



# Women's Rights: Gender Based Violence

## SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS CYCLES

During 2<sup>nd</sup> previous cycle, Georgia accepted 14 recommendations on GBV issued by other member states (Italy, Estonia, Makedonia, Spain, Belarus, Chile, Philippines, Canada, Sweden, Norway, Moldova, Slovenia, Algeria, Republic of Korea). Despite their status is technically implemented and legal frameworks are in place, the implementation of effective preventive measures remains a challenge. Georgia's adjusted national indicators of SDGs 5.1.1.; 5.2.1 and 5.2.2. sets baseline and target values for ending all forms of discrimination and SDG 5.1.1. existence of legal framework is technically fulfilled. Concluding Observation on the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Georgia Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Paragraph 20, 21) outlines the same issues with specific recommendations as well.

## NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

During the past decade, Georgia significantly improved legislative framework on Gender Equality, Domestic Violence, and Violence against Women. Legislative amendments aimed to bring domestic legislation in compliance with international requirements set by pertinent international instruments Georgia is a party to. Georgia ratified Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (hereinafter referred to as Istanbul Convention) on 19 May 2017.

Despite positive changes with regards to the state actions on domestic violence and violence against women, the implementation of effective preventive measures remains a challenge.

According to the National Study on Violence against Women in Georgia 2017 1 in 7 women (14 %) has experienced intimate partner violence, and 1 in 4 women in Georgia has experienced at least one form of Gender-based Violence. In January-February 2020 eight women were killed by family members.

In 2018 The Government of Georgia approved National Action Plan on the Measures to be Implemented for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors and the chapter of the Human Rights Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

## CHALLENGES

1. lack of unified statistic information

2. Lack of preventive response and supportive programs

3. Lack of national referral mechanism on GBV

## IMPACTS

A. Despite National Statistics Office of Georgia started gather gender disaggregated data there is no unified statistic information on GBV and SRHR disaggregated by Age, Social status, sexual identity and considering other vulnerabilities. The lack of data makes it difficult to assess the problem and plan and implement programs/services that are tailored to exist needs

B. One of the key issues related to the violence against women and domestic violence issues is that there are almost no preventive supporting services for victims before they access to and after they leave shelters. As social workers play crucial role as gatekeepers for preventive and post shelter support, there is a need to improve their knowledge and competence in identifying informing, providing GBV counselling and adequate referral.

C. Given the specific nature of the problem, effective coordination among the state, institutions is crucial. The government of Georgia drafted the National Referral Mechanism on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence Issues, but the official document still is not approved.



**CHALLENGES**

- 3. Lack of knowledge on sensitive reporting among massmedia representatives
  
- 4. Underreporting of Violence Cases in the State of Pandemic

**IMPACTS**

C. The media has a crucial role in increasing public awareness of GBV. Unfortunately, in most cases, media coverage on violence lacks sensitivity and is not rights based or ends in revictimisation of survivor. Gender stereotypes in media, insensitive portrayal of a survivor of sexual violence are contrary to ethical, gender-sensitive and human rights-based standards of dealing with sexual violence are evident in major TV programs during reporting. These standards are guaranteed by the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (“Istanbul Convention”) and other human rights instruments to which Georgia is a party. This effective “putting on trial” of the survivor, by society and the media, rather than examination of the behaviour of the alleged perpetrator, perpetuates damaging perceptions about sexual violence crimes, often leads to the denial of justice for survivors and discourages women and girls from reporting sexual violence at all. Good practice would also have been to publicise where any woman who has been affected by sexual violence could go for support.

D. According to survey of Fund Sokhumi 34% of respondents noted that the situation created as a result of the pandemic had “increased the number of family conflicts and the prevalence of domestic violence”. The mechanism for identifying cases of violence against women, domestic violence and cases of family conflicts, as well as for working with the victims and ensuring appropriate response to the problem has been revealed to be rather weak; there has been inadequate attention and response to the problem on the part of the State;

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Gather disaggregated data on GBV and SRHR by considering sex, gender, age group, sexual and gender identity, social status, minorities and other vulnerabilities. Ensure provision of separate statistic information on Gender Based Violence, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.
2. Approve Referral Procedures on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence Issues;
3. Provide adequate training of social workers from State Social Service Agency in the issues of domestic violence and strengthening their role in supporting victims/survivors of such violence, especially in the direction of conducting preventive monitoring of high-risk families. Integrate the course in in master program for social workers
4. Revise existing curriculums for media bachelor programs and integrate course for mass media representatives on sensitive reporting;
5. Take steps to raise public awareness on Gender Equality issues by informational campaign of Ministry of Internal Affairs. Encourage population to increase their involvement and participation in the effort to reveal and identify cases of violence in the face of isolation and increased insecurity faces by victims;
6. Establish an interagency mechanism of social-juridical assistance of social worker and legal counsellors to identify underreporting cases.
7. Establish a nationwide GBV and sexual violence programme for police officers before the next review.

**SOURCES**

„Impact of COVID-19 on Domestic Violence, Situation of Women Victims and the Access to the Support Services“, Fund “Sukhumi”, 2020 <https://www.wave-network.org/wp-content/uploads/ENG-LAST-COVID-19-impact-of-GBV.pdf>

NGO NATIONAL PARALLEL REPORT of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action Beijing +25 GEORGIA by Coalition for Reproductive Rights, 2019 <https://ngocsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Georgia-parallel-report-NGO-NATIONAL-PARALLEL-REPORT-of-the-Implementation-of-the-Beijing-Declaration-and-Platform-for-Action-Beijing-25.pdf>

National Action Plan approved National Action Plan on the Measures to be Implemented for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors 2018-2020

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