

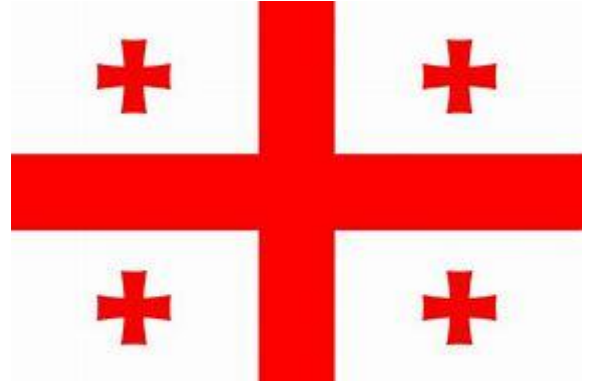
Pledge by Georgia

Acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 2 June 1994

Acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 3 August 2010

Acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography on 28 June 2005

Acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure on 19 September 2016



Pledges

1. Introduction of a Referral Mechanism for children between 7 to 18 years of age and provision of relevant services to beneficiaries.
2. Measures to increase the access of children with disabilities to inclusive education:
 - a. From 2088 public schools of Georgia, more than 8000 Special Education Need (SEN) students have access to inclusive education in 1259 public schools;
 - b. 1500 special teachers are employed in 1269 public schools to support SEN students at general education level;
 - c. All new public school buildings are accessible for children with different disabilities;
 - d. The first floor of 700 public schools is accessible for students with physical disabilities;
 - e. In compliance to the recommendation of specialists (teachers, special teachers, multidisciplinary team members), SEN students are provided with individual assistants, psychologists, occupation therapists, speech therapists, mobility and orientation specialists and sign language specialists;
 - f. Additional support service: 13 integrated classes are available in public schools for autistic children and hearing-impaired children, 1 integrated class is available in the clinic for children suffering from leukemia;
3. Provision of access to mandatory education for all out-of-school children within the next 5 years.

In light of the commitments we have made under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as applicable, we have undertaken the following to highlight our commitment to the promotion, protection and realization of the rights of the child in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention:

On pledge 1: Introduction of a Referral Mechanism for children between 7 to 18 years of age and provision of relevant services to beneficiaries.

What?

- Introduction of Referral Mechanism for juveniles aged 7-18 and provide relevant services to beneficiaries.

Considering the provisions of the Article 40.4¹ of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Ministry of Justice actively works on introduction of juveniles' referral mechanism and creation of Child Referral Centre. The aim of this initiative is resocialization/rehabilitation of children with antisocial behavior, as well as juvenile crime prevention by using various institutional and complex approaches. All activities will be conducted based on the best interest of child and overall recognized principles of child protection, such as: juvenile's participation, harmonic development, individual assessment of a child in each particular case, information confidentiality, etc.

Why?

The majority of children under the age of criminal responsibility (the age of 14) with antisocial behaviour do not have adequate environment/conditions for rehabilitation and development. There is not effective referral system for juveniles that could ensure results-oriented complex approach to them, their resocialization and separating them from illicit activities. Nowadays the only legal mechanism for crimes committed by juveniles who have not reached the age of criminal accountability is to terminate legal proceedings.

In order to take further measures towards the children aged 7-18 who committed a criminal offence, administrative misconduct or other antisocial behavior, it is important to adopt effective referral mechanism, which create and offer relevant programmes and services. Moreover, timely identification, referral and resocialization of this group of children is also very significant.

How?

To address the above-mentioned challenges and implement child referral process it is important to establish a Child Referral Centre under the Ministry of Justice of Georgia (and its subordinated agency, the Crime Prevention Centre) and introduction of referral mechanism. The creation of Child Referral Centre is prescribed by the Juvenile Crime Prevention Action Plan 2019-2020 that was adopted in the framework of Criminal Justice Reform of Georgia.

The objective of the legislative amendments package on child referral is to promote resocialization and integration of child and juvenile crime prevention via coordinated efforts of the state agencies and necessary services and programmes.

¹¹ CRC 40.4 A variety of dispositions, such as care, guidance and supervision orders; counseling; probation; foster care; education and vocational training programs and other alternatives to institutional care shall be available to ensure that children are dealt with in a manner appropriate to their well-being and proportionate both to their circumstances and the offence.

According to the legal amendments, Child Referral Centre will be created for identification, referral and resocialization of those juveniles who have not committed a crime yet but have difficult behaviour or are inclined to such a behaviour; in addition, the work will continue to create referral mechanisms for children who committed a criminal action; such children will become beneficiaries of relevant programmes and services respectively.

Major competence of the Child Referral Center will be:

- Coordination of identification of children with difficult/antisocial behaviour by different agencies and relevant processes;
- Assessment of child conditions and individual needs;
- Creation of family-type Resource School;
- Inclusion of child in the relevant programmes/services;
- Monitoring and supervision of participation of a child in appropriate services/programmes.

When?

The introduction of referral mechanism and creation of Child Referral Centre separately will be finalized by the end of 2020 and it will put into operation during 2021.

Who?

The Ministry of Justice and its subordinated legal entities: National Probation Agency and the Crime Prevention Centre, along with other responsible agencies (among them, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs; the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport) will be responsible for the effective and successful implementation of comprehensive reform regarding the introduction of juveniles' referral mechanism.

On pledges 2 and 3: Measures to increase the access of children with disabilities to inclusive education; provision of access to mandatory education for all out-of-school children within the next 5 years.

What?

- From 2088 public schools of Georgia, more than 8000 Special Education Need (SEN) students have access to inclusive education in 1259 public schools;
- 1500 special teachers are employed in 1269 public schools to support SEN students at general education level;
- All new public school buildings are accessible for children with different disabilities;
- First floor of 700 public schools is accessible for students with physical disabilities;
- In compliance to the recommendation of specialists (teachers, special teachers, multidisciplinary team members), SEN students are provided with individual assistants, psychologists, occupation therapists, speech therapists, mobility and orientation specialists, sign language specialist.
- Additional support service - 13 integrated classes are available in public schools for autistic children and hearing-impaired children, 1 integrated class is available in the clinic for children suffering from leukemia;
- Under additional services for ensuring the right to education for street children, the program "second chance education, transition program from day care center to public schools" is

implemented in 6 day care centers and involves 145 street children.

Why?

- The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia is developing the intersectoral, State program, which will identify the out-of-school children from 2019 autumn.

How?

- The strategy and action plan of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport recognizes the responsibility of developing inclusive education and support the right to education for all students.

When?

- In the next 5 years the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport will provide the access of mandatory education for all out-of-school children;
- Improve physical environment of the schools for better accessibility;
- Develop the capacity of teachers and specialists;
- Develop services for SEN students;
- Develop teaching and learning methodology.

Who?

- Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia in partnership with the local and international organizations.