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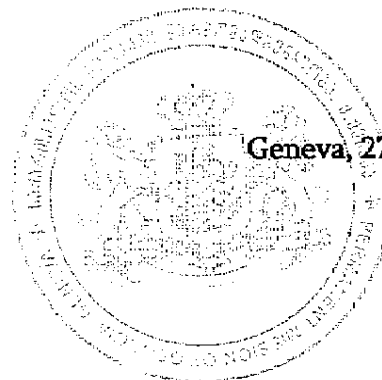


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The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and in reference to its Note Verbale, dated 16 January 2015, has the honour to transmit herewith the reply from the Government of Georgia to the Questionnaire on the best practices, experiences and challenges and ways to overcome them with regard to the promotion, protection and implementation of the right to participate in public affairs in the context of the existing human rights law (Resolution 27/24 of the Human Rights Council).

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: 13 pages



Geneva, 27 February 2015

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Geneva

**Reply from the Government of Georgia to the Questionnaire on the best practices, experiences and challenges and ways to overcome them with regard to the promotion, protection and implementation of the right to participate in public affairs in the context of the existing human rights law
(Resolution 27/24 of the Human Rights Council).**

Question 1

According to the Constitution of Georgia the people are the source of state authority in Georgia. State authority is exercised within the framework established by the Constitution.¹ The people exercise their authority through referendum, other forms of direct democracy and their representatives.² Every citizen of Georgia who has attained the age of 18 has the right to participate in referendum or elections of state and self-government bodies³ and to hold any state position if he/she meets the requirements established by legislation.⁴

Question 2

Georgian legislation vests the citizens of Georgia with the active and passive right to vote (suffrage). Active suffrage is defined as the right of a citizen of Georgia to participate, by casting a vote, in general elections, referenda, and plebiscites held for electing the people's representatives to the representative body of public authority and for holding public offices. Passive suffrage is the right of a citizen of Georgia to run for the representative body of public authority and for public office.⁵ The objective and outcome of elections is to elect public officials and representative bodies of public authority. Referendum is the form of exercising of people's authority.⁶ It is a nation-wide polling by secret ballot aimed at overall, equal, and direct expression of will to decide especially important national issues, which is conducted throughout the territory of Georgia. Plebiscite is defined as a nation-wide polling by secret ballot for identifying the opinion of voters or part of voters concerning especially important national issues, results of which are of recommendatory character for the public authorities.⁷

Not less than 30,000 electors have the right to legislative initiative.⁸

¹ Article 5(1), Constitution of Georgia (1995)

² Article 5(2), Constitution of Georgia (1995)

³ Article 28(1), Constitution of Georgia (1995)

⁴ Article 29, Constitution of Georgia (1995)

⁵ Article 2, Election Code of Georgia (2011)

⁶ Article 1(2), Organic Law on the Referendum (1996)

⁷ Article 2, Election Code of Georgia (2011)

⁸ Article 67(1), Constitution of Georgia (1995)

Question 3

The Constitution guarantees that everyone is free by birth and is equal before law regardless of race, colour, language, sex, religion, political and other opinions, national, ethnic and social belonging, origin, property and title, place of residence.⁹

On 2 May 2014 the Parliament of Georgia unanimously adopted Law of Georgia on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination the purpose of which is to eliminate every form of discrimination and to ensure equal rights of every natural and legal persons under the legislation of Georgia, irrespective of race, colour, language, sex, age, citizenship, origin, place of birth or residence, property or social status, religion or belief, national, ethnic or social origin, profession, marital status, health, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, political or other opinions, or other characteristics.¹⁰ The Law prohibits all forms of discrimination, being it direct, indirect or multiple discrimination.¹¹

The requirements laid down in the Law applies to the actions of public institutions, organizations, and to the actions of natural and legal persons in all spheres.¹² In order to eliminate discrimination, any institution is obliged to: (a) bring its activity, legal acts and internal regulations, if any, into conformity with the Law and other anti-discrimination legislation; (b) respond promptly and efficiently to any alleged act of discrimination; (c) if an act of discrimination is confirmed, impose liability on offenders under its control according to the legislation of Georgia and internal regulations, and ensure that the consequences of discrimination are eliminated without prejudice to the rights and legitimate interests of third persons.¹³

Elimination of discrimination and ensuring of equality is monitored by the independent body - Public Defender of Georgia.¹⁴ To this end, Public Defender, *inter alia*, shall be authorized to:

- examine applications and complaints of natural and legal persons or groups of persons, who consider themselves to be victims of discrimination;
- examine acts of discrimination based on applications or complaints, as well as on his/her own initiative and make appropriate recommendations;

⁹ Article 14, Constitution of Georgia (1995)

¹⁰ Article 1, Law of Georgia on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (2014)

¹¹ Article 2(1-4), Law of Georgia on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (2014)

¹² Article 3, Law of Georgia on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (2014)

¹³ Article 4, Law of Georgia on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (2014)

¹⁴ Article 6, Law of Georgia on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (2014)

- prepare and forward general proposals to relevant institutions or persons on the issue of preventing and combating discrimination;
- prepare opinions regarding necessary legislative amendments and submit them to the Parliament of Georgia as legislative proposals;
- invite a victim of discrimination and an alleged discriminating person, and try to settle the case by mutual agreement of the parties;
- submit recommendations to relevant institutions or persons to restore the rights of victims of discrimination if the parties fail to reach an agreement and if there is sufficient evidence of discrimination;
- record and analyze statistical data on discrimination cases.

The Public Defender of Georgia prepares and publishes once a year a special report on combating and preventing discrimination, as well as on equality situation in the country.¹⁵

Finally, any person considering himself/herself to be a victim of discrimination, may bring a case to the court against the person/institution which he/she considers to have committed the discrimination and may claim for moral and/or material damages.¹⁶

Besides, anti-discriminatory provisions are enshrined in other statutory acts including Law of Georgia on Political Union of Citizens which provides that it is prohibited to restrict the membership of a political union on the basis of racial or ethnic belonging; sex; place of residence; etc.¹⁷

Question 4

An examples of fruitful cooperation between governmental agencies and representatives of civil society and their involvement in the legislative process were the working meetings held during the drafting of anti-discriminatory legislation. As it was mentioned above the Law on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination was adopted on May 2014. Before the adoption, in 2013, the draft law was presented to NGOs for comments and recommendations followed by meetings held with their representatives. Among them were organizations working on human rights issues, religious and ethnic minority representatives and organizations working on the rights of disabled people. NGOs presented the recommendations and comments concerning the draft law. At the same time, it went through the international expertise. Most of recommendations were reflected in the draft law

¹⁵ Article 7, Law of Georgia on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (2014)

¹⁶ Article 10, Law of Georgia on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (2014)

¹⁷ Article 11, Law of Georgia on Political Union of Citizens (1997)

and the final version was presented to NGOs. Upon completion of these procedures the draft law was presented to the Parliament of Georgia for adoption.

Question 5

In addition to anti-discriminatory provisions enshrined in the Georgian legislation, Law on Political Unions of Citizens was amended according to which political party that strikes at least 30% gender balance amongst the first and each subsequent ten members of its party list for elections shall receive 30% higher budgetary assistance compared to basic budgetary funding provided to political parties.¹⁸

Question 6

It should be emphasized that universal, equal and direct electoral suffrage, secrecy of ballot and free expression of will is guaranteed by the Article 3 of the Organic Law of Georgia “Election Code of Georgia”, that comes in full accordance with article 25 b) of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Also, this issue is regulated by the Article 28 of the Constitution of Georgia.

Question 7

Voters in general had not faced any obstacles while exercising their right to vote. According to paragraph 7 of Article 31 of the Organic Law of Georgia “Election Code of Georgia”, a party or an electoral bloc having gone through the electoral registration, observer organizations, and voters defined in Article 39 of this Law shall have the right to access the version of the lists of voters available in the CEC, DEC or PECs that are designated as public information (a voter may request all data available only about himself/herself and members of his/her family and may amend it) and in the case of any discrepancy, to request amendments to the data and the lists of voters no later than 16 days before Election Day, or during a non-election period – at any time. The data shall be published and copies shall be provided as defined by the legislation of Georgia on accessibility of public information.

In addition, according to the paragraph 13 of the same article, it is prohibited to amend lists of voters within the last 10 days before Election Day, except that any amendments from the 13th to the 10th day before Election Day may be made only by a court decision as defined in the twelfth paragraph of this article.

Question 8

¹⁸ Article 30(7¹), Law on Political Unions of Citizens (1997)

According to Article 31 of Organic Law of Georgia "Election Code of Georgia," the CEC is responsible for producing the general list of voters, its electronic processing and the publication of its part designated as public information on the CEC website. Also, during the elections, a general list of voters of the precincts designated for ethnic minorities shall be published on the CEC official website in the language comprehensible for those minorities according to subparagraph "v" of Article 14 of Organic Law of Georgia "Election Code of Georgia". As for other information on electoral process, e.g. voting sheets (ballot papers), by the decree of the CEC, shall be printed in Georgian language, in Abkhazia – also in Abkhaz language, but in case of necessity – also in other languages comprehensible for the local population as defined by paragraph 1 of Article 63 of the "Election Code of Georgia". Here are the links for electronic version of voter registry as well as for all information that was published and distributed by the CEC of Georgia regarding electoral process during different elections: <http://voters.cec.gov.ge>; <http://www.cesko.ge/en>.

Also, it should be noted that the CEC ensured translation of various election documents, including ballot papers, to the languages of ethnic minorities in order to ensure equal election environment and their best possible involvement in election processes.

The necessary election documents were also translated for those members of Precinct Election Commissions, who belong to ethnic minorities.

Please find the translated election documentation on the following links:

<http://cesko02-01.itdc.ge/ge/etnikuri-umciresobebi/tvitmmartveloba-201497/saxelmdzgvaneloebi7>

<http://cesko02-01.itdc.ge/ge/etnikuri-umciresobebi/tvitmmartveloba-2014znidaretm2014/saxelmdzgvaneloebi-drsliklr7>

Question 9:

Voter registration is not required in Georgia. For more details about unified voters' list and the procedures required for its formation please find Article 31 of Organic Law of Georgia "Election Code of Georgia". In accordance with Article 31 of the Election Code of Georgia, election administration carries out information campaign aiming at informing voters about the terms and procedures prescribed by the law including making changes in the voters' list. With this regard, please see the 12th video at the following link: <http://www.cesko.ge/ge/mediisatvis-4-ge/video-arqivi-16-ge/sareklamo-rgolebi-tvitmmartvelobis-archevnebi-2014.page#seegal> .

Question 10:

According to paragraph 1¹ of Article 58 of the Organic Law of Georgia "Election Code of Georgia", where available, the building for an election precinct shall be accessible for each voter, and where such building is not available, the building allocated for the election precinct, where possible, shall be adapted by the allocating body before the polling day to ensure accessibility for each voter. This provision is to be enacted on the day of scheduling regular parliamentary elections for 2016. Herewith, according to paragraph 2 of Article 63 of Election Code, the CEC shall ensure the use of technologies that allow voters with vision disabilities to complete a ballot paper independently at the precincts.

Also, it should be noted, that CEC of Georgia, prior to Elections, establishes the groups working on ethnic minority issues and on issues of persons with disabilities. Work of the each group contributes to the development and improvement of electoral environment, among them in penitentiary system, as well as in the regions populated by ethnic minorities.

In line with the sub-paragraph "c", paragraph 1, Article 50 of the organic law of Georgia "Election Code of Georgia," all pre-election campaign advertisements of election subjects are accompanied with sign language by all broadcasters of Georgia.

In line with the paragraph 6³, Article 51 of the organic law of Georgia "Election Code of Georgia", the Georgian public broadcaster ensures election related programs to be accompanied with the sign language during the pre-election period. According to the last amendments, done in 2014, the voters with impaired hearing were able to make an informed choice for the first time during Local Self-Government Elections held in 2014.

According to the paragraph 3, Article 65 of the organic law of Georgia "Election Code of Georgia" visually impaired voters have the right to ask any person for help in the secret polling booth except for the election commission members, candidates, representatives of election subject and observers.

The CEC gave advantage to the buildings with permanent ramps or to the easily adapting buildings while selecting the premises for Precinct Election Commissions.

For voters using wheelchairs and for handicapped voters the special polling booths were provided in identified election precincts.

Also, the CEC ensures transportation of the persons with disabilities to the election precincts in the large cities of Georgia using mobile groups' service.

Also it should be underlined, that the Central Election Commission ensured equal accessibility to information for the persons with disabilities, including their full involvement of election processes. In particular:

- The image/informative video were prepared for the voters with disabilities aiming at ensuring their active participation and involvement in elections. The latest video is available on the link: <http://cesko02-01.itdc.ge/ge/shezguduli-shesadzleblobebis-mqone-pirebi/tvitmartveloba-201456/zogadi-informacia3/shshm-amomrchevelta-archevnebsi-monawileobis-sareklamosainformacio-video-rgoli.page>.
- During the polling day, voters with impaired hearing were able to see the informative video on voting procedures accompanied with sign language through portable computers provided at the election precincts.
- For voters with impaired hearing all image/informative videos prepared by the CEC were available in sign language as well. Please see the link for an example: <http://www.cesko.ge/en/mediisatvis-4-ge/video-arqivi-16-ge/sareklamo-rgolebi-tvitmartvelobis-archevnebi-2014.page#seegal>
- A special banner - "The Voters with Disabilities" is posted on the official webpage of the CEC (www.cesko.ge), clicking on which opens the information on their rights and respective legislative regulations. Please see the link: <http://www.cesko.ge/en/persons-with-disabilities-geo-292-ge>.

In addition, CEC of Georgia adopted decrees on determination of procedures related to registration and cancellation of electoral registration due to health conditions of some candidates for MP of Georgia, nominated by election subjects and about setting the Voting Procedure for Voters with Physical Condition. Please find mentioned decrees on the following link: <http://www.cesko.ge/en/arqivi-6/parliamentary-elections-2012-geo-140-ge/normative-acts-geo-149-ge>

Herein, it should be underlined that the CEC ensured translation of its image/informative videos to

the languages of ethnic minorities. The mentioned videos were aired in the minority-populated regions of Georgia. (Please see the link: <http://cesko02-01.itdc.ge/ge/etnikuri-umciresobebi/tvitmmartveloba-2014-znidaretm-2014/sareklamosainformacio-video-rgolebi-reklammlumatn-video-klipiri7>)

(Please see the link: <http://cesko02-01.itdc.ge/ge/etnikurimciresobebi/tvitmmartveloba-201497/sareklamosainformacio-video-rgolebi7>)

Via print media, the CEC published information about the Election Day voting procedures in minority languages in several newspapers.

Through the CEC contact centre (hotline), ethnic minority voters were able to receive election related information in their own languages.

A special banner named "Ethnic Minorities" is posted on the CEC official webpage (www.cesko.ge), clicking on which opens all election related documents and videos translated in minority languages. Please see the link: <http://cesko02-01.itdc.ge/ge/etnikuri-umciresobebi>

Question 11

The following requirements are determined by Organic Law of Georgia "Election Code of Georgia" for the candidates who want to run for elections:

- a) Any citizen of Georgia having the right to vote, who has attained the age of 35, who lived in Georgia for at least five years, and who has lived in Georgia for the last three years before the day when the election is scheduled, may be elected **President of Georgia** according to Article 96;
- b) Any citizen of Georgia having the right to vote, who has attained the age of 21 and speaks Georgian, may be elected as an **MP of Georgia**. A citizen who has not resided in Georgia for the last two years and who is not on a consular registry of Georgia in any other country, may not be elected as an MP of Georgia. A citizen who is a drug addict or a drug user may not be elected as an MP of Georgia. If the respective election commission declares such a person elected, the Parliament of Georgia may not recognize his/her authority according to paragraphs 1, 2, 3 of Article 111;
- c) Any citizen of Georgia who has attained the age of 21 by polling day and has permanently resided in

Georgia for at least five years, including at least the last two years up to and including the day of calling the elections, may be elected a **Sakrebulo member**.

d) Any citizen of Georgia having the right to vote and who has attained the age of 25 by polling day and has permanently resided in Georgia for at least five years, including at least the last two years up to and including the day of calling the elections, may be elected as a **Mayor/Gamgebeli** of a self-governing city/community.

During the June 2014 Municipal Elections, four complaints were submitted to the Central Election Commission of Georgia regarding the qualification of permanent residence for 2 years before the Election Day for the registration of the candidates for Mayor/Gamgebeli, as set forth in the paragraph 1 of Article 167 of the Organic Law of Georgia „Election Code of Georgia”. The complainants submitted the complaints to the election administration requesting the cancelation of the registration of the following candidates: D. Jikia, I. Okruashvili, I. Kakulia and A. Imamkuliev as they had not lived in Georgia for previous 2 years before the Election Day.

In order to overcome mentioned problems, representatives of these candidates referred to the courts. Here is the statistics of the court decisions of mentioned cases:

1. Tbilisi City Court ruled on the case of I. Okruashvili that the definition of “place of residence” is not defined by the Election Code of Georgia for the election purposes. However, the code imposes the following restrictions for the candidates for mayor/gamgebeli: they should be Georgian citizens, attained the age of 25, have lived in Georgia for at least 5 years and the fact of their permanent residence in Georgia for the last 2 years should be proved.

Derived from the specifics of elections, for the election purposes, requirement of the paragraph 1 of Article 167 of the Election Code of Georgia regarding the last 2 years of permanent residence before the appointment of the Election Day implies that the candidate for Mayor/Gamgebeli should be physically residing in Georgia and personally be involved and participate in usual, everyday life of the country. Taking into consideration that Irakli Okruashvili did not reside in Georgia from April 2010 until November 2012 (approximately for 7 months, almost 1/3 of the period that is required by the legislation), the court considered that candidate of Irakli Okruashvili did not comply with the requirements of the law. Tbilisi Court of Appeals also left the judgment of the Tbilisi City Court in force.

2. Regarding the case of D. Jikia, Tbilisi City Court considered that D. Jikia was residing in Great Britain for 3 months for the study purposes. The court ruled that if physical person is residing out of the country for the defined period of time for study purposes, vacation, on business trip or for medical treatment this does not mean that the person is not permanently residing in Georgia. Accordingly, the mentioned cannot serve as grounds for restricting the passive electoral suffrage of a person and D. Jikia was entitled the right to run for the elections. Interpretation of the norm implying that the person should not leave the country for two years before the elections, is limiting persons' right to free movement guaranteed by the Article 22 of the Constitution of Georgia. Judgment of the Tbilisi City Court was shared by the Tbilisi Court of Appeals.
3. Tbilisi City Court and Tbilisi Court of Appeals did not discuss case of I. Kakulia regarding the requirement of permanent residence for 2 years before the Elections. The Courts did not discuss the case as the appellants appealed №44/2014 ordinance of the Chair of №70 Poti District Election Commission dated, May 17, 2014, on registration of I. Kakulia, the candidate for mayor directly to the Tbilisi City Court without appealing to the Central Election Commission of Georgia. According to the chapter 9 of the Georgian organic law "Election Code of Georgia," №44/2014 ordinance dated May 17, 2014 of the Chair of №70 Poti District Election Commission should have been appealed to the Central Election Commission of Georgia and only afterwards to the court. On these basis Tbilisi City Court did not revoke №44/2014 ordinance of the Chair of №70 Poti District Election Commission on registration of I. Kakulia, the candidate for mayor. Tbilisi Court of Appeals kept the decision of the Tbilisi City Court in force.
4. Regarding the case of A. Imamkuliev, Tbilisi City Court concluded that from April 14, 2012 until April 14, 2014, A. Imamkuliev left the country six times and returned to Georgia each time. The court ruled that if a physical person crosses the state border of Georgia for several days or for some time leaves the country for study purposes, vacation, on business trip, for medical treatment or for other objective reasons, this does not mean that person is not permanently residing in Georgia. The court found that the permanent residence in the country does not mean a person's continuous presence in the country for 2 years.

Groundless restriction of the persons' right to free movement guaranteed by the Article 22 of the

Constitution of Georgia shall be applied during the interpretation of the provision set forth by the paragraph 1 of Article 167 of the Election Code of Georgia in the similar manner. Consequently, restricting the passive electoral suffrage on the mentioned grounds is inadmissible. Tbilisi Court of Appeals did not discuss the case as the parties did not appeal the decision of the Tbilisi City Court regarding the paragraph 1 of Article 167 of the Election Code of Georgia on the qualification of 2 years of permanent residence before the appointment of Election Day.

Question 12

As stated in response to the question #10 above, CEC adopted a decree on determination of procedures related to registration and cancellation of electoral registration due to health conditions of some candidates for MP, nominated by election subjects. Also, according to paragraph 7¹ of Article 30 of Organic Law of Georgia on „Political Unions of Citizens”, the party, which receives funding in accordance with the rules prescribed by this Article, will receive 30% of supplement to the basic funding, if in the list presented by the party or the election bloc for the elections (in local self-government elections - all the party list), on the results based received financing, the candidates in the first, second and each subsequent to one another, includes at least 30% of different sex.

Question 13

The procedures defined in the electoral, administrative, and/or criminal legislation of Georgia shall define liability for the violation of rights granted to electoral subjects by Election Code of Georgia or liability for the interference with their activity (paragraph 3 of Article 41 of Organic Law of Georgia “Election Code of Georgia”). E.g. any restriction of the rights of electoral subjects set forth in the Election Code and hindering their activities shall be subject to a penalty imposed on the respective persons in the amount of GEL 500 (Article 91 of Organic Law of Georgia “Election Code of Georgia”).

Question 14

Any influence restricting a free expression of the will of voters, as well as any undue control over the expression of the will of voters is prohibited by subparagraph “d.b” of paragraph “d” of Article 3 of Organic Law of Georgia “Election Code of Georgia”.

Also, it should be noted that according to paragraph 2 of Article 168 of the same code, a candidate may withdraw his or her candidacy from the elections no later than the 10th day before polling day

by submitting the appropriate application to the respective DEC.

Question 15 and 16

Among the basic principles of public service in Georgia are publicity, equal access to public service for the citizens of Georgia according to their competency and professional qualifications, respect of human rights and freedom.¹⁹

Apart from the constitutional and other norms, administrative legislation guarantees, as well, everyone's equality before law and an administrative agency.²⁰ The restriction of or interference with the enjoyment of lawful rights, freedoms, and interests of any party to an administrative proceeding and preferential treatment or discrimination of any party in violation of law is prohibited.²¹ Everyone may gain access to official documents kept by an administrative agency, and obtain a copy thereof, unless such documents contain state, professional, commercial secrets or personal data.²²

Georgian anti-discriminatory legislation provides the possibility of introduction of temporary special measures that shall not be considered as an act of discriminatory character. Namely, according to the Law on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, temporary special measures intended to accelerate *de facto* equality, especially in gender, pregnancy, and maternity issues, also, with respect to persons with limited capabilities, shall not be considered discrimination.²³

Question 18

The Constitution guarantees that everyone has the right to freely receive and impart information, to express and impart his/her opinion orally or in writing or by in any other means.²⁴ Mass media is free and the censorship is impermissible.²⁵ Neither the state nor particular individuals have the

¹⁹ Article 13, Law on Public Service (1997)

²⁰ Article 4(1), General Administrative Code of Georgia (1999)

²¹ Article 4(2), General Administrative Code of Georgia (1999)

²² Article 10, General Administrative Code of Georgia (1999)

²³ Article 2(7), Law of Georgia on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (2014)

²⁴ Article 24(1), Constitution of Georgia (1995)

²⁵ Article 24(2), Constitution of Georgia (1995)

right to monopolize mass media or means of dissemination of information.²⁶

Everyone, except member of the Armed Forces and Ministry of Internal Affairs, has the right to public assembly without arms either indoors or outdoors without prior permission.²⁷ However, the necessity of prior notification of the authorities may be established by law in the case where a public assembly or manifestation is held on a public thoroughfare.²⁸ Authorities have the right to interrupt a public assembly or manifestation in case it acquires illegal character.²⁹

Everyone has the right to form and to join public associations, including trade unions.³⁰ Citizens of Georgia have the right to form a political party or other political association and participate in its activity in accordance with law.³¹ At the same time, the supreme law of the country imposes restrictions on the exercising of this right. Namely, formation and activity of public and political associations aiming at overthrowing or forcibly changing the constitutional structure of Georgia, infringing upon the independence and territorial integrity of the country or propagandizing war or violence, stoking national, local, religious or social hatred, is impermissible.³² Suspension or prohibition of the activity of public or political associations is permissible only under a court decision and in accordance with the terms and procedures prescribed by law.³³

²⁶ Article 24(3), Constitution of Georgia (1995)

²⁷ Article 25(1), Constitution of Georgia (1995)

²⁸ Article 25(2), Constitution of Georgia (1995)

²⁹ Article 25(3), Constitution of Georgia (1995)

³⁰ Article 26(1), Constitution of Georgia (1995)

³¹ Article 26(2), Constitution of Georgia (1995)

³² Article 26(3), Constitution of Georgia (1995)

³³ Article 26(6), Constitution of Georgia (1995)