted and equitable responses to violence and the broader Women, Peace and Security agenda.

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) to create a **unified data system** on crimes committed on the grounds of intolerance based on discrimination. Within the framework of the obligations undertaken through the memorandum, the Ministry of Internal Affairs conducts daily monitoring of crimes committed with a motive of intolerance based on discrimination. It is important to note that the ground of discrimination can be intersectional. The results of the monitoring are published annually in accordance with the obligations set by the memorandum.

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 lasted for two years and the goal of the campaign was 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. 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-

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Prosecutor's Office has also been actively participating in the awareness-raising campaign "I Choose Equality" for the sixth year. In recent years, the Office has carried out a range of outreach activities, including working meetings with local municipalities and NGOs to strengthen national and international cooperation mechanisms, informational sessions with schoolchildren to address intolerance-motivated crimes and prevent issues such as early marriage and violence against women, as well as student visits to the General Prosecutor's Office during Equality Week to discuss victim-oriented approaches in handling such cases.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>From November 25 to December 10, 2024, the State Care Agency also participated in the global campaign aimed at raising public awareness about violence against women, 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, 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.</p>
2.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:

3	<p>In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 4, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:</p> <p>The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia is oriented toward sensitive and victim-centered investigations. For this purpose, continuous training of staff is conducted within the ministry. In 2021, a specialization process for investigators on sexual crimes was launched, aiming to improve knowledge and skills for effective investigation of sexual violence cases, use victim-centered and human rights-based approaches, and prepare effective cases for prosecution. The training program also covers guidelines for interviewing minor victims of sexual violence. Approximately 240 investigators from various territorial and structural units of the ministry have already completed this specialization course. As a result of these measures, in 2021, investigations were initiated for 170 criminal cases under Article 137 (rape) of the Criminal Code. The rate of case openings increased to nearly 60% in 2021.¹⁰</p> <p>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 the 2022-2024 Action Plan are in effect in the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia.</p> <p>In 2025, the PSG elaborated new Action Plan of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia on Equality between Women and Men for 2025-2027. The strategic goals are fully concordant with the requirements of national legislation and international principles and standards on gender equality and women's rights.</p> <p>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.</p>
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¹⁰ Available at: <https://info.police.ge/uploads/61f817960be02.pdf> (in Georgian)

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 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.

Pursuant to Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence - 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.

The **Witness and Victim Coordinator Service** of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia supports witnesses and victims throughout legal proceedings by reducing stress and preventing re-victimization, ensuring awareness of their rights, and connecting them with needed protection and support services. Their involvement has steadily increased over recent years, particularly in cases of domestic violence, violence against women, sexual offenses, and intolerance-motivated crimes, with thousands of victims—primarily women—receiving assistance annually. To strengthen protection, a 2024 order now requires coordinators' participation in key crime categories including femicide, sexual violence, and crimes against minors. Public information on their activities, contacts, and a crime-reporting hotline is available through the Prosecutor's Office website.

Georgia's legal framework provides multiple **safeguards to prevent secondary victimization**, intimidation, and reprisals against victims of violence, including protective rights under the Law on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the Criminal Procedure Code. Prosecutors assess the need for special protection, and victims may request information on offenders' custody status, while the Ministry of Internal Affairs must promptly notify victims when perpetrators are released or leave prison, and evaluate risks to determine whether measures such as restraining orders are needed. Special court measures are available to protect participants in criminal proceedings, such as restricting the accused's presence, allowing remote or anonymous testimony, partially or fully closing hearings, and applying specific

	<p>protections for minor witnesses to avoid further trauma. Additionally, when a victim hesitates to testify, prosecutors must ensure the decision is informed and assess risks of coercion or re-victimization to take appropriate legal action.</p> <p>At the general education level, the National Curriculum integrates human rights education and topics related to personal safety and violence prevention. Civic education, beginning in Grade III and continuing through Grade XII, covers issues such as personal space, bullying, cyberbullying, and human rights protection. Early and child marriage is addressed as a violation of human rights within both Citizenship and Biology subjects. The National Center for Teacher Professional Development (TPDC) supports this work through multiple training modules on early marriage, violence against children, sexual and reproductive rights, bullying prevention, and peace education.</p> <p>A specialized training module on violence against women and domestic violence was developed for teachers and school staff in line with the Istanbul Convention, with around 1600 resource officers and 60 social workers trained from 2022–2025. Additionally, a social work component was introduced in public schools in 2021, resulting in the deployment of over 100 professional social workers and expanded psychosocial support and referral mechanisms for students at risk, including obligatory reporting and case management procedures.</p> <p>At the vocational and higher education levels, awareness-raising efforts also remain a priority. Vocational institutions organize informational activities and have introduced sexual harassment prevention mechanisms in select colleges, while higher education institutions regularly hold seminars, trainings, and integrate VAW/DV topics into academic programmes to promote a safe and inclusive educational environment.</p>			
4	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 970 1693 1374"> <p>Have your authorities developed a long-term plan/strategy to prevent and combat violence against women?</p> <p>Since 2013, the Government of Georgia has been systematically adopting and implementing the National Action Plan on the Measures to be Implemented for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors, a comprehensive framework specifically dedicated to addressing all forms of violence against women. The most recent Action Plan covered the years 2022–2024 and was structured around four strategic priority areas: (I) prevention of violence against women and domestic violence; (II) protection and support of victims; (III) effective investigation and prosecution to combat such violence; and (IV) development of an integrated policy and data collection system. As noted in response to</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1693 970 1861 1374">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1861 970 2051 1374">No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A (a plan/strategy was already developed at the time of GREVIO’s baseline)</td> </tr> </table>	<p>Have your authorities developed a long-term plan/strategy to prevent and combat violence against women?</p> <p>Since 2013, the Government of Georgia has been systematically adopting and implementing the National Action Plan on the Measures to be Implemented for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors, a comprehensive framework specifically dedicated to addressing all forms of violence against women. The most recent Action Plan covered the years 2022–2024 and was structured around four strategic priority areas: (I) prevention of violence against women and domestic violence; (II) protection and support of victims; (III) effective investigation and prosecution to combat such violence; and (IV) development of an integrated policy and data collection system. As noted in response to</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A (a plan/strategy was already developed at the time of GREVIO’s baseline)
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	<p>Question 1, the vast majority of activities envisaged under this Action Plan were successfully implemented, underscoring Georgia's sustained and strategic approach to preventing and combating violence against women.</p> <p>Additionally, the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in Georgia for 2022-2030 includes a separate chapter on 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.</p>		<p>evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/></p>
4.1	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
5	<p>Which forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention are addressed by the plan/strategy? Please offer a brief description specifically indicating the forms of violence not previously addressed in plans or strategies at national level.</p> <p>The National Action Plan on the Measures to be Implemented for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors 2022–2024 addresses the forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention, including sexual violence, and treats domestic violence as an overarching category. The Plan is structured around the four pillars of prevention, protection, prosecution, and coordinated policies, thereby closely aligning with the Convention's framework.</p> <p>The National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights 2022–2030 places strong emphasis on preventing and responding to domestic violence, violence against women, crimes committed on the grounds of discrimination, and harmful practices such as child and forced marriage. It also commits to raising public awareness, improving access to justice, and strengthening protection and support services, thereby integrating these issues into Georgia's broader human rights policy framework.</p>		

6	Was specific attention given to place the rights of women victims at the centre of all measures planned?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6.1	<p>If yes, please specify how:</p> <p>Both the National Action Plan on the Measures to be implemented for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors 2022-2024 (AP) and the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in Georgia for 2022–2030 (Strategy) place the rights and needs of women victims at the centre of their planned measures.</p> <p>The AP was explicitly structured around the pillars of prevention, protection, prosecution, and coordinated policies, with a strong focus on ensuring that victims receive timely, comprehensive, and rights-based support. One of its four priority areas is entirely devoted to the protection and support of victims, which includes measures to strengthen access to shelters, crisis centres, legal aid, psychological assistance, and rehabilitation services. It also emphasizes improving the quality and coordination of state services to ensure a victim-centred response across all institutions involved, aligning with the Istanbul Convention’s standards.</p> <p>Similarly, the Strategy embeds the protection of women victims’ rights within its broader equality and human rights framework. Under the gender equality priority, it highlights the strengthening of mechanisms to respond to incidents of violence against women and domestic violence, the protection of victims, and the development of effective preventive measures. It also commits to enhancing access to justice and support services, improving victim protection and rehabilitation mechanisms, and raising public awareness to foster a supportive environment.</p>		
6.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
7	Do the plan/strategy and the measures contained therein involve all relevant actors, such as government agencies, the national, regional and local parliaments and authorities, national human rights institutions and civil society organisations?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

7.1	<p>Please specify the actors involved:</p> <p>Both the National Action Plan on the Measures to be implemented for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors 2022-2024 (AP) and the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in Georgia for 2022–2030 (Strategy) were developed and are implemented through broad, multi-stakeholder involvement, engaging all key actors at the national, regional, and local levels.</p> <p>Development of the AP brought together line ministries, law enforcement agencies, service providers, local self-governments, and civil society organisations, including women’s rights NGOs and service providers. It clearly defined the roles and responsibilities of different state bodies in prevention, protection, and prosecution, while also relying on partnerships with international organisations and civil society to implement awareness-raising campaigns, service delivery, and monitoring.</p> <p>Similarly, the Strategy was elaborated through an inclusive, consultative process. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Development of the Human Rights Action Plan was also 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 Action Plan. The structure of these meetings allowed the civil sector to contribute their viewpoints on the plan's initiatives and receive feedback from relevant authorities.</p>
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7.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
8	<p>Have the authorities assigned the role of co-ordinating body to one or more fully institutionalised entities?</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A (a co-ordinating body was already established at the time of GREVIO's baseline evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/>
8.1	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
9	<p>Please specify the mandate, powers, and competences, as well as the composition, of the co-ordinating body/bodies:</p> <p>Throughout the years, Georgia has made efforts to strengthen its human rights framework and reporting mechanisms through various reforms and institutional setups. On the executive level, the Interagency Commission on Equality between Women and Men, Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence serves as the official national coordinating body for the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and measures aimed at preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and domestic violence under the Istanbul Convention.</p>		

	<p>The Commission is chaired by the Head of the Human Rights Department of the Administration of the Government of Georgia and includes deputy ministers from all key line ministries, as well as representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office, the State Care Agency, and the National Statistics Office. Advisory members include the Public Defender, the Parliament's Human Rights Committee, the Personal Data Protection Service, the Legal Aid Service, the governments of the Autonomous Republics of Abkhazia and Adjara, the National Association of Local Authorities, and the Communications Commission. At the invitation of the Chairperson, the representatives of non-commercial legal entities, international organizations, the chairperson of the municipal council working on women's and children's issues of the relevant municipality and the public servant responsible for women's rights protection issues in the relevant municipal administration/mayor's office may also participate in the work of the Interagency Commission.</p> <p>The Commission's mandate is to ensure systematic and coordinated work on equality between women and men and on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Its tasks include supporting the implementation of activities under the Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan, coordinating enforcement of relevant national legislation, raising public awareness, and overseeing the fulfilment of Georgia's international obligations.</p> <p>The work of the Commission is supported by the Human Rights Department. The Department was established in September 2023; it replaced the Human Rights Secretariat that existed previously. This was a significant step in strengthening the national coordinating body for human rights at the executive level. The department combines the functions of the former Human Rights Secretariat with a newly created division dedicated to analysis and research. By focusing on research and evidence-based policy recommendations, the Human Rights Department not only facilitates better decision-making but also reinforces Georgia's long-term commitment to human rights. Its creation reflects the government's intent to further expand its staff and capacity to effectively address emerging human rights issues.</p>		
9.1	<p>In particular, please indicate whether the co-ordinating body/bodies is/are responsible for:</p> <p>- Co-ordination of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The co-ordination</p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

		body responsible is:	
	- Implementation of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is:	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is:	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Co-ordination of the collection of data, analysis and dissemination of its results	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is:	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10	Please specify the human and financial resources allocated to the co-ordinating body/bodies:		

	<p>The Commission operates within the existing institutional framework, and its functions are carried out by the representatives of the member agencies as part of their official duties. The human and financial resources required for the Commission's work are therefore drawn from the regular resources of the state agencies represented in the Commission, which are financed through the state budget. This includes the Administration of the Government of Georgia, which provides secretarial and organizational support through its Human Rights Department, as well as the line ministries and other institutions that participate in the Commission's activities in accordance with their respective mandates.</p>		
11	<p>In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Articles 7 and 10, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:</p>		
<p>II. Financial resources (Article 8)</p>			
12	<p>Have your authorities allocated specific funds at the</p>		
	- national	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- and/or regional	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- and/or local	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>levels of government for activities to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention?</p>		
12.1	<p>If yes, what is the annual amount of these funds? If possible, please specify the percentage of the total national state budget that the amount represents.</p> <p>Within the framework of the Public Finance Management reform to strengthen the linkages between the budget and policy directions, the "tagging" tool was incorporated into the e-budget system. The "Policy Classifier" component within this tool enables all spending units to</p>		

	<p>link their programs/sub-programs with the relevant policy classifier, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Equality Between Women and Men, Climate Change, Sectoral Strategies, and others. Information about these linkages is reflected in the Program Budget. According to the 2025 State Budget law, In the Program Budget annex 37 programs/sub-programs across 10 line ministries have already been tagged to the Policy Classifier - Equality Between Women and Men.</p> <p>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 were explicitly costed and budgeted (6,062,850 GEL and 27,680,907 GEL respectively). They included 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.</p> <p>Notably, in 2024, the State Care Agency allocated approximately 2,500,000 GEL to support services for victims of violence, including the operation of shelters and crisis centers, as well as compensation payments. This represents a substantial increase of around 300,000 GEL compared to the 2023 budget, reflecting the government’s growing commitment to strengthening victim support mechanisms and ensuring broader access to essential protective and rehabilitative services.</p> <p>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,” based on best international practices.</p> <p>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.</p>
12.2	<p>[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:</p> <p>The Permanent Parliamentary Council on Gender Equality benefited from an annually designated budget line in the amount of 50,000 GEL, provided through the Parliament’s budget. While this allocation was not exclusively directed toward service provision or large-scale</p>

	<p>programmatic interventions, it served as an important financial mechanism to advance the Council’s mandate. In particular, these resources were utilized to organize awareness-raising campaigns, public outreach activities, and information-sharing events at both central and municipal levels.</p> <p>Through this targeted funding, the Council was able to strengthen the visibility of gender equality issues, foster dialogue among stakeholders, and support activities aimed at building public understanding and institutional responsiveness to gender-based violence. Although modest in scale, the allocation ensured that the parliamentary body responsible for gender equality could systematically carry out awareness and advocacy functions, thereby complementing broader state-level commitments under the Istanbul Convention.</p>		
13	<p>Have these funds increased since the publication of GREVIO’s baseline evaluation report?</p> <p>Since the publication of GREVIO’s baseline evaluation report, the overall financial resources allocated to the implementation of measures to prevent and combat violence against women have increased, reflecting the Government’s growing commitment to this area (for numbers see answer to the previous question). It should be noted, however, that it is not possible to comprehensively calculate the total amount of funding directed toward preventing and combating violence against women, especially with respect to law enforcement and prosecutorial activities. Most agencies operate under unified institutional budgets, which are not broken down by specific areas of intervention. As a result, they are unable to provide precise figures that reflect the share of their financial resources devoted specifically to work on violence against women.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, by what amount:</p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
14	<p>Have your authorities taken measures to foster long-term and sustainable financial support for non-governmental organisations working to support victims and prevent violence?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
14.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p>		

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** (agency) on April 15, 2025, through Decree No. 119¹¹. The special state institution was established at the national level for the first time. The purpose of this agency is to support civic organizations (non-profit 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 grants¹². On the same day, the Chairperson of the Agency approved the Rules for State Grant Issuance and Monitoring with Order No. 1.¹³

On July 21, the LEPL State Grant Management Agency announced a public call for small grants totaling 100,000 GEL (approximately 40,000 USD). Around 345 proposals were submitted. After the agency examined the formal requirements, 247 proposals were selected for discussion and decision by the grant council, which will conclude on October 11.

On 26th of September the agency announced a second call for institutional development grants totalling 700,000 GEL (approximately 260,000 USD), providing more opportunities for civic organizations to obtain state funds to implement civic initiatives and ensure institutional sustainability.

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.

Recently, the grant application review board identified the winning civic initiatives. Each of them will receive a grant of up to 100 thousand GEL. The total budget of the winning civic initiatives is 1,657,775 GEL.

Civic initiatives cover the following priority areas:

¹¹ Available at: <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/6475416?publication=0> (in Georgian)

¹² Available at: https://www.gov.ge/files/618_92815_695386_1165.pdf (in Georgian)

¹³ Available at: <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/6575474?publication=0> (in Georgian)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Labour, health and social protection ✓ Protection of the environment and natural resources ✓ Development of sports ✓ Education, science and youth ✓ Regional development and local self-government ✓ Reconciliation and civil equality ✓ Democratic institutions, good governance and human rights and fundamental freedoms <p>A high number of initiatives were submitted by civil society organizations, which was strongly welcomed. As a result, up to 17 projects were funded. More than 90% of the funded projects aim to strengthen human rights. Specifically, the projects aim to support home care services, strengthen the Positive Parenthood Program in regions, strengthen inclusive psychological support services for women with disabilities, establish an inclusive chess club for autistic children, support the 18+ service for young people with autism, promote the development of the national dementia program, research the needs of women of ethnic minorities and encourage integration, support inclusive (non)formal education for children with special needs, and provide psychological support and educational integration for parents of children with special needs.</p> <p>On September 26, 2025, the agency announced a second call for applications for an institutional development grant of 700,000 GEL for civic organizations. The grant aims to strengthen organizational capacity, promote financial sustainability, and implement civic initiatives. The agency is currently reviewing the formal requirements of the 218 applications submitted by October 27, 2025. The selection process will be finalized by December at the latest.</p>
14.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:
15	In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 8, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:
III. Non-governmental organisations and civil society (Article 9)	

16	<p>Have your authorities taken measures contributing to further recognise, encourage and support the work of relevant non-governmental organisations and of civil society active in combating all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention, including in terms of funding and co-operation?</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
16.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>The development of Georgia’s national policy framework on combating violence against women has been characterised by close cooperation with non-governmental organisations and civil society actors. Representatives of women’s rights organisations, service providers, and advocacy groups have actively contributed to the elaboration of the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in Georgia for 2022-2030 and the Human Rights Action Plan of Georgia for 2024–2026. Their engagement was ensured through participation in several online and inperson meetings coordinated by the Administration of the Government of Georgia. In addition to participatory policy-making, the authorities have taken concrete steps to strengthen the institutional and financial sustainability of NGOs working in this area. The establishment of the State Grant Management Agency (LEPL) in 2025 created a national mechanism for issuing state grants to civic organisations, including those focusing on women’s rights.</p> <p>A subprogram for the provision of shelters for mothers and children is in effect. The beneficiaries of this subprogram include mothers facing various challenges, accompanied by their minor child(ren), as well as pregnant women. The service encompasses 24-hour shelter provision; a safe and secure environment; the provision of food, age, gender, and season-appropriate clothing, and essential personal hygiene items; support for both vocational and non-formal education; arrangement of outpatient and inpatient medical services in emergency cases; and psychological assistance. These services are delivered by non-governmental organizations registered in Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.</p> <p>For the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, coordinated cooperation with line ministries, relevant institutions, and organizations is a key priority. 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, a list of agencies responsible for implementing preventive measures is defined, among which the Ministry of Internal Affairs plays a major role. Timely and coordinated action by these agencies is also established by the Government’s National Referral Procedures for the Identification, Protection, Support, and Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence against</p>		

Women and/or Domestic Violence, approved in 2024. Furthermore, interagency coordination is determined by Government Decree No. 437 of 2016, which regulates “Child Protection Referral Procedures.” This decree obliges relevant entities to inform law enforcement bodies in cases of child abuse. During legal proceedings, the Ministry of Internal Affairs conducts referrals to relevant agencies, maintaining close coordination with the Ministry of Health on matters such as service provision and shelter arrangements.

Over the years, the increase in citizen reporting of violence to the Ministry of Internal Affairs has also been facilitated by the Ministry’s **ongoing readiness to cooperate with relevant agencies and organizations**, including the Office of the Public Defender (Ombudsman). The Ministry’s Human Rights Protection Department receives information about alleged human rights violations both in writing and orally from individual citizens as well as human rights organizations:

- A functioning email address - adamianisuflebebi@mia.gov.ge has been created for reporting alleged violations. Information is also received from various state agencies, including the Public Defender’s Office, the School Resource Officers’ Service, the Social Service Agency, citizens, and others.
- Notably, representatives of the Public Defender’s Office and various organizations maintain verbal communication with the Department’s staff to share information about possible cases of violence.
- The Department can also be contacted through its official Facebook page Human Rights Protection Department.

In addition, for the purpose of preventing domestic and/or gender-based violence, the Ministry, in cooperation with partner agencies and organizations, plans and participates in various information campaigns and activities.

For many years the Ministry has conducted the “**Don’t Deprive Childhood**” awareness campaign aimed at preventing and effectively responding to child marriage. Within this campaign, employees of the Human Rights Department, as well as police units, together with representatives of partner agencies/organizations and interpreters, organize thematic activities with various target groups across Georgia.

Moreover, the Ministry participates annually in Equality Week and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. Within these frameworks, in cooperation with partner institutions and international organizations, it plans and implements diverse awareness-raising and multi-agency activities.

Employees of the Human Rights Protection Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs hold annual meetings with the public in almost all regions of Georgia. These meetings are attended not only by representatives of state institutions but also by partner and donor organizations.

Within the framework of the campaign “No to Femicide”, the **Prosecutor's Office cooperated with a total of more than 20 international and local organizations, state agencies and private companies.**

In 2024, General Prosecutor's Office of Georgia organized a working meeting with representatives from non-governmental organizations. The meeting was attended by members from non-governmental organizations working on human rights issues, as well as the General Prosecutor's Office. Representatives of the Office informed the participants of the meeting about the Prosecutor's Office's activities, current issues, and challenges in the areas of violence against women, sexual crimes, crimes motivated by intolerance, femicide, gender violence against women, and the protection of the rights of people with disabilities. Representatives from the non-governmental organizations, in turn, shared their opinions on current issues. The meeting underlined the significance of consistent practice and a victim-oriented approach to the aforementioned category of crimes. The conversation also covered the issues of procedural administration of criminal cases, criminal prosecution, and aiding the state prosecution in court, as well as solutions to address them and the need of implementing uniform procedures.

In 2024, on the initiative of the Prosecution Service of Georgia, a working meeting was held with representatives from international and donor organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to inform representatives from partner organizations about the activities implemented in cooperation with them, plans for the future, as well as the priorities and needs of the Prosecution Service of Georgia. The workshop was attended by representatives from the US Department of Justice, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the European Union, the Council of Europe, United Nations agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP), and the German Foundation for international legal cooperation. The conversation covered priority areas such as cybercrime, drug crimes, legalization of illegal income, juvenile justice, gender-based violence against women, crimes motivated by intolerance, employee empowerment, and others. Within the framework of the meeting, the positions of the donor organizations regarding

	the prospects of future cooperation were presented. The representatives of international organizations expressed gratitude to the Prosecution Service of Georgia for their active cooperation and efforts.		
16.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
IV. Data collection and research (Article 11)			
17	In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, have new sectors of the administration started the collection of data in accordance with the requirements of Article 11, paragraph 1?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
17.1	If yes, please specify which sectors: The General Prosecutor's Office , the Courts , the Legal Aid Service		
17.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
18	In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, have sectors of the administration improved their data collection?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
18.1	If yes, please specify which sectors and how, in particular whether new data categories were added: 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.

Statistical data is periodically published and publicly available on the website of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia¹⁴. It is also issued as public information to interested parties.

¹⁴ Available at: <https://pog.gov.ge/Gender-based-violence-against-women-and-domestic-violence?lng=eng>

The Prosecutor's Office 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, 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.

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.

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.

The **Legal Aid Service** integrated the so-called "Big Five" parameters into the Legal Case Management Information System (Case Bank). The so-called "Big Five" includes the following parameters:

1. Location of violence;
2. Gender of the victim/abuser;
3. Age of the victim/abuser;
4. Type of violence;
5. Form of relationship between the victim and the abuser.

As of September 2025, all parameters have been integrated into the Case Bank, namely:

- The geographical location parameter (at the level of regions and districts) has been integrated into the system since 2012;
- The gender and age parameter of the victim/abuser was taken into account during the system development process itself since 2010;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of violence parameter was integrated into the system in 2023; • As for the form of the relationship between the victim and the abuser (spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, etc.), this parameter was integrated into system in 2025. 		
18.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
19	Does statistical data collection by law-enforcement agencies and the judiciary enable cases of violence against women to be tracked in order to indicate:		
	- Conviction rates	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Types of sentences	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Attrition rates	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Time-barred proceedings	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
20	<p>As regards population-based surveys, please indicate any survey conducted since the publication of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report, while specifying the forms of violence covered:</p> <p>The National Study on Violence Against Women (VAW) in Georgia was conducted in 2022 by the National Statistics Office of Georgia. The survey covers the following forms of violence: Intimate partner violence, Non-partner violence, Sexual harassment and Stalking. Statistical report is available at the following link: https://www.geostat.ge/en/single-categories/126/national-study-on-violence-against-women-in-georgia.</p> <p>Full report is available at the following link: https://data.unwomen.org/publications/national-study-violence-against-women-georgia-2022</p>		
21	In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 11, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:		

In order to fulfill the obligations under Article 11 of the Convention, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, in cooperation with relevant agencies, specifically, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Supreme Court, and the National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat) works in a coordinated manner within the framework of a **Memorandum of Cooperation** aimed at creating and operating a unified data system on crimes committed with intolerance motives based on discrimination.

Within this memorandum, the Ministry of Internal Affairs records the following data units:

- The total number of investigations launched by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia into alleged crimes motivated by intolerance;
- The criminal article under which the investigation was initiated;
- The ground of discrimination;
- The geographic distribution of crimes by the ground of discrimination;
- The total number of investigations in which the Ministry's Witness and Victim Coordinator was involved.

Statistical data available in both Georgian and English are publicly accessible to all interested parties on the website of Geostat (Available at: <https://www.geostat.ge/ka/modules/categories/680/diskriminatsiis-nishnit-sheutsqnaresblobis-motivit-chadenili-danashaulis-statistika>), as well as in the annual statistical publication "Women and Men in Georgia". The statistics include indicators such as the number of perpetrators and victims disaggregated by age, sex, and regions. It also provides information on the number of restrictive orders issued and the individuals involved in them.

In addition, in order to fulfill the obligations under Article 11 of the Convention, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia within its competence collects and processes statistical data on violence against women and domestic violence as follows:

- Restraining orders: issued in cases of domestic violence and violence against women, disaggregated by gender, age, territorial distribution, and forms of violence;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered crimes: the articles, parts, and subparagraphs of the Criminal Code of Georgia that define crimes qualified with the aggravating circumstance of domestic violence. <p>The Analytical Department of the Supreme Court of Georgia includes the Human Rights Center and the Research and Analysis Center. Since 2017, following Georgia’s ratification of the Council of Europe’s Istanbul Convention on preventing violence against women, one of the Center’s key priorities has been analyzing court decisions on crimes such as domestic violence, stalking, and forced marriage, in line with international standards.</p> <p>Recent publications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of Court Practice on the Crimes of Stalking and Forced Marriage (2018–2022), (2023)¹⁵; A 2024 study on Sexual Harassment in Public Places¹⁶. <p>To promote the implementation of international standards, the Human Rights Center also regularly updates and disseminates Georgian translations of landmark European Court of Human Rights judgments to the members of judiciary.¹⁷</p>
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¹⁵ Available at:

<https://www.supremecourt.ge/uploads/files/1/pdf/%E1%83%92%E1%83%94%E1%83%9C%E1%83%93%E1%83%94%E1%83%A0%E1%83%A3%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98%20%E1%83%93%E1%83%90%E1%83%9C%E1%83%90%E1%83%A8%E1%83%90%E1%83%A3%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%98%20%E1%83%9B%E1%83%90%E1%83%A0%E1%83%97%E1%83%9A%E1%83%9B%E1%83%A1%E1%83%90%E1%83%AF%E1%83%A3%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1%20%E1%83%A1%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1%E1%83%A2%E1%83%94%E1%83%9B%E1%83%90%E1%83%A8%E1%83%98.pdf>
(in Georgian)

¹⁶ Available at:

https://www.supremecourt.ge/uploads/files/1/pdf/kvlevis_da_analizis centri/kvlevebi/%E1%83%A1%E1%83%94%E1%83%A5%E1%83%A1%E1%83%A3%E1%83%90%E1%83%9A%E1%83%A3%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98%20%E1%83%A8%E1%83%94%E1%83%95%E1%83%98%E1%83%AC%E1%83%A0%E1%83%9D%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%90%20%E1%83%A1%E1%83%90%E1%83%96%E1%83%9D%E1%83%92%E1%83%90%E1%83%93%E1%83%9D%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98%E1%83%95%20%E1%83%90%E1%83%93%E1%83%92%E1%83%98%E1%83%9A%E1%83%94%E1%83%91%E1%83%A8%E1%83%98.pdf (in Georgian)

¹⁷ Available at: <https://www.supremecourt.ge/ka/analytics/adamianis-uflebata-tsentr>

	<p>Regarding the collection of disaggregated relevant statistical data, it is important to note that, 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Notably, 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. The process is currently in the pilot phase.</p>
<p>V. Immediate response, prevention, and protection (Article 50)</p>	
<p>25</p>	<p>Have your authorities taken measures contributing to improve the prompt and appropriate response of law enforcement agencies, in particular by:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing training of law enforcement officials on the gendered nature of violence against women and its consequences 	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring a sufficient number of female police officers 	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting up premises designed to establish a relationship of trust between the victim and the law enforcement personnel 	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring the efficient collection of evidence so that the reliance on the victim's testimony is lessened 	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
25.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>Following the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, the Government of Georgia has taken significant steps both in repressive and preventive directions. A unified and strict policy is in place throughout the country when responding to cases of domestic and gender-based violence.</p> <p>After ratification, in order to ensure the protection of victims of violence against women, domestic violence, or family crimes, numerous amendments were made to various legislative acts by the initiative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Among them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-based discrimination was defined as an aggravating circumstance for certain crimes, and penalties for such offenses were increased; • The penalty for domestic violence involving deprivation of liberty was increased; • The first violation of a restraining order was made a criminally punishable act; • Stricter penalties were established for perpetrators of sexual violence, and monitoring of convicted or restricted offenders was introduced. <p>The Law of Georgia On the Elimination of and Response to Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence, and the Protection and Support of Victims of Such Violence regulates the procedures for identifying, preventing, protecting, and rehabilitating victims of such</p>		

violence. In 2021, amendments to this law defined the list of agencies responsible for implementing preventive measures with the Ministry of Internal Affairs playing a major role among them.

Timely and coordinated action among institutions is also regulated by the National Referral Procedures for the Identification, Protection, Support, and Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence, approved by the Government in 2024.

In addition, interagency coordination is defined by Government Decree No. 437 (2016) on Child Protection Referral Procedures, which obliges relevant entities to notify law enforcement in cases of violence against a child. During legal proceedings, the Ministry of Internal Affairs refers cases to relevant agencies, maintaining close coordination with the Ministry of Health on service provision and shelter-related issues.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs places great importance on improving the qualifications and professionalism of its staff and **regularly trains employees** on matters within their competence. In 2021, the Ministry launched a process of specializing investigators in sexual crimes. The aim is to enhance investigators' knowledge and skills for effective investigation of sexual violence cases, apply victim-centered and human rights-based approaches, and prepare well-founded cases for prosecution. The training program also includes guidelines for interviewing child victims of sexual violence.

In 2022, by ministerial order, the Ministry approved an Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Within this framework, hundreds of law enforcement officers, including managerial staff, were trained by the Human Rights Protection Department on issues such as ensuring the effective participation of persons with disabilities in justice processes, effective communication, and facilitating access to justice for women with disabilities.

Since May 1, 2023, a new version of the restraining order and risk assessment instrument has been implemented. Following the amendment, a cascade training of staff was conducted. Police officers in all regions of Georgia were provided information on the changes to the tool and on electronic monitoring procedures.

In September 2023, a new rule for organizing investigator qualification courses was approved. Under this framework, with the involvement of the Human Rights Protection Department, LEPL MIA Academy continues to support the professional development of investigators.

Within the Basic Vocational Education Program for Police Officers of the MIA Academy, the subject “Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence” is continuously taught, covering key topics such as:

- The essence of domestic violence;
- Forms of violence and their identification;
- Georgian legislation on domestic violence;
- The state’s positive and negative obligations;
- Risk assessment and safety considerations;
- Restraining orders and restraining order protocols;
- Monitoring of restraining orders;
- Procedures for electronic surveillance;
- Specific protection measures for minors affected by domestic violence;
- Rules and conditions for confiscating or restricting firearm use from perpetrators;
- Overview of firearm-related issues;
- Communication with victims and empathy;
- Legal and ethical issues;
- Incident analysis;
- Priority of involving the Witness and Victim Coordinator in cases of violence.

Since 2020, under the coordination and participation of the Human Rights Protection Department, more than 6,000 employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in various positions have been trained on the following priority issues: Domestic and gender-based violence; Crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability; Sexual harassment; Crimes committed by or against minors, including legal instruments, standards for working with minors, and investigative methodology; Psychological aspects of interaction with children in conflict with the law, as well as with child witnesses and victims; Crimes committed with motives of intolerance on the grounds of discrimination;

Mechanisms for protecting victims in cases of gender-based violence; Restraining and protective orders; Sexual violence crimes in the context of gender and in accordance with the Istanbul Convention and European standards; Victim-centered and context-based investigation approaches; Trafficking; Specifics of conducting investigative and procedural actions, and more.

To increase the number of reports made by victims, witnesses, and affected persons, the Ministry of Internal Affairs continuously works to **improve accessibility and awareness**. The Ministry regularly holds information meetings with members of the public, an initiative that has been ongoing for several years. Representatives of the Ministry also participate in television and radio programs, while the awareness-raising campaigns listed above likewise serve to encourage more people to report violence to the police.

For more than six years, the Human Rights Protection Department of the Ministry has periodically conducted educational and awareness meetings, both as part of the Ministry's own initiatives and in cooperation with international campaigns. The Ministry also periodically sends public information messages to citizens, aimed at informing millions of people about alternative ways to contact the police.

One of the most innovative means introduced by the Ministry is the "112" mobile application, which allows any person within the territory of Georgia to use key functions such as sending a silent emergency alert (SOS) to the 112 center and chatting with an operator. These features are especially useful in situations where a person cannot speak or where making a phone call could put them in danger. The application's main advantage is its ability to immediately locate the user, which significantly reduces emergency response times.

The Human Rights Protection Department receives information about individual cases both in writing and verbally. An official email address - adamianisuflebebi@mia.gov.ge has been created for citizens and organizational representatives to send messages concerning issues within the Ministry's competence. Information is also received from various state institutions and civil society organizations.

Additionally, the Department operates an official Facebook page - Human Rights Protection Department - <https://www.facebook.com/adamianisuflebatadacvisdepartamenti?mibextid=LQQJ4d> which helps raise public awareness about the legal mechanisms available in Georgia and about the Ministry's activities, while also enabling direct and effective communication between citizens and the Department.

Over the years, the number of reports to the Ministry of Internal Affairs regarding domestic and gender-based violence has remained consistently high, as reflected in official crime registration and restraining order statistics.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs continues to **prioritize a victim-centered approach** in criminal proceedings. Within the Ministry, the Witness and Victim Coordinator Service operates as a structural unit of the Human Rights Protection Department. The purpose of this service is to ensure that victim support functions are implemented efficiently and with a focus on results. The coordinators primarily work with victims of domestic and gender-based violence, providing them with information on available victim support services in the country.

To strengthen the protection of human rights, including efforts against gender-based and domestic violence, the Ministry works in close coordination with other relevant agencies, both in planning and implementing preventive measures and in ensuring an effective response. During criminal proceedings, the Ministry refers victims to relevant institutions, maintaining close cooperation with the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs (Ministry of Health) on issues such as service provision and access to shelters.

In the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, a number of important reforms have been implemented and is ongoing to increase the **representation of women**. Over the years, the percentage of employed women has been changing/increasing positively since the candidate's selection procedure is centralized, by a unified special selection commission. The Gender Equality is a priority for the Ministry, which is why trainings are increasing, both on the basis of the MIA Academy, as well as ad hoc training courses.

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

	<p>in combating domestic violence and domestic crimes, including 39 managers; 202 prosecutors; 25 investigators of the prosecutor's office; 10 Witness and Victim Coordinators.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>During 2021–2025, more than 30 non-mandatory training courses, thematic workshops, mentoring initiatives, and study visits were delivered for the employees of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia. In total, hundreds of prosecutors and staff members enhanced their knowledge and practical skills in addressing violence against women, domestic violence, and hate crimes, including through the Council of Europe HELP platform and specialized mentoring programs.</p>			
25.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:			
26	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 999 1693 1134">Have your authorities taken measures contributing to enable the identification and careful analysis of any failure of protection?</td> <td data-bbox="1693 999 1861 1134">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1861 999 2042 1134">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to enable the identification and careful analysis of any failure of protection?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Have your authorities taken measures contributing to enable the identification and careful analysis of any failure of protection?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		
26.1	<p>If yes, please specify what kind of measures, and if further preventive measures were adopted to remedy this situation:</p> <p>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.</p>			

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.¹⁸

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 2021¹⁹, 2022²⁰, 2023²¹ და 2024²². These analyses include criminological and legal aspects of gender-based intolerance-motivated crimes, existing trends, and challenges.

In 2024, the Prosecutor's Office 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 aspects were analyzed. These analyses were published on the Prosecutor's Office website in Georgian and in English.²³

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.²⁴

¹⁸ Available at: <https://pog.gov.ge/Gender-based-violence-against-women-and-domestic-violence?lng=eng>

¹⁹ Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/php8hrXJD.pdf

²⁰ Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpETBy2S.pdf

²¹ Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/php3XBJIV.pdf

²² Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/184184Fgf.pdf

²³ Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpCamIH1.pdf

²⁴ Available at: https://pog.gov.ge/uploads_script/resources/tmp/phpgrxasR.pdf

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
26.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:
27	<p>In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 50, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:</p> <p>In the context of Article 50 of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, regarding prevention and protection, changes were made in 2023 to the Order No. 81 of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia dated 13 July 2018, On the Approval of the Forms of Restraining Order and Restraining Order Protocol, as well as the Determination of the Authorized Persons for their Preparation. These changes newly regulate the mechanism for assessing the risk of repeated violence. Specifically, three-point questions indicate a risk of repeated violence, while five-point questions determine a high risk of repeated violence.</p>

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.

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.

Specific recommendations

32	Please report on measures taken by your authorities to set up institutionalised structures for the co-ordination and co-operation among all of the different statutory agencies, non-governmental bodies and specialist service providers to ensure multi-agency co-operation tailored to the specific
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needs of victims of all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention, in particular rape and sexual violence, forced marriage, stalking and sexual harassment, as well as in cases of domestic violence (paragraph 146); (Recommendation A.8, IC-CP/Inf(2022)14).

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 Equality between Women and Men, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence**. Established by Government Resolution No. 414, the Commission plays a key role in ensuring systemic and coordinated work on equality between women and men and other issues provided for by the legislation of Georgia.

Its mandate includes facilitating implementation of activities defined for equality between women and men in the Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in Georgia and in the Human Rights Action Plan, promoting the increase of public awareness regarding equality between women and men and prohibition of violence against women, promoting the enforcement of national legislation, supporting the implementation of Georgia's international obligations, as well as carrying out a coordinating function regarding the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures directed at the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence falling within the scope of the Istanbul Convention.

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, Science and Youth
- Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs
- Ministry of Infrastructure
- Ministry of Regional Development
- 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
- Ministry of Sport
- Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality
- Prosecutor General's Office of Georgia
- State Care Agency
- Geostat (National Statistics Office)

Entities with advisory voting rights:

- Public Defender (Ombudsman)
- Human Rights Protection and Civil Integration Committee of the Parliament
- Personal Data Protection Service
- Legal Aid Service
- Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia
- Government of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara
- National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia
- National Communications Commission

Some of the examples of successful inter-agency cooperation within the frames of the Commission include the adoption of the National Referral Procedures (National Referral Mechanism) for identification, protection, support and rehabilitation of victims of violence against women and/or domestic violence and the Rules for Providing Compensation to Victims of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence.

The **National Referral Procedures** (National Referral Mechanism) for Identification, Protection, Support 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
- Prosecutor General's Office
- Ministry of Justice, including:
 - Special Penitentiary Service
 - National Agency for Crime Prevention, Execution of Non-custodial Sentences and Probation
- 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
- Legal Aid Service
- Municipal authorities

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:

1. protecting the best interests of the child;

2. 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;
3. assessment of the child's needs by a multidisciplinary team;
4. assessment of the child's mental health by a relevant specialist as needed;
5. forensic medical examination of the child;
6. short and long-term psychological-social rehabilitation of the child;
7. connecting the child or his parent/legal representative with other necessary services;
8. child survey/interrogation using an evidence-based approach;
9. Provision of incident coordination and oversight by a multidisciplinary and multisectoral interagency team.

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 1 January to 30 June 2025: Services were provided to 136 beneficiaries (70 minors and 66 adults/legal representatives).

Since the 2019 amendment to the Law on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, which formally recognized sexual harassment as a form of discrimination, Georgian state institutions have made consistent progress in institutionalizing **sexual harassment response mechanisms**. The amendment also introduced a legal definition of sexual harassment into the Labour Code and established it as an administrative offence, representing a significant step forward in strengthening the national anti-discrimination framework. Building on this legislative foundation, 25 state institutions have to date adopted internal sexual harassment response mechanisms, including the Prosecutor General's Office, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Science and Youth, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, National Statistics Office, Georgian Public Broadcaster and the National Association of Local Governments, among others. Importantly, the process remains ongoing, with additional public agencies in the process of developing and formalizing similar internal mechanisms to ensure a consistent, system-wide approach to the prevention and effective response to sexual harassment across the public sector.

	<p>These efforts are complemented by enhanced inter-agency cooperation, particularly among institutions responsible for addressing gender-based and sexual violence. To ensure a coordinated and effective response to gender-based violence against women, domestic violence, femicide, hate crime, crimes against sexual freedom and inviolability, and offences committed against minors, the Prosecution Service of Georgia maintains active collaboration with other relevant state bodies.</p> <p>Since 2022, 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.</p> <p>Since 2023, 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.</p> <p>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, 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.</p>
33	<p>Please report on measures taken by your authorities to establish a sufficient number of rape crisis centres and/or sexual violence referral centres accessible to victims of rape and/or sexual violence, which meet all their needs and include immediate medical care, high-quality forensic examinations, psychological and legal support and referral to specialist support organisations, while ensuring that victims’ access to these services should not depend on their willingness to file a complaint and/or to be granted the status of the victim (paragraph 200); (Recommendation A.11, IC-CP/Inf(2022)14).</p> <p>The Agency for State Care and Assistance for the (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking (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,</p>

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.

Although the crisis centers and shelters administered by the State Care Agency are not formal referral institutions, they do provide support services to survivors of sexual violence. Access to a crisis center or shelter is granted to any individual who has experienced sexual violence within the past 36 months and who is either officially recognized as a victim under the Criminal Code or who has self-reported such an incident. When necessary, beneficiaries' risks and needs are evaluated using a specialized assessment tool, which determines their eligibility for the required support services.

In line with the requirements of Article 4 of the Convention, and with a view to eliminating violence against women as well as ensuring the effective protection and support of women victims of violence, one of the most significant legislative steps has been the abolition of the mechanism for granting “**victim status.**” This amendment aims to guarantee equal treatment and protection for all victims of violence, to ensure their unconditional access to state services, to release them from the obligation of cooperating with law enforcement authorities as a precondition for support, and to further strengthen the implementation of the Convention's principles.

A significant amendment was made to the Law of Georgia On the Prevention of Violence against Women and/or Domestic Violence, Protection and Assistance to Victims of Violence on December 22, 2022. After the aforementioned amendment, the terms “victim status” and “alleged victim” are no longer included in the law, and the relevant state structures no longer grant “victim status”.

According to the law, a “victim” is a woman or a 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. For the purposes of the law, a minor who, based on a legal act or civil legal transaction or without them, is actually staying/living with another responsible person or with any other person who has violated his/her constitutional rights and freedoms through neglect and/or physical violence, psychological violence, sexual violence, economic violence or coercion, and who has been separated from the perpetrator by a social worker in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, is also considered a victim. A child who is a witness to violence is also considered a victim.

Following the abolishment of the victim status, service providers were authorized to establish criteria and apply specialized assessment tools to independently determine eligibility for support services. These amendments were also reflected in the structure and activities of the 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** were approved, and changes were made to the Ministerial Order 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**.

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.