

Ministry of Justice of Georgia

With regard to question 2 (ii):

Georgia due to its ethnically, confessionally and culturally diverse population pays special attention to combating such destructing and hideous phenomenon as xenophobia. There is a number of safeguarding provision, varying from constitutional to administrative, into the Georgian legal field aimed at prevention and eradication of xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance. The brief review of the relevant legislative provisions follows.

Constitutional framework

Article 14 of the Georgian Constitution guarantees the equality of all citizens, according which everyone is free by birth and is equal before law regardless of race, color, language, sex, religion, political and other opinions, national, ethnic and social belonging, origin, property and title, place of residence. According to the Georgian Constitution, Article 38, citizens of Georgia shall be equal in social, economic, cultural and political life irrespective of their national, ethnic, religious or linguistic belonging. In accordance with universally recognized principles and rules of international law, they shall have the right to develop freely, without any discrimination and interference, their culture, to use their native language in private and in public.

Criminal law framework

Article 142 of the *Criminal Code of Georgia* (CCG) criminalizes any violation of equality “based on language, sex, age, citizenship, origin, place of birth or residence, financial or official position, religion or faith, social or professional affiliation, family status, health, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, political or other views”. The violation of equality must lead to substantial violation of human rights to reach the threshold of criminal offence. The penalty provided may reach up to three years of imprisonment depending on circumstances of each individual case.

Racial discrimination as a separate criminal offence is also prohibited by Article 142¹ of CCG. This provision prohibits racial discrimination, i.e. any action committed for the purpose of instigating animosity or conflict on ethnic or racial grounds, as well as direct or indirect limitation of human rights based on race, skin, color, social origin, national or ethnic identity, or favoritism of any individual on the above mentioned grounds. Such crimes are punishable by up to three years of imprisonment. Similar actions committed with the use of force, by threatening to use force, by threatening the life or health of individuals, or by use of official capacity, shall be punishable by up to five years of imprisonment.

Amendments to Article 53 of CCG adopted on 27 March 2012 strengthened the principle of non-discrimination by introducing a new paragraph stipulating that any criminal offence committed with the motive of intolerance on the base of race, skin color, language, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, political or other opinion, disability, nationality, national, ethnic or social origin, financial standing, place of residence or any other distinguishable ground shall be considered as committed with aggravating circumstances.

Article 147 of CCG prohibits genocide. Genocide is defined as “an action committed to implement an agreed plan for the purpose of full or partial elimination of any national, ethnic, racial, religious or any other group, effected through mass killing, grave health injury, intentional placement in poor living conditions, forced reduction of birth or forced removal of a child from one ethnic group to another.”

Crimes against humanity proscribed by Article 408 of the Criminal Code, includes elements to racism and intolerance and is defined as follows; "any of the following acts when committed as part of a widespread

or systematic attack directed against civilian population or persons, as such: murder, extermination, grave injury to health, deportation, illegal deprivation of liberty, torture, rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, persecution against any identifiable group *on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious or other grounds, apartheid or other inhuman acts* which cause serious physical or mental harm to a person".

Anti-discrimination guarantees are also given in the *Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia* (CPCG) in the section dedicated to the jury. According to Article 223(6) of CPCG it is forbidden to discriminate the candidates for jury on the basis of race, color, language, sex, belief, ideology, political opinion, membership of any union, ethnical, cultural and social belonging, origin etc.

Civil law framework

The *Civil Code of Georgia* prohibits discrimination when entering into a marriage and in domestic relations. Namely, according to Article 1153 "when entering into a marriage and in domestic relations no direct or indirect restriction of rights shall be allowed and there shall be no direct or indirect preference based on origin, social and property status, racial and ethnic background, sex, education, language, attitude to religion, kind and nature of activities, place of residence and other factors".

The *Code of Civil Procedure of Georgia* (CCPG) contains the whole chapter dedicated to adjudicating discrimination cases. Thus, Article 363³ of CCPG shifts the burden of proof in civil cases concerning alleged discrimination facts to the defendant, i.e. the person who committed discrimination. It is suffice for the plaintiff to provide the court with the facts that may give rise to reasonable suspicion that discrimination has occurred.

Administrative law framework

On 2 May 2014 Georgia adopted a comprehensive anti-discrimination legal act – the *Law of Georgia on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination*. The purpose of the statute is "to eliminate every form of discrimination and to ensure equal rights of every natural and legal person [...] irrespective of race, skin, colour, language, sex, age, citizenship, origin, place of birth or residence, property or social status, religion of belief, national, ethnic or social origin, profession, marital status, health, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, political or other opinions, or other characteristics" (Article 1). The law introduces some novelties into the Georgia legislation. In particular it defines direct and indirect discrimination and prohibits multiple discrimination. According to Article 3 of the law its requirements "shall apply to the actions of public institutions, organizations and to the actions of natural and legal persons in all spheres". In line with Article 1(4) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination Article 2(7) of the Law provides that "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 as discrimination". The Law also proscribes the adoption of general measures for the purpose of eliminating discrimination. In particular, Article 4 envisages:

"In order to eliminate discrimination, any institution shall be obliged:

- 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.”

General Administrative Code proscribes any discriminatory measures, including taking different decisions in respect of persons in analogous situations (Article 4(2) and 4(3)). This clause covers decisions of administrative bodies, inter alia, on the provision of housing, social protection and public goods and services.

According to the newly amended article 11 of the *Law of Georgia on Assembly and Manifestations* during organizing or holding an assembly or manifestation, it is prohibited to appeal for subversion or forced change of the constitutional order of Georgia, infringement of independence or violation of the territorial integrity of the country, or to make appeals which constitute propaganda of war and violence and trigger national, ethnic, religious or social confrontation which creates clear, direct and present danger of such act.

According to Article 5(2) of the *Law of Georgia on Fighting against Trafficking* “state activity in the field of trafficking prevention includes elaboration and implementation of short-term and long-term programs aiming at reduction of poverty and elimination of all forms of discrimination”.

Article 11 of the *Law of Georgia on Political Union of Citizens* states that it is prohibited to restrict the membership of a political union on the basis of national, ethnic, religious and sexual belonging.

Law of Georgia on Broadcasting proscribes for holders of broadcasting license from broadcasting programs containing material to incite hatred or discrimination that is offensive to any person or group on the basis of ethnic background, religion, opinion, age, gender, sexual preference or disability, or any other feature or status. Special emphasis of these features or statuses is only permissible within the context of a program if it aims merely to illustrate such hatred or discrimination, as they already exist in society (Article 56(3)).

In addition, *Law of Georgia on Advertising* prohibits placement and distribution of improper advertising (Article 4(8)). Improper advertising is defined by the Law to include unethical advertising that is “advertising that uses offensive language and comparisons with regards to physical persons’ nationality, race, occupation, social standing, age, sex, language, religious, political and philosophical affiliation, violates universally recognized human and ethical norms, impairs artworks and artifacts of history and architecture of national and world cultural heritage, insults state symbols (flag, emblem, anthem), national currency, religious symbols, natural or legal persons of Georgia and other countries, their activity, occupation or commodity.” According to the Law, placement and distribution of improper advertising is subject to the sanctions established under the Georgian legislation commensurate with committed action, degree and nature.

Elections Code of Georgia in its Article 45(3) prohibits instigation of national, ethnic or religious hatred or conflict in the course of pre-election campaign.

Article 13 (3) of the *Law of Georgia on General Education* prohibits any kind of discrimination during school admissions. Amendments to this statute of 15 December 2010 №4042 strengthened non-discriminative safeguards. In particular pursuant to the law “no form of discrimination shall be allowed at the school; a school shall not use its powers and resources in a way that may directly or indirectly result in any discrimination of a pupil, parent or teacher or their associations; shall observe and encourage establishing of tolerance and reciprocal respect between pupils, parents or teachers, irrespective of their social, ethnic, religious, lingual and world outlook belonging; on the base of equality shall provide

individual and collective right of members of minorities to use their native language, preserve and express their cultural values”; “Using of the study process in a public school for the purposes of religious indoctrination, proselytism and forced assimilation shall not be allowed”.

The *Law of Georgia on Higher Education* prohibits discrimination in the field of higher education, including based on ethnic or religious belonging, social origin or other grounds by its Article 3(2).

In 2012-2013 the Government of Georgia carried out systemic and conceptual review of the *Labor Code of Georgia* with the aim to bring its labor laws in full compliance with the international labor conventions and incorporate best international practices. A special working group was set up within the Ministry of Justice and was tasked with the following: to work closely with the ILO experts, local experts and stakeholders; to closely review the background materials; to identify shortcomings of existing legislation; to conduct comparative legal research and respectively prepare amendments and additions to the Labor Code. The amendments to the Labor Code entered into force on July 4, 2013 insuring inter alia clear and better articulated prohibition of discrimination during pre-contractual as well as contractual labor relations. According to the amendments to paragraph 3 of Article 2 (“Labor relations”) of the Code, any kind of discrimination is prohibited not only at the stage of labour (contractual) relations but also at the stage of pre-contractual relations. Furthermore, pursuant to the same amendment, affiliation to trade unions was added as a prohibited ground of discrimination at the both contractual and pre-contractual relations stage. The amended article reads as follows: “labour and pre-contractual relations shall prohibit any type of discrimination due to race, skin colour, language, ethnicity or social status, nationality, origin, material status or position, place of residence, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, handicap, religious, public, political or other affiliation, including affiliation to trade unions, political or other opinions.”

In addition, the amendments to the Labour Code provide a set of the objective reasons – grounds for termination of employment contract and in paragraph 3 of Article 37 (“Grounds for terminating labor agreements”) explicitly provide that “terminating labour relations shall be inadmissible on the discrimination grounds” listed in the above mentioned Article 2 of the Code.

Law of Georgia on the Patient’s Rights prohibits discrimination of the patient based on race, color, language, gender, genetic inheritance, belief and confession, political and other opinions, national, ethnic and social belonging, origin, property and position, residence, disease, sexual orientation or personal negative attitude (Article 6(1)).

Law of Georgia on Protection of Health prohibits discrimination against patient based on race, color, language, gender, confession, political and other opinions, national, ethnic and social belonging, origin, property and position, residence, disease, sexual orientation or personal negative attitude.

In 2007 provision against discrimination in access to state health program has been introduced in the Law on Protection of Health. Holders of state insurance vouchers are entitled to medical services on equal conditions and without any discrimination (Article 19). In addition, under the Law on the Protection of Health, holders of state insurance vouchers, within the state health program, are entitled to medical services on equal conditions and without any discrimination.

In addition, under the Law on the Protection of Health, holders of state insurance vouchers, within the state health program, are entitled to medical services on equal conditions and without any discrimination. The decree of the Government of Georgia on “State Medical Insurance Program for Persons below the Poverty Line” (19 February 2009) states that private insurance companies must provide equal access to insurance for program beneficiaries. The Decree of the Government of Georgia on “State Program of

Assistance to Voluntary Health Insurance of Population” (26 February 2009) stipulates that equal access must be ensured to medical services provided for by the “basic” insurance policy.

Principles of non-discrimination in the Codes of Conduct:

- Code of Conduct for Broadcasters

Code contains separate chapter on diversity, equality and tolerance. Article 31 of the code stipulates that “the broadcaster shall refrain from publishing any material likely to incite hatred or intolerance on the grounds of race, language, gender, religious convictions, political opinions, ethnic origin, geographic location, or social background”.

- Code of Conduct of Public Broadcaster

Under the Code, when preparing reports and programs on ethnic and religious minorities, Georgian Public Broadcaster should: treat minorities without discrimination of any kind as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, cultural or social origin, family, property, birth or other status, residence, state of health, age, as well as any other sign; not use such words, statements or pictures that might lead to discrimination of an individual or a part of community by any of the signs listed above; name ethnic and religion background of a suspect or accused individual only when it is of essential significance for the plot; not describe such physical data which might fully erroneously link criminal behavior to ethnic origin; not draw ungrounded parallels between minorities and social problems; differentiate activities of an individual representative of minority from those of the minority; not identify an individual with a minority as a whole; facilitate societal integration of minorities.

- The Professional Code of Ethics for Teachers

Code reaffirms the role of teachers to propagate rights-based values and principles and thus becomes the role-models for their students and forbids any type of discrimination of students (including ethnic origin or religious background).

According to Professional Code of Ethics for Teachers, discrimination against pupils based on religious identity can be a basis for dismissing a teacher from the school. Herewith, it should be noted that the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia developed monitoring mechanisms in order to avoid any kind of discrimination at schools. One member in the Board of Trustees of schools is a representative of educational resource center (ERC), which gives an opportunity to ERCs to have an access to internal school evaluation. As a member of the Board of trustees, a representative of ERC is authorized to inform the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia about the cases of discrimination at schools for further response.

- The Code of Ethics of Police

The Code pays particular attention to the prohibition of discrimination. Specific provisions stipulate that officers shall perform their functions fairly and shall not commit discrimination (Article 3(21)).

- The Code of Ethics of Employees of Penitentiary System

According to the Code, the employee shall perform his/her official duties impartially without discrimination based on ethnic, religious, sexual or other grounds (Article 2(4)).

- Codes of Ethic of Prosecutors

According to Article 5 of the codes, a procedure shall to protect human rights and freedoms protected under the Constitution, international treaties and domestic legislation. A prosecutor is under duty to facilitate the elimination of any discrimination.

With regard to Issue 2 (iii):

According to Article 6 of the Law of Georgia on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (anti-discrimination law) the body responsible for monitoring issues regarding elimination of discrimination and ensuring equality is an independent body – the Public Defender of Georgia. To this end, Public Defender, inter alia, shall be authorized to:

- a. examine applications and complaints of natural and legal persons or groups of persons, who consider themselves to be victims of discrimination;
- b. examine acts of discrimination based on applications or complaints, as well as on his/her own initiative and make appropriate recommendations;
- c. prepare and forward general proposals to relevant institutions or persons on the issue of preventing and combating discrimination;
- d. prepare opinions regarding necessary legislative amendments and submit them to the Parliament of Georgia as legislative proposals;
- e. invite a victim of discrimination and an alleged discriminating person, and try to settle the case by mutual agreement of the parties;
- f. 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;
- g. be authorized to apply to a court, as an interested person, according to the Administrative Procedure Code of Georgia, and request the issue of an administrative legal act or the performance of an action, unless an administrative body responds to or shares a recommendation and there is sufficient evidence of discrimination;
- h. record and analyse statistical data on discrimination cases;
- i. organise events to raise public awareness of discrimination;
- j. cooperate with various international governmental and non-governmental organisations, local non-governmental organisations and the representatives of local civil society on discrimination issues.

In order to make informed decision, have a general understanding on situation with xenophobia and discrimination in Georgia, identify general trends the Public Defender “shall prepare and publish once a year a special report on combating and preventing discrimination, as well as on equality situation in the country”. This report “shall contain general evaluation, opinions and recommendation on combating and preventing discrimination, as well as on equality situation in the country. The report shall also include

information on detected serious violations and implemented measures” (Article 7 of the anti-discrimination law).

Similar to judicial proceedings a person who claims to be subjected to discriminatory treatment before the Public Defender has to provide relevant fact – onus to demonstrate that the treatment in question has not been discriminatory is on an alleged perpetrator of discrimination. The Public Defender is authorized to schedule an oral hearing and invite both parties to settle the case by mutual agreement” and if such agreement has been reached monitor its implementation. All administrative, local self-government and state bodies are obliged to cooperate with the Public Defender and provide in with all necessary information. “If the Public Defender of Georgia confirms the act of discrimination after examining an application/complaint and if the consequences of the discrimination are not eliminated, the Public Defender of Georgia shall end the proceedings with a recommendation regarding activities to be performed to restore violated equality” (Articles 8 and 9 of the anti-discrimination law).

If the victim of discrimination is not satisfied with the outcome of the proceedings before the Public Defender s/he may initiate judicial proceedings in accordance with CCPG (Article 11 of the anti-discrimination law).

With regard to issue 2 (vii)

The anti-discrimination legislation of Georgia is being constantly updated to keep pace with recent developments in the international human rights law and reflect recommendations and opinions of international experts and organization. Thus, in line with the CERD General Recommendations 30 and 31 relevant amendments were introduced into CCG on 27 March 2012 to the effect that committing criminal offence with racial, ethnic or any other discriminatory motive shall be considered as aggravating circumstances. Standards regarding special and temporary measures, summarized in the General Recommendation 32 have also been taken into consideration during the process of drafting the anti-discrimination law and were reflected in its final wording (Article 2).

Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civil Equality

Question 2 (ii):

Constitution of Georgia guarantees equality and prohibits discrimination based on ethnic and national basis. And a whole range of laws and regulations in the Georgian legislation serve precisely the state's obligation to protect minorities from discrimination and ensure their involvement in civic processes.

Amendment to the Article 53 of the **Criminal Code** (March 27, 2012) establishes that the "crimes committed on the basis of race, color, language, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, political or other opinions, disability, citizenship, national, ethnic or social origin, property, birth or social status, place of residence or discrimination on the bases of other signs of intolerance motives shall serve as an aggravating circumstance to any relevant offenses under the Criminal Code”.

In December 2011, the Parliament of Georgia adopted the **Law "On Personal Data Protection"**. The first part of Article 6 of the Law prohibits data processing for special categories. Special categories of data include data which relate to a person's racial or ethnic group, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade organization membership, health, sexual orientation, or criminal records, as well as biometric data, which can identify the above-mentioned features.

According to the "**Law on General Courts**" (Article 10), "**Civic Procedural Code**" (Article 9.43) and "**General Administrative Code**" (Article 14) documentation records are conducted in Georgian (state) language. Person, who does not understand state language, can use interpreter's service that is provided by state.

Education

Constitution of Georgia protects the right of every citizen to receive education and to choose the form of education. The Georgian **law on "General Education"** reaffirms this right to education (Article 9) and the "equal access for all" (Article 3.2. A.). Article 4 of the Law "On General Education" states that "citizens, for whom Georgian is not a native language, have the right to acquire general education in their native language, in accordance with the national curriculum, according to the law."

According to 2013 data, there are 213 non-Georgian language schools and 77 non-Georgian language sectors functioning in Georgia.

The "**Law of Georgia on Higher Education**" obliges all higher education institutions to treat all students and staff of higher education institutions equally (Article 16.1. D) And prohibits any discrimination on the grounds of religious or ethnic affiliation (Article 3.2.). The amendment in the Law of Georgia on Higher Education (November 2009), envisaging introduction of mitigation system (the so-called quota system) for national minority students, was put into practice since Academic Year of 2010-2011. It was defined that higher education institutions are obliged to provide 5% of available places for each Azerbaijani and Armenian cohort of entrants and 1% for each Ossetian and Abkhazian students within the framework of available places defined by the National Education Accreditation Center.

According to the data of the National Examinations Center (NAEC), the number of non-Georgian students substantially increased compared with previous years. In 2010, 247 non-Georgian entrants were enrolled at HEIs, in 2011 – 430, in 2012 – 589, while the number for 2013 equaled to 890 students.

Education policy puts a special emphasis on the implementation of the programs that promote Georgian language acquisition and effective improvement of Georgian as a second language teaching and learning.

Within the programs run by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia "**Teach Georgian as the Second Language**" and "**Georgian Language for Future Success**" teachers and volunteers are deployed in the minority schools of the regions compactly populated by national minorities to teach Georgian language and support local teachers.

The **Georgian Language Houses and Centers** have been functioning in Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions where the representatives of ethnic minorities have a possibility to attend Georgian language classes for free.

Media

Article 56 of the **Georgian “Law on Broadcasting”** prohibits to broadcast programs, which are directed to the discrimination of a person or group on the basis of ethnic background, religion, ideology, gender, sexual orientation, or any other feature or status, or putting a special emphasis on these features or statuses, except when it is necessary for the content of the program, and aims to illustrate a conflict”. **Georgian Public Broadcaster** is obliged to reflect the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious diversity and proportionately broadcast programs in minority languages about minorities and prepared by minorities. (Article 16). In December 2009 due to the change to the Article 33, the public broadcaster should annually create one or more than one regular program product on not less than 4 languages, including the Abkhaz and Ossetian languages.

Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia also provides funding for printed media in Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian languages.

Political participation

In 2012, the **Working Group on Ethnic Minority Issues** within the **Central Election Commission of Georgia** was established. It aimed at providing the voters of ethnic minorities with the information on election procedures. The action plan elaborated defined the following tasks:

- Provide equal electoral rights for ethnic minorities;
- Raise awareness of young voters and women and fostering their involvement in the election process (seminars/ training on election procedures were conducted; flyers and booklets were distributed);
- Increase and support involvement of persons with disabilities representing ethnic minorities in the election process (defining their needs, translating video clips with sign language for voters with hearing impairment, preparing instructions for District Election Commission Members on keeping the norms of conduct with the voters with disabilities, infrastructural adaptation of electoral districts);
- Provide translations of electoral documents into the language of national minorities (Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian);
- Ensure access to information for ethnic minority voters via media (“Georgian TV Election News Digest” was translated and broadcasting daily in Armenian and Azeri languages with duration of 6 minutes each).

Representatives of national minorities actively participated in 2012 Parliamentary, 2013 Presidential elections and 2014 local self-government elections.

Social –economic sphere

According to the Article 30 of the **Georgian Constitution**, “Georgian citizens are equal in social, economic, cultural and political life regardless their national, ethnic, religious or linguistic origin”. Healthcare Strategy document for 2011-2015 is based on some main principles, among them a special focus is made on the provision of equal access to healthcare and development of patient-centered healthcare system. The issue of keeping the citizen’s regularly informed on reforms in healthcare is one of the priorities. Since national minorities’ (especially in the regions compactly populated by ethnic minorities) access to information on medical and social services is hindered due to lack of knowledge of the state language, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Affairs has been developing

various information campaigns for providing national minorities with the information on state healthcare programs and social benefits in their native languages.

Culture

The Georgian "**Law on Culture**" states that "Georgian citizens are equal in cultural life regardless their national, ethnic, religious or linguistic belonging. (Article 6). The Law guarantees the right of all citizens for cultural participation and protection of cultural identity. The Georgian "**Law on Cultural Heritage**", "**Law on Professional Theatres**", "**Law on Museums**", "**Law on Libraries**" comprise legal provisions in respective areas.

Since 2009, the **Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia** has been implementing the program on "Supporting National Minorities' Cultures". The program aims at protecting the cultural identity of national minorities, promoting its development and popularization, encouragement of intercultural dialogue.

The Georgian government has been supporting Azerbaijan Mirza Fatali Akhundov Cultural Museum, David Baazov museum of Georgian Jewish History, Petros Adamiani Armenian Professional State Drama Theatre, Azerbaijan State Drama Theater of Heydar Aliyev, as well as Alexander Griboyedov Russian State Drama Theatre.

Registration and granting the **status of cultural heritage monuments** to various buildings is still in progress. In 2009 up to 50 Armenian churches, 10 mosques and 5 synagogues were registered.

In 2011 the status of cultural heritage monument was granted to the Armenian Church in Batumi, Batumi synagogue, Orta Jame mosque in Batumi, Rabati district in Akhaltsikhe, including two ancient synagogues. Tbilisi synagogue "Didi Lotsva" and a synagogue in Kutaisi were also granted a status of cultural heritage monument.

Synagogues of Vani, Poti, Senaki, Bandza, Lailashi and Oni were restored by the international charity foundation "Kartu". Restoration of Kareli and Gori synagogues, also Jewish cemetery in Surami is scheduled in 2014.

Question 2 (iii)

The Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality coordinates the process of elaboration, implementation and reporting of the "National Concept for Tolerance and Civic Integration" and respective Action Plan for 2009-2014. The state strategy aims to protect the rights of ethnic minorities, help integrate them fully into society, and support the establishment and promotion of a tolerant environment. The implementation of the Concept is monitoring by the National Minorities Council operating within the Georgian Public Defender's Office.

Current strategy and action plan expires in 2014, and the strategy is to be adapted to current needs. The Office of the State Minister is in the process of elaboration of a new strategy and action plan for the next period. For this reason Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality prepared the Assessment document of the National Concept for Tolerance and Civic Integration (NCAP) and 2009-2014 Action Plan. (Electronic version of the document is available on our web-site: <http://www.smr.gov.ge/index.php?opt=5>).

Based on the analysis of current trends, recommendations have also been elaborated. Showcasing the results achieved in various aspects of the Concept will provide the opportunity to develop new policy.