

United Nations Universal Periodic Review
Mid Term Report

Georgia

(2019)

Introduction

The present mid-term report on the implementation of the recommendations received at the 2nd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review is submitted upon the voluntary pledge made by Georgia in the course of the adoption of the outcome of the UPR of Georgia on 17 March 2016.

Namely, during the 2nd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review Georgia received 203 recommendations. 191 recommendations enjoyed the support of Georgia and 12 recommendations were noted.

This report was elaborated with participation of all relevant agencies. Furthermore, the draft report was presented and discussed with a wide range of stakeholders, including the NHRI and relevant NGOs in the course of the meeting organized in cooperation and financial support of OHCHR in Borjomi (10-11 May 2018). The stakeholders' comments and observations were taken into consideration in the final draft report.

Moreover, pursuant to the amendments made in 2016 to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia, the draft report was submitted to the Parliament for consideration and reviewed by it.

Georgia recognizes the importance of the UPR mechanism as a key element of the Human Rights Council, and reaffirms its commitment to continue to improve its protection of human rights and to fully co-operate with the Council as well as with other UN human rights mechanisms.

Georgia attaches great importance not only to the submission of the state party report but its proper implementation. For this purposes, the Government of Georgia translated UPR recommendations in the respective National Human Rights Action Plan (for 2016-2017 and 2018-2020).

Georgia is determined to continue to work to comply with its international human rights obligations and to pursue its close co-operation with all stakeholders in its efforts to meet these commitments. Georgia believes that to keep the international community informed about the process of implementation the UPR recommendations will further promote the protection of human rights in the country.

The annex below provides an update on Georgia's progress since 2015 on the UPR recommendations that enjoyed the support of Georgia. For ease of reference, Georgia's response in 2015-2016 is also included. To avoid repeating the same information, references to the previous relevant recommendations are included as appropriate.

Mid-term Report on the Implementation of Recommendations under the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations

N	Recommendation	Recommending Country	Position submitted by Georgia by 2015-2016	Renewed Information by 2018
116.1-116.3	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure	Portugal Uruguay		<p>Georgia acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure. Parliament passed the resolution on accession on 24 June 2016 whereupon the Protocol has entered into force for Georgia on 19 December 2016.</p> <p>The accession procedure of Georgia to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is underway and the pertinent authorities are considering the matter.</p>
116.2-116.5-116.6-116.7-116.8-116.9-116.10-116.11-116.11-116.12-116.13-116.14	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Spain Panama France Montenegro Sierra Leone Argentina Slovakia Japan Slovenia Austria Turkey		<p>These Conventions are under internal procedures and the relevant authorities are included in the process.</p>

116.4	Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families	Honduras		The accession procedure of Georgia to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Family is underway and the pertinent authorities are considering the matter.
116.1 5- 116.1 6- 116.1 7	Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence	Ghana Italy Turkey		Parliament ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence on 5 April 2017. The Convention entered into force for Georgia on 1 September 2017.
116.1 8	Further strengthen cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its mechanism	Myanmar		Georgia was elected as a member of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for the term 2016-2018. With the initiative of Georgia, the Resolution on “Cooperation with Georgia” was adopted at the 34th and 37th sessions of the HRC (under Agenda item 10). The Resolution welcomes the cooperation of Georgia with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and its relevant mechanisms. In accordance with the Resolution adopted at the 34th session, the High Commissioner presented the Report at the Council’s 36th session. According to the Report, the OHCHR welcomes the continuous cooperation with the Government of Georgia and the will of the Government of Georgia to improve the existing national human rights protection system. The efforts of the Government to bring national legislation and standards in line with international human rights standards clearly illustrate the will to comply with its obligations. See also the information within the context of 116.19 recommendation.

<p>116.1 9</p>	<p>Continue cooperating constructively with the universal human rights mechanisms and continue the practice of cooperation and dialogue with civil society</p>	<p>Tajikistan</p>		<p>Georgia attaches utmost importance to the cooperation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Special Procedures Mandate Holders. Visits organized to Georgia in previous years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15-19 February, 2016, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Dubravka Šimonović. • 11-18 April, 2016, UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, Ms. Maud de Boer-Buquicchio. • 24-29 September, 2016 – UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Dr. Chaloka Beyani. • 28-29 November, 2017, Director of Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Ms. Georgette Gangon. • 12-22 March, 2018, Un Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Ms. Rosa Kornfeld-Matte. <p>Georgian Government also actively cooperates with the non-governmental sector in different formats in order to set better standards on human rights issues within the country. It should be noted that action plans on human rights which are approved by the Government every two year and with the aim of the implementation of the human rights national strategy (2014-2020), usually are drafted with the involvement of</p>
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				<p>national and international organizations. Analogically, different sectoral action plans on human rights are drafted with the participation of the non-governmental sector.</p> <p>It should be noted that during the preparation of state party reports to be submitted to the UN treaty based and Charter based bodies the consultations are taking place with NGO sector in order to take into consideration their opinions.</p>
<p>116.2 0- 116.2 1- 116.2 2</p>	<p>Continue and intensify cooperation with the international community in order to ensure access of international human rights and humanitarian actors and monitoring mechanisms to Abkhazia, Georgia, and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, to monitor, report and address the human rights situation of internally displaced persons</p>	<p>Lithuania Ukraine Republic of Moldova</p>		<p>Georgia was repeatedly raising the issues regarding the grave human rights situation in the occupied regions with a special emphasis on the cases of deprivation of life of Georgian citizens (A. Tatumashvili, G. Otkhozoria and D. Basharuli), restriction of the freedom of movement, illegal detentions and kidnappings, abusing of the property rights (including deliberate demolition of the houses of refugees and IDPs and restriction of access to their land property), disregarding the rights of refugees and IDPs to return to their homes, intensification of ethnic discrimination and prohibition of education in native language in the occupied regions.</p> <p>Ministry of foreign affairs was regularly making public statements and comments concerning these issues.</p> <p>At every relevant meetings and public speeches whether in bilateral or multilateral formats, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regularly underscored the situation in occupied territory, responsibility of Russia as the power exercising effective control and the necessity of access of international human rights mechanisms and humanitarian organizations to Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions.</p> <p>Starting from 2016 till April 2018 the 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41th, 42th, and 43th rounds of Geneva International Discussions were held. One of the main topics of the Discussions in both working groups was the grave human rights situation in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions, as well as</p>

				<p>along the occupation line, gross violation of the fundamental rights (right to life, freedom of movement, property rights and right to education in native language) and discrimination against ethnic Georgians.</p> <p>Georgia was raising the issue of the necessity of ceasing the practice of installation of barbed wire fences and other artificial barriers along the occupation line and of opening the crossing points. One of the main issues was the return of IDPs and refugees. Georgia, participants from the US and the Co-Chairs of the Geneva international discussions were constantly stressing the necessity of substantial discussions on this matter.</p> <p>Georgia was consistently emphasizing that the Russian Federation does not allow the access of international human rights mechanisms and humanitarian organizations to the occupied regions and highlighted the necessity to change this illegal practice.</p> <p>The UNHRC adopted a resolution "Cooperation with Georgia" during the 34th and 37th sessions (agenda item 10) initiated by Georgia, where concerns were expressed regarding the denial of access of regional and international monitors, including relevant UN mechanisms, to Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia of Georgia by the authorities in control on the ground. The resolution calls for granting the access of the UNHCHR and regional and international human rights mechanisms to the mentioned territories.</p> <p>In accordance with the resolution adopted at the 34th session, High Commissioner presented the report at the 36th session. In the document the High Commissioner expresses concern regarding fact that his office was not granted access to Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions by the authorities in control therein.</p> <p>The report notes that the absence of access raises legitimate</p>
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				<p>questions regarding the protection of the human rights of the local population.</p> <p>Throughout the reporting period (2016 and 2017), the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution initiated by Georgia "On the status of IDPs and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia and Tskhinvali region/ South Ossetia, Georgia".</p> <p>The resolution stated the right of the IDPs and refugees to return to their homes in a safe and dignified manner. The importance of protection of their property rights was also emphasized. According to the resolution the UN Secretary-General prepared reports in 2016, 2017 and 2018 (planned in mid-May).</p>
116.23	Submit its overdue report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee against Torture	Sierra Leone		<p>With the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, intensive effort is underway in order to submit the 3rd Periodic Report on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the 4th and 5th Periodic Report on the Implementation of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. For the comprehensive preparation of the Report, by the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the support of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for the Human Rights, special seminar was organized regarding the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights reporting mechanism, where all the competent authorities were participating.</p>
117.1	Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil	Uruguay	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is	<p>Georgia acceded to Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty with the Parliament Resolution of 2 March 1999.</p>

	and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty		in the process of implementation .	
117.2 117.3 117.4	Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families	Egypt Indonesia Mexico	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation.	<i>See recommendation 116.4.</i>
117.5	Take concrete steps to harmonize its national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to ratify its Optional Protocol	Hungary	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>An Inter-Agency Working Group that was created under the Ministry of Justice of Georgia incorporates the representatives from the Government institutions, the “Coalition for Independent Living” (a cross-disability organization uniting numerous disabled people's organizations (DPOs), as well as local NGOs and international Organizations with relevant profiles. The Coalition for Independent Living and the Ministry of Justice of Georgia jointly prepared a draft law on ‘the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’, which was revised in the framework of the inter-agency working group on a number of occasions. With regard to this draft law, the inter-agency working group sought the support of the UNDP to engage an international consultant to prepare a financial estimate document.</p> <p>At present, the Ministry of Justice analyzing the comments and clarifications related to the draft law. At the same time, each participating agency is preparing financial estimate document of the impact that the full enforcement of the law will have on their respective institution. Furthermore, it is planned to introduce relevant amendment to the legislative acts and prepare a joint package of amendments aimed at harmonizing the national legislation with the standards set by the</p>

				<p>convention.</p> <p>As regards the ratification of the Optional Protocol, the process has been initiated and active preparation work is underway with the involvement of relevant agencies.</p>
117.6	Take effective and coordinated measures on the issue of violence against women and domestic violence, including ratification of the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence	Netherlands	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>As previously mentioned, on 05 April 2017, the Parliament of Georgia endorsed the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (also known as the Istanbul Convention). The convention entered into force for Georgia as of 01 September 2017.</p> <p>At the same time, in an effort to promote the complete implementation of the Istanbul standards in the national legislation and to facilitate the ratification procedures of the convention, the Ministry of Justice of Georgia prepared draft amendments for up to 25 legislative acts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Criminal Code; 2. The Criminal Procedure Code; 3. The Juvenile Justice Code; 4. The Civil Procedure Code; 5. The Administrative Procedure Code; 6. The Code of Administrative Offenses; 7. The Law of Georgia on Prevention of Domestic Violence, Protection and Assistance of Victims of Domestic Violence; 8. The Labor Code; 9. The Law of Georgia on Legal Aid; 10. The Local Self-government Code; 11. The Law of Georgia on Patient Rights; 12. The Code of Imprisonment; 13. The Law of Georgia on Medical Practice; 14. The Law of Georgia on Public Service; 15. The Law of Georgia on the Legal Status of Aliens and Stateless Persons; 16. The Law of Georgia on the Procedure for Registering

			<p>Citizens of Georgia and Aliens Residing in Georgia, for Issuing Identity (Residence) Cards and Passports of a Citizen of Georgia;</p> <p>17. The Law of Georgia on General Education; 18. The Law of Georgia on Higher Education; 19. The Law of Georgia on Vocational Education; 20. The Law of Georgia on Advocates; 21. The Georgian Law on Police; 22. The Law of Georgia on Weapons; 23. The Law of Georgia on Gender Equality.</p> <p>Consequently, the scope of the law of Georgia on domestic violence, protection and assistance of victims of domestic violence was expanded to cover violence against women not only in domestic setting but in general.</p> <p>The issuance procedures for restraining and protective orders cover all forms of violence against women. Moreover, on the basis of the amendments the police has no obligation to submit the restraining order to the court.</p> <p>The mentioned amendments have established new approaches to victim protection and rehabilitation. Any female victim of violence, in addition to the victims of domestic violence, will also receive the right of getting legal advice, any female outside the family setting will also enjoy the right of receiving a 30-day vacation and a shelter. If the victim of violence is a foreign citizen, he/she will not be expelled from Georgia until the end of the legal proceedings. Temporary residence permits can be issued for female victims of violence.</p> <p>Article 133² was added to the Criminal Code of Georgia that criminalizes the female genital mutilation. Stalking has been declared as a criminal offence and may be punishable by up to two years of imprisonment. According to the amendments to</p>
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				<p>the Criminal Code of Georgia, forced sterilisation has also become criminally punishable along with relevant aggravated circumstances.</p> <p>In addition, the legislative amendments foresee expansion of the circle of persons, who can provide law enforcement officers with information on facts of violence. With respect to those people, who have a confidentiality obligation in relation to their professional activities (doctors, teachers, attorneys), this obligation will not be enforced upon them in exceptional cases. Namely, the abovementioned obligation will not restrict these individuals to provide the competent authorities with the information about possible violent acts against women and/or domestic violence if there is a danger of recurrence of violence.</p> <p>Based on the legislative amendments, the sphere of competence has expanded for the Inter-Agency Commission on the Issues of Domestic Violence and this commission now covers Domestic Violence, as well as Violence against Women and Gender Equality.</p> <p>It is noteworthy that on 12 June 2017, based on the Decree No. 286 issued by the Government of Georgia, an Inter-agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence was formed for the first time in the executive branch of the government. The commission is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia. The main function of the Inter-agency Commission is to develop state policy on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and promote gender mainstreaming. At the same time, the Inter-agency Commission acts as a monitoring body for the implementation of the Istanbul convention.</p>
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				<p>The legislative amendments aim to overcome challenges related to violence against women, provide effective response to facts of violence committed against women and to expand the legal mechanisms for protection against violence towards women.</p> <p>Representatives of various state agencies, relevant local and international organizations were actively involved in the preparation of the legislative amendments that also included numerous consultation meetings. Revision and improvement of the legislative amendments was carried out in accordance with the recommendations and comments presented, which eventually were reflected in the final version of the package of amendments.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice of Georgia held numerous information meeting on the issues of violence against women and domestic violence with various target groups, including students, local population, NGOs, etc.</p> <p>The relative amendments entered into force on 01 June 2017.</p> <p>It should also be noted that in an effort to strengthen the legislative basis with regard to the violence against women, on 06 March 2018, the Government of Georgia approved another package of legislative amendments on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.</p> <p>The rights of the victims of domestic violence have increased in connection with the issuance of restraining order and weapons.</p> <p>The aim of the amendments is to ensure effective prevention of domestic violence, improvement of the quality of protection of the rights of victims and avoiding the consequences of a</p>
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				<p>possible offence. The international experience shows that restriction of access to weapons for a violent offender represents a key factor and is widely practiced in prevention of this type of offence.</p> <p>Based on the new regulations, the Criminal Code of Georgia is amended and restriction of the rights related to weapons is imposed as an additional form of punishment with regard to domestic violence offences. Furthermore, enforcement of a restriction of the rights related to firearms as an additional punishment will not be obligatory, since a weapon represents the object of crime or was intended for committing a crime. The court, in view of the circumstance of the crimes, decides whether restriction of weapons should be applied as a form of punishment.</p> <p>According to the amendments, the powers of the police have increased, and the nature of violent offences has been determined, which oblige police officers to issue restraining orders and weapons related restrictions. In other cases, the victim has the right to demand the police officer to issue a restraining order.</p> <p>Amendments are made to the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia, which emphasizes that if a person is prosecuted under charges related to violence against women and/or domestic violence or domestic crime, along with court issued arraignment decision, the court will regard obligation to confiscate weapons from the accused person and prohibition to enter certain places and to approach the victim as a priority.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice of Georgia devotes special attention to raising the awareness of the population about violence against women and domestic violence.</p>
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				<p>In 2015, in an effort to raise public awareness about violence against women and domestic violence, and to promote engagement of non-governmental organization in preventing crimes of this nature, the Ministry of Justice of Georgia within the framework of a grant competition, issued 15000 Georgian Lari to the local non-governmental organization. Within the framework of the grant, the NGO conducted information meetings in various regions of Georgia on the accessible state mechanisms for preventing violence against women and domestic violence. Also within the framework of the grant completion, 5000 information leaflets were distributed in Georgian, English, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages.</p> <p>In February 2017, the Ministry of Justice launched a social campaign - "Act On" in connection with domestic violence and violence against women.</p> <p>The goal of the campaign was to raise public awareness with respect to legislative/institutional mechanism preventing domestic violence and violence against women, as well as encouraging social responsibility of Georgian citizens in the fight against violence. In the framework of the campaign, relevant trainings were conducted for the population of Georgia (78 groups, 886 participants), three videos messages were prepared, a competition was announced for the selection of a respective poster and an online platform against domestic violence was created http://imoqmede.ge/. The online platform offers a blank anonymous letter that enables victims or witnesses of domestic violence to notify the Ministry of Justice of their problems.</p> <p>The LEPL Training Centre of Justice of Georgia using the resources of the Clinic Trainers, prepared a special 3 hour program on legal means to prevent violence against women and domestic violence. From February 13 through February</p>
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				<p>17 of 2017, the mentioned program was carried out in a pilot mode within the framework of free trainings. Total of 98 people participated in the training (80 women and 18 men). The training was open to all interested persons above the age of 14.</p> <p>In towns and villages densely populated by ethnic minorities the trainings were conducted in two languages (Georgian and the respective ethnic minority language), with the participation of Armenian and Azeri trainers. The materials used during the trainings were also translated into relevant languages. Training based on this approach/format were conducted in Akhaltsikhe, Kumurdo, Baraleti, Foka, Marneuli, Kabali, Iormughanlo and Sadakhlo (total of 97 participants).</p> <p>Furthermore, it should be noted that in June/July 2017, with the financial support of the UN Women and in cooperation with the Women's Information Centre, the LEP Training Centre of Justice conducted a training for Guria and Kvemo Kartli regional municipality representatives (senior officials – governors, chairpersons of the local assemblies, and members of the Gender Equality Councils of the respective municipalities.) The 2-day trainings (13 hours) were also held for representatives of the law-enforcement and other agencies responsible for providing relevant services. The topic of the training was “Issues Related to Gender equality and Violence against Women in self-governments”. The trainings were conducted in Kakheti, village Napareuli and town Kobuleti, Adjara. Total of 4 groups with 66 participants (40 women/26 men).</p> <p>This event covered all ten municipalities in Kvemo Kartli and Guria (Kvemo Kartli – 7; Guria – 3). Total of 66 people were trained.</p>
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				<p>On 29 November 2017, at the initiative of the Legislative Herald of Georgia, a two hour meeting was held with the members of the Legislative Herald Club (Law Faculty students from various universities). In the framework of this meeting, the LEPL Training Centre of Justice trainer familiarized participants with the legislative novelties implemented in regard to violence against women and domestic violence. The meeting was attended by 21 participants.</p> <p><i>See also recommendations 117.38 and 117.39.</i></p>
117.7	Increase respect for the rights of all citizens by strengthening anti-discrimination legislation and enforcement mechanisms and ensuring law enforcement provides universal equal treatment and due process	United States of America	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	On January 12, 2018, the MIA established the Human Rights Protection Department, which monitors ongoing investigations and administrative proceedings on domestic violence, violence against women, trafficking, crime committed on the grounds of discrimination or hatred, crime by juveniles or against them. In order to identify and eliminate flaws, department aims at developing recommendations and implementing them in practice.
117.8	Improve the Law on Gender Equality to be in line with its Law on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination	Rwanda	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>2018-2020 Action Plan of the Gender Equality Council implies revision of the "Law on Gender Equality". In 2017, the Council conducted the research: "Gender Equality in Georgia: Barriers and Recommendations," based on which specific gaps of the "Law on Gender Equality" were identified and recommendations were provided.</p> <p><i>For further information, see recommendation 117.6.</i></p>

	against Women			
117.9	Take active measures to combat discrimination and violence against women and improve its Law on Gender Equality in order to align it with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	Namibia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendation 117.6.</i>
117.10	Bring into line the Law on Gender Equality with the Law on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, combating the patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes on the roles and responsibilities of women and men	Albania	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p><i>See Recommendation 117.8.</i></p> <p><i>For Additional Information See Recommendation 117.6</i></p> <p>The state agencies are actively engaged in organizing thematic information meetings with the population, as well as campaigns aimed to raise public awareness regarding violence against women and domestic violence. The mentioned campaigns also aim to counteract the patriarchal attitude established in the society and gender stereotypes regarding the role/responsibilities of women and men. As a result of the implemented efforts, the recent years have shown a significant increase in the number of referral to law-enforcement agencies.</p> <p><i>Most significant among them are as follows:</i></p> <p>From February through November 2017, the Ministry of Justice waged information campaign “Act on”. The aim of the campaign was to inform the public and encourage their active</p>

				<p>participation against violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An online platform against domestic violence http://imoqmede.ge/ that was created in the framework of the campaign promotes participation of the population in the campaign against violence and provides victims as well as witnesses of violence with opportunity to inform the Ministry of Justice about their problem in the form of an anonymous letter. • Within the framework of the social campaign, the Training Centre of Justice developed a special training module based on which free training were conducted in Houses of Justice and Community Centres throughout Georgia. The training were conducted for 78 groups, total of 886 participants. <p>The MIA implements the EU-funded project “The MIA promotion in the fight against domestic violence”.</p> <p>The main goal of the project is to promote prevention of domestic violence and eliminate domestic violence and its consequences through raising public awareness on the issues of domestic violence and existing legal mechanisms on fight against domestic violence.</p> <p>In the framework of the project, the informative campaign was conducted. During the campaign, representatives of the MIA participated in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 TV shows • 3 radio shows • 10 informative meetings <p>In addition, informational video and outdoor advertisings were</p>
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				<p>created; informative leaflets in 5 languages (Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, English and Russian) were printed and distributed.</p> <p>Moreover, the MIA implements the social campaign “Power to Trust”.</p> <p>In 2016-2017 Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia organized the projects ‘Local Council’ and ‘Public Prosecutor’s Office’, within which different events were held about violence against women, prevention of domestic crime and increasing awareness in all regions of Georgia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 meetings were held within the project ‘Local Council’ (748 participants); <p>151 meetings were held within the project ‘Public Prosecutor’s Office’ (7600 participants);The LEPL- State Fund for the Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking has launched an information campaign by the slogan "Open your eyes" since November, 2017 and will have been continued in 2018. The main goal of the campaign is to inform the public about the consulting hotline (116-006) against violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The web site - www.sheachere.ge has been activated which allows the user to create a test how to stop violence by his/her action within the campaign. By using a web camera and eye-catching technology, the site stops or continues the scenario of depicting domestic violence; • The video clips and external advertising materials were created within the campaign.
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117.11	<p>Continue efforts towards the adoption of administrative and legislative measures to achieve equality of women, in particular to ensure their access to social and health services in all areas of Georgia and provide the same work and pay opportunities to men and women</p>	Mexico	<p>In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .</p>	<p>In 2017, the initial drafts were prepared in compliance with the EU directives envisaged in Annex XXX of EU-Georgia Association Agreement. The legislative package consists of the drafts of the amendments to the following organic laws and laws of Georgia: Organic Law of Georgia “Georgian Labour Code”; Law of Georgia on “Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination”; Law of Georgia on “Public Service”; Law of Georgia on “Gender Equality”. The mentioned legislative package was submitted to the Parliament of Georgia in 2017 and is in the process of discussions. The amendments relate to protection of principle of equality in labour and pre-contractual relations, serve to eliminate discrimination on the grounds of sex in the access to and supply of goods and services, including financial services, etc.</p> <p>Currently, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia is working on the amendments to the labour legislation in compliance with the EU directives related to improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding, ensuring equal opportunities for men and women in employment and occupation, and protection of principle of equal treatment.</p> <p>The 2017-2030 National Strategy for Promotion of Maternal and Newborn Health was approved in 2017. In the next 14 years, it defines the country's policy of maternal and newborn health as well as family planning, sexual and reproductive health.</p> <p>The Gender Equality Council has been coordinating the working group on labor rights since 2017. The working group is comprised of non-governmental organizations and one of the main priorities is the issue of equal pay for equal work. Along</p>
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				with this, 2018-2020 Action Plan of the Council considers developing the Pay Gap calculation methodology with National Statistics Office of Georgia.
117.12	Strengthen existing law and practice to combat gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, inter alia, with regard to labour	Poland	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>Sexual harassment is a form of gender based discrimination and is prohibited by the Georgian legislation. Namely: Georgia is a contracting party to international treaties that prohibit discrimination. With this respect, it is important to mention: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights adopted in 1966;</p> <p>The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted by the UN in 1966; The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (it should be noted, that the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in its general recommendation 19 states that sexual harassment in workplace is a form of gender-based violence and that Equality in employment can be seriously impaired when women are subjected to gender-specific violence, such as sexual harassment in the workplace (see section 17); the European Convention on Human Rights and the Anti-Discrimination Protocol No. 12 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; The Convention of the Council of Europe on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention); Convention No. 111 of the International Labour Organization concerning the Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, which states that sexual harassment is a form of gender-based discrimination.</p> <p>It is also important to mention that equality before the law is guaranteed by the Constitution of Georgia and the new anti-discriminatory law adopted in 2014, prohibits all forms of discrimination, as well.</p> <p>According to the Gender Equality Law,</p>

			<p>the following is not allowed in labour relations:</p> <p>a) Harassment and/or coercion of a person with the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, humiliating, degrading, or offensive environment at the workplace;</p> <p>b) Any undesirable verbal, non-verbal or physical behaviour of sexual nature with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.</p> <p>The Labor Code of Georgia restricts the discriminatory acts and harassments on workplaces. According to the Law discriminatory act is considered any direct or indirect harassment of a person that aims at and/or results in creating an intimidating, hostile, humiliating, degrading, or abusive environment for that person or creating such conditions for any person that directly or indirectly causes their status to deteriorate as compared to other persons in similar conditions, shall constitute discrimination.</p> <p>Also noteworthy is that Article 332 of the Criminal Code of Georgia regards abuse of official power as a criminal offence and is punishable by relevant sanctions.</p> <p>For the first time in 2017, the Government of Georgia adopted the general standards of ethics and conduct in public institutions. Along with equality, these standards regulate issues related to sexual harassment. Compliance with the mentioned standards is mandatory for all bodies of the executive branch of the government. With the technical support of the UN Women organization, a special article was added to the Decree on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment. In 2018, the Civil Service Bureau in cooperation with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) developed general rules for ethics and conduct in public institutions with relevant comments.</p>
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				<p>It should be mentioned that the Civil Service Bureau regularly conducts trainings on ethics for professional civil servants. One of the modules of this training is prohibition of discrimination and sexual harassment. At the same time, the Civil Service Bureau developed Ethical Guidelines for Public Servants and practical case studies textbooks that examine pressing issues such as discrimination and sexual harassment.</p> <p>The UN Women Georgia launched an e-learning course for the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace. The course is based on the UN Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Civil Service Bureau informed about the planned course all the public institutions at central, as well as the local level. The aim of the e-learning course was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raise awareness about sexual harassment in the workplace, its impact and consequences; - to offer practical guidelines on preventing and combating sexual harassment in the workplace; - to promote dignity and equality in the workplace; <p>Relevant certificates are issued upon completion of the course. The Public Defender notified all the ministries, including people employed by these ministries, about the availability of this course.</p> <p>Additionally, the Public Defender addressed relevant ministries to start working on the development of internal response mechanism for the prevention of harassment in the workplace.</p> <p>Consequently, state organizations are currently working on raising awareness, as well as development of the response mechanisms.</p>
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117.13	Modify its criminal law to criminalize all forms of racial discrimination	Sierra Leone	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>Also on 2nd May 2014, the legislative amendment was introduced to Article 142¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia, which criminalizes racial discrimination, i.e. an act committed to incite national or racial rivalry or discord in order to degrade national honour and dignity, as well as direct or indirect restriction of human rights or giving advantage to the person based on race, colour, national or ethnic belonging, which has substantially breached his/her right; the same article defines aggravating circumstances as use of violence or threat dangerous for life or health by abusing the official position; committed by a group; or caused the death of victim or resulted in other grave consequences;</p> <p>Based on the amendment to the Criminal Code of Georgia implemented on 4 May 2017, a new Article 53¹ was added to the code, which defines aggravating circumstances. Consequently, racial motive, along with other signs of discrimination, as an aggravating circumstance has been reflected in this Article. The amendment entered into force as of 1 June 2017.</p>
117.14 - 117.15 - 117.16	Provide legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment of children, including in the home, and consider awareness-raising activities to increase public knowledge about the issue	Estonia Hungary Poland	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	The Government of Georgia pays particular attention to the protection of children, including children living and/or working on the streets from violence. In an effort to engage the homeless children and child victims of violence in the social or state healthcare programs, the working group headed by the Ministry of Justice, within the framework of the Interagency Coordination Council for Implementing Measures Against Trafficking, prepared amendments for up to 10 legislative acts. The package of legislative amendments introduced the concept of "a homeless child".

				<p>According to this, a homeless child is a child living and/or working on the streets under the age of 18 that are identified as such by the social workers with appropriate authority based on the basis of the shelter seeker's application. Elaboration of the mentioned definition on the legislative level will enable the state to issue identification documents, which will make various state provided services accessible for homeless children.</p> <p>In order to regulate documentations for homeless children and child victims of violence, the Social Service Agency has been given the authority to address the LEPL Public Service Development Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia for issuance of relevant documentations free of charge for homeless children and child victims of violence. Before that, only the parent or the guardian of the child was able to do that.</p> <p>The amendments have made the mechanisms for protection of juveniles against violence more effective. As a result of the legislative amendments, there has been a significant increase in the role of the social worker – as a person with relevant qualification and experience. The social workers 'authority has been extended and in case of urgent necessity, social worker can make decision regarding immediate separation/removal of a child from the abuser. Non-compliance with the decision made by the social worker to remove the child is an administrative offence, while the person under administrative sanction for noncompliance with the decision is subject to criminal liability.</p> <p>The mentioned legislative amendment were approved by the Parliament of Georgia on 22 June 2016, and entered into force as of 10 August 2016.</p> <p>Furthermore, with the aim of protection of children from all</p>
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			<p>forms of violence, including physical punishment (corporal punishment), as a result of the amendments implemented in 2016 to the Law of Georgia “On Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection and Support of Victims of Domestic Violence”, on 12 September 2016, the Government of Georgia issued a decree №437 on approval of child protection referral procedures. Child protection referral procedures have expanded the circle of the entities that are engaged in the mentioned procedures. The municipalities have been also engaged in this process, which will further promote development of a coordinated and effective system for protection of children against all forms of violence at home and outside their families.</p> <p>It is noteworthy, that based on the child protection referral procedures, any action committed with the intent of physical punishment of a child (corporal punishment) constitutes a form of physical violence, which leads to physical pain or suffering.</p> <p>For the effective functioning of the child protection referral procedures, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prosecutor’s office of Georgia have taken on the obligation to develop a unified database for child victims of violence before 1st of January 2019. The technical administration of the database development will be carried out by the Ministry of Internal Affairs.</p> <p>It is important to note that, for the purposes of effective implementation of the government decree, all agencies engaged in the referral procedures, including the Social Service Agency, have developed internal guidelines for identifying child abuse cases and referrals.</p>
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				<p>(pander) persons, including children, into prostitution. There is also lack of sufficient legal basis against those bars, clubs or other types of establishments, where pandering into prostitution, including of juveniles, is practiced.</p> <p>In view of these reasons, a new Article will be introduced to the Criminal Code of Georgia for facilitation of prostitution. This article will comprise of making available an area or dwelling place for prostitution, which was in place before, as well as pandering into prostitution or using other non-violent methods to engage a person into prostitution. The mentioned offence is punished by a fine or imprisonment sentence up to two years. If the offence is committed under aggravated circumstances, the criminal liability is stricter and is punished by imprisonment sentence form three to six years.</p> <p>The legal amendments were prepared in the framework of the working group of the Interagency Coordination Council for implementing measures against human trafficking lead by the Ministry of Justice. The working group included state agencies, international and local NGOs. The draft legal amendments were discussed and approved at the meeting of the Interagency Council against Human Trafficking on 19 December 2017.</p> <p>The legislative amendment will aid in overcoming the challenge currently faced by the country, which is protection of juveniles from being engaged into prostitution and preventing facilitation of prostitution.</p>
117.17	Continue its efforts to eliminate child marriage, including through considering to set the age of entry into marriage at 18	Egypt	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	In accordance with the legal amendments implemented in 2015, aiming at prevention child marriage, the Civil Code of Georgia prohibits child marriage from 16 to 18 years in any cases such as pre-written consent of parents or guardians and / or with the permission of the court, in the presence of valid reasons (e.g. pregnancy). The legislative amendment was

	<p>years</p>			<p>enacted on January 1, 2017 based on which a person can register a marriage only from the age of 18.</p> <p>Moreover, a new national curriculum has been approved at the primary level, in the field of general education, which is being introduced in all schools of Georgia since 2018-2019 academic year. Issues, related to healthy lifestyle (healthy food, personal hygiene rules, involvement in physical activity) are emphasized in the subjects of the primary school ("Me and Society" and "Our Georgia").</p> <p>The revised Basic Level National Curriculum was also approved, which will be introduced at schools from 2019-2020 academic year. Teaching of civic education has been enhanced and emphasized at basic level of education, focusing on priority topics such as healthy life, early marriage problems, violence, bullying and much more.</p> <p>The programs of civic education and biology have been enhanced in the revision process of the National Curriculum, to strengthen the awareness of young people on early marriages and issues of early marriage prevention, as well as reproductive health.</p> <p>In order to prevent drop outs, caused by early marriage, information meetings are held regularly with the parents of the regions of Georgia, where frequent cases of early marriages are observed. The topic of the meeting is the risks associated with early marriages.</p> <p>In the system of education and science there is a domestic procedure, according to which all cases of early marriages are referred to the Psychological Service Center of the Recourse Office. The card on addressing social service agency is filled out.</p> <p>The Psychological Service Centers (Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Telavi,</p>
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				Batumi, Poti, Gori, Rustavi) of the Recourse Office, offers psychological services to school students, their parents, teachers and school administration if necessary.
117.18	Continue its efforts to strengthen the institutional and normative human rights framework with regard to freedom of expression	Serbia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendation 117.95.</i>
117.19	Harmonize the law with the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees	Honduras	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>In 1 December 2016 the Parliament of Georgia adopted the Law of Georgia on “International Protection” which entered into force from 1 February 2017. Alongside with this Law, the follow-up by-laws has been adopted accordingly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Ministerial Decrees on “Asylum Procedure”; 2. The Ministerial Decrees on “The Rule for Taking and Processing Fingerprints in Asylum Procedure”; 3. The Ministerial Decrees on “The Dates for Storing of the Personal Data Processed under the Law of Georgia on International Protection”; 4. The Ministerial Decrees on “The form of Asylum-seekers Card, the rules regarding its provision and modification”; 5. The Ministerial Decrees on “The Rule for Accommodation of the asylum-seeker in the Reception Centre or Another Place”. <p>Adopted legislation is in full compliance with 1951 Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees.</p> <p><i>See also recommendation 117.117.</i></p>

117.20	Continue its efforts to further promote human rights	Djibouti	<p>In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .</p>	<p>The Human Rights Secretariat of the Administration of the Government of Georgia together with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights implemented the project on retraining of the public servants within the municipalities on the human rights issues in 2016-2017.</p> <p>Apart from this the Human Rights Secretariat of the Administration of Government of Georgia implemented the project "Improving the process of sharing information on human rights issues between the center and regions" with the support of the project "Promoting Rule of Law in Georgia" (financed by USAID). Informational meetings were held in centers for civic engagement of 10 cities of Georgia. The aim of these informational meetings was to inform society on the reforms carried out by the government. This process also enabled to identify regional problems and challenges. Members of executive and legislative branch were participating in these meetings.</p> <p>In 2016-2017 Prosecutor's Office of Georgia actively carried out preventive actions, prosecutors discussed human rights topic by topic within the framework of meetings with population.</p> <p>The MIA Academy provides teaching of the human rights in accordance with international standards and in compliance with the national and international legislation in practice. Based on the teaching, police officers are being trained and retrained regularly and increased their consciousness and capacity, taking into consideration the specificity of their activities.</p> <p>The teaching covers issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to life • Prohibition against torture; • Right to freedom and integrity; • Right to a fair trial;
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to privacy; • Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; • Right to freedom of speech and expression; • Inadmissibility of discrimination; • Right to freedom of assembly and manifestation; • Right to liberty of movement; • Rights of property. <p>Overall, 830 participants were trained and retrained in 2017. Moreover, ad-hoc trainings on human rights issues are being organized with the support of international donors. In 2016-2017, in the framework of joint initiative of the European Union and four UN agencies “Human Rights for All”, the MIA Academy conducted trainings on “International Standards of Human Rights, inadmissibility of discrimination and right to freedom of assembly and manifestation”.</p> <p>During 2017 for the purposes of the awareness raising of the society free training courses were held about different topics (childrens rights, human rights and law, property right, etc.) related to human rights for 45 groups with 448 participants. Any interested person over 14 could attend the training courses.</p> <p>Within the framework of the "Civil Society Strengthening" project, LEPL Training Center of Justice (TCJ) organized a three-month training program in 30 villages of Georgia (in Community Centers). Apart from this, within the framework of the mentioned training program, which was attended by 2305 students during the period of July 1, 2016 - 30 September, five training modules were conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Justice and Human Rights; - System of Constitutional Bodies and Local Self-
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				<p>Government;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Property Rights, Basic Concepts of Entrepreneurial and Tax Law; - That is the European Union? - That is Discrimination? <p><i>For additional information please see recommendation 117.6.</i></p>
117.21	Continue working with the national mechanisms that defend the social rights of the most vulnerable groups of the population	Tajikistan	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>“New methodology for evaluating social-economic conditions of families” was enforced in 2015 based on the Decree of the Government of Georgia N 758 of 31st December of 2014. According to the New methodology family, having no income or income bringing property can become a beneficiary. The methodology considers family needs and special status of family members (persons with disabilities, persons suffering from chronic diseases, children, pensioner etc.). All socially vulnerable families registered in the database have been verified by the new methodology. Assistance will be given according to the gradation system. Also has been introduced child's benefit. There is increased number of child beneficiaries, receiving the subsistence allowances. There are 32.8% of children among of recipients.</p> <p>The Index of lone pensioners' needs has been raised in order to enable them to get subsistence allowances.</p> <p>Aiming to reduce poverty, it is important to increase pensions and social package for children and persons with profound disabilities, also important to give monthly additional support to the pensioners and social package recipients of high mountainous regions with monthly additional financial support and carry other targeted groups</p>

				<p>with providing monthly cash assistance.</p> <p>In May of the current year, based on the decision of the Constitutional Court of Georgia, the families that illegally occupy the state property, have been granted the right to be involved in the target social allowance program, consequently, the measures envisaged by the legislation shall be implemented aiming their involvement in various social programs, after evaluation the social –economic status of their families.</p> <p>The psychosocial support of the child from the early childhood and promotion of independent living, development of the skills needed for their independent living and social integration are the most important activities of the sub-programs of the state program of "Social Rehabilitation and Child Care" (early childhood development, children's rehabilitation / habilitation, day care centers). In addition, preparation of children for adulthood (independent life) - promotion of academic and non-formal education, development of professional and domestic skills are the essential program activities and obligations of a variety of child care services (small group home, foster care). In addition, the LEPL Social Service Agency has signed memorandums of cooperation with business companies, which support in different ways the academic and vocational education, employment and independent living of children under the state care.</p> <p>Also, allowances of the children under the state care that is received according to their disabilities or for the lost of the breadwinner is collected on the deposit account, which can be withdrawn only when the child becomes adult and that supports them in starting an independent life.</p> <p>New component - "Provision of Family Type Independent</p>
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				<p>Livelihood Support for persons with disabilities" has been added to the sub-program of "Community Organizations" of the "social rehabilitation and child care state program" for provision of independent life for persons with disabilities, who are under the state care. Target groups are persons of 18 and older, including persons with diagnoses of mental disorders (only in remission conditions).</p>
117.22	<p>Observe all human rights principles and international conventions, and raise awareness among the population regarding human rights values</p>	Turkmenistan	<p>In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .</p>	<p>In order to ensure the protection of human rights, Georgia systematically implements reforms on the institutional and legislative level. The constitution of Georgia secures the universally recognized human rights and freedoms. The constitutional reform was implemented by the Georgian Government which ensures strong guarantees for the protection of human rights.</p> <p>Georgia updated Governmental Action Plan on Human Rights for 2018-2020 and all recommendations from international organizations, civil society and public defender's office were reflected there.</p> <p>In order to strengthen policy towards protection of women and girls from gender discrimination and domestic violence the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) was ratified by Georgia and respective amendments were made in the national legislation and legislative acts.</p> <p>In order to ensure gender equality and women empowerment the interagency commission was established with the support of the Administration of the Prime Minister. Similar commission was established to ensure the protection of children's rights in order to implement convention on protection of the rights of the child and its optional protocols. Non-governmental organizations and international partners are actively involved in the work of both commissions.</p>

				<p>In January, 2018 Department of Human Rights Protection was created in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.</p> <p>The department intends to ensure timely response and effective investigation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic violence; • Violence against women; • Crimes committed on grounds of discrimination; • Hate crime; • Trafficking of human beings; • Crimes committed by/towards minors. <p>Georgia exerts every possible capacity to protect the human rights in Abkhazia, Georgia and South Ossetia/Tskhinvali Region, Georgia which are under illegal military occupation of the Russian Federation. Georgia declares that for the time being, Russian Federation is responsible for human rights violations prevalent in the above-mentioned regions.</p> <p>Georgia observes the obligations prescribed in international treaties in good faith. Pursuant to the Constitution of Georgia, internal legislation complies with the universally recognized principles and norms of international law. International treaty of Georgia, in case it does not contradict to constitution or constitutional agreement, has precedence over other internal legal acts of Georgia (Article 6.2).</p> <p><i>See recommendation 117.20</i></p>
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117.23	Adopt and implement in due course the proposed Civic Equality and Integration Strategy and Action Plan for 2015-2020, with a sound financial political backing	Norway	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>The State Strategy of Georgia for Civic Equality and Integration and respective Action Plan for 2015-2020 was adopted by the Government of Georgia on August 17, 2015. The document serves as one of the main instruments of civic integration policy. Prior to its adoption the Strategy was widely discussed and consultations have taken place with various groups, in particular, civil society actors, representatives of international organizations, experts, representatives of ethnic minorities and others. The international expertise of the document was provided by the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.</p> <p>The new civic integration strategy is based on <i>more diversity, more integration</i> approach and aims at: contributing to the provision of equality; ensuring ethnic minorities' full-fledged participation in all spheres of public life; preserving national minorities' culture and identity and further strengthening of a tolerant environment.</p> <p>For effective implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan a State Inter-Agency Commission was established which is coordinated by the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality.</p> <p>The Strategy and Action Plan is implemented by the relevant responsible institutions within their competence and budget.</p>
117.24	Strengthen the Gender Equality Council	Latvia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	In the 9 th convocation of the Parliament, the Gender Equality Council comprises 17 MPs (14 women, 3 men) from all political groups represented in the Parliament. The Gender Equality Council has strengthened in the following areas: Advocacy for Legislation (especially – women's political participation and violence against women); Implementation of inter-parliamentary initiatives – for example the Gender Impact

				<p>Assessment (GIA) of legislation; Effective communication with international organizations and more involvement of NGOs in the activities of the Council. Along with this, institutionally, new position of a fellow has been added to the Council. Fellows are chosen for one-year term.</p> <p>The issue of establishment of the Gender Equality Council Secretariat is being considered in the course of the revision of the Rules and Procedures of the Parliament. Respective changes will be reflected once the document is entered into force.</p>
117.25	<p>Further effectively implement the National Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Action Plan for Combating Domestic Violence by ensuring required financing and reinforcing the capacities of professionals</p>	Lithuania	<p>In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .</p>	<p>Governmental Action Plan on Human Rights for 2018-2020 was approved by the Government of Georgia on April 17, 2018. The action plan is the main instrument for the implementation of the Georgian National Strategy on Human Rights for 2014-2020. The action plan for 2018-2020 is the third policy document which was adopted by the Government after the approval of the strategy.</p> <p>The budgeting of an action plan is planned this year with the support of the EU and UN Joint Project "Human Rights for all". It should be noted that the budgeting of the previous action plan for 2016-2017 was implemented within the framework of this project.</p> <p>The Government of Georgia approved several national action plans on ensuring gender equality and women empowerment for 2018-2020 in April, 2018:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2018-2020 National Action Plan of Georgia for implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security 2. 2018-202 National Action Plan on the measures to be implemented for combating violence against women and domestic violence and protection of victims/survivors.

				<p>3. Governmental Action Plan on Human Rights for 2018-2020, Chapter on gender equality and women empowerment.</p> <p>The budgeting for these action plans are planned this year.</p>
117.26	Continue to strengthen and support the effectiveness of the Georgian National Preventive Mechanism	Denmark	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>As a result of the legislative reforms that aimed to strengthen the mandate of national prevention mechanism, the public defender of Georgia and the member of the special prevention group have been allowed to take a photo at the penitentiary system from September 1, 2016. Apart from this, it is allowed to photograph the areas where defendants/convicted persons are directly placed, medical centers, food areas, showers and toilets for the common use, meeting rooms and walking areas.</p> <p>The above mentioned will promote the effective implementation of prevention and monitoring function by the national prevention mechanism, it will guarantee the transparency of the penitentiary system and increase the awareness of the public as well. The right to photograph will notably improve the documenting process of the facts of the torture and inhuman treatment which is essential for an effective investigation of such crimes.</p> <p>It should be noted that according to the Public Defender of Georgia, the above-mentioned change is the step forward towards the protection of rights of defendants/convicted persons, including towards prevention of torture and inhuman treatment.</p>
117.27	Take all measures in further implementing the Action Plan for the	Indonesia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is	Governmental Action Plan on Human Rights for 2018-2020 was approved by the Government of Georgia on April 17, 2018. The action plan, which includes 28 thematic chapters, is the main instrument for the implementation of the Georgian

	Protection of Human Rights in Georgia, in particular by allocating sufficient funding from its national budget		in the process of implementation .	National Strategy on Human Rights for 2014-2020. The action plan for 2018-2020 is the third policy document which was adopted by the Government after the approval of the strategy. The budgeting of an action plan is planned this year with the support of the EU and UN Joint Project "Human Rights for all". It should be noted that the budgeting of the previous action plan for 2016-2017 was implemented within the framework of this project.
117.28	Continue implementing the national strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights	Tajikistan	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.27 and 117.32.</i>
117.29	Promote new actions and initiatives to continue progressing in its efforts to implement the National Human Rights Strategy	Turkmenistan	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendation 117.27.</i>
117.30	Consider instituting an action plan that defines measures to prevent and combat discrimination on different grounds in all levels of governance in the country	Serbia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	Governmental Action Plan on Human Rights (2016-2017) was approved by the Government Decree N338 on July 21, 2016. This document includes aims, objectives and activities, which should be implemented by government agencies in order to combat and prevent discrimination on different grounds. Governmental Action Plan on Human Rights for 2018-2020 was approved by the Government Decree N182 on April 17, 2018. This action plan includes measures from the Government that aim to combat and prevent discrimination on the different grounds. The following topics are highlighted in this regard: investigation and prosecution of the crimes committed on the

				<p>basis of discrimination and hate crimes; awareness raising campaigns on hate crimes and crimes committed on the basis of discrimination; elimination of the discriminatory recordings in the national legislation; ensuring equal treatment of persons with disabilities and their full involvement in the society; ensuring equality of the persons with disabilities and non-discriminatory treatment; promoting implementation of the labor law and prohibiting all forms of discrimination, as well as harmonizing Georgian legislation with the legal instruments of gender equality; ensuring gender equality and women empowerment; protection of rights of national/ethnic minorities and promoting their civil integration; improving religious freedom, tolerance and neutrality; protecting the rights of internally displaced persons in the occupied territories and along the occupation line, etc.</p> <p><i>For additional information see also 117.7 recommendation.</i></p>
117.31	Analyse the possibility of establishing a national system of follow-up to international recommendations	Paraguay	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>In order to adequately implement the recommendations made by Human Rights Treaty Bodies, those recommendations are included in the human rights action plan which is approved by the Government of Georgia in accordance with the National Strategy (2014-2020).</p> <p>Interagency council, which is chaired by the Prime-Minister, coordinates and monitors the implementation process. Members of the council include ministers and public defender, with non-governmental organizations having the right to vote. In order to effectively implement the action plan, Secretariat of the Human rights has been established within the Governmental Administration.</p> <p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs is systematically observing the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations.</p>

117.32	<p>Ensure effective implementation of the laws on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and gender equality, including by putting in place effective enforcement mechanisms and raising awareness about the provisions of the legislation</p>	Slovenia	<p>In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .</p>	<p>Fight against crime committed on the grounds of discrimination is one of the main priorities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. In order to improve the quality of investigation of these offenses, on January 12, 2018, the MIA established the Human Rights Protection Department. (see 117.7)</p> <p>In order to increase the awareness of employees and improve their professionalism in the sphere of human rights, the following subjects are taught in the framework of all basic programs at the MIA Academy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights • Police in multiethnic society • Community oriented police • Prohibition of discrimination and gender equality • Domestic violence <p>In April, 2018 the Government of Georgia approved as stand-alone documents the Action Plan 2018-2020 on Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and the Action Plan 2018-2020 on the Measures to be Implemented for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors.</p> <p>National framework documents include the unified coherent measures corresponding the state policy and directed at prevention of violence against women and domestic violence as well as at the needs of women residing the war affected territories and administrative boundary line.</p> <p>Goals, objectives and activities set forth in the Action Plans echoes UN Sustainable Development Goals 5th and 16th, recommendations issued by the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW),</p>
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				<p>UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Its Causes and Consequences and corresponds with the requirements of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention).</p> <p>In the drafting process of the Action Plans 2018-2020 the experience from elaboration, implementation and evaluation of past years' Action Plans as well as reports and recommendations of the Public Defender has been analyzed in details. Representatives of the responsible state agencies, civil society and international organizations have been actively involved in the drafting process of the Action Plans.</p> <p>Consultations have been held with the war affected internally displaced women and the women residing the villages adjacent to the administrative boundary line. Recommendations of direct beneficiaries including victims of violence have been taken into consideration.</p> <p>Indicators, baseline and target values for goals and objectives have been defined in order to effectively implement the Action Plans. The Action Plans derive from and correspond with the timeframe of the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights.</p> <p>In June, 2017 the statute of the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence was approved by the Government Decree (N286) and for the first time the institutional mechanism on gender equality issues was established within the executive branch of power (for the detailed information regarding this Commission please refer to the recommendation 117.40).</p> <p>It is noteworthy that several ministries have recently assigned the persons or departments in charge of gender equality issues. Among them: the Ministry of Regional Development and</p>
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				<p>Infrastructure of Georgia, where a person responsible for the gender equality issues was assigned in order to study gender equality issues and to plan and coordinate the activities; the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia, where there is an adviser to the Minister on Gender Equality issues; the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, which established the Human Rights Protection Department carrying out monitoring of the investigation and administrative proceedings on the cases of domestic violence, violence against women, discrimination and hate crimes, human trafficking, crimes committed by juveniles or crimes where the victims are juveniles, etc.</p> <p>Gender Equality Councils have been established within the local governments and gender advisors have been assigned in certain municipalities. As of today, Gender Equality Councils exist in 41 municipalities.</p> <p>The Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia regularly provides information to the municipalities regarding international recommendations, recommendations issued by other agencies and amendments to the Georgian legislation related to gender equality issues as well as human rights protection. The Ministry periodically requests information from the municipalities regarding the existing situation and the measures implemented by the municipalities regarding gender equality issues.</p> <p>With the initiative of the Ministry of Infrastructure of Georgia expected social impact criteria has been provided for in the second filter of project evaluation in the Guideline on Development of Regional Development Strategy Action Plan. This includes the issue of reduction of the gender imbalance and it has been indicated that the project which is expected to</p>
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				<p>have a wide positive impact on people's social situation will gain a high score, while the project with little expected positive impact – low score. Evidently, this criterion was used in 2016 during the selection of the projects to be funded from the Fund of the Projects to be Implemented in the Regions of Georgia. The Governmental Commission for Regional Development of Georgia logistically supported by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia had issued relevant recommendations regarding these projects.</p> <p>Since 2015, the position of gender advisor has been existing within the Tbilisi City Hall which cooperates with government agencies as well as non-governmental and international organizations. The main directions and priorities of its activities are development of gender strategy, implementation of the teaching system for the employees working of gender issues as well as organizing charitable activities aimed at solving the problems of women and children.</p> <p>In addition to the above-mentioned, in December, 2016 civil servants responsible on gender issues were appointed and Gender Council consisting of members of local government (Sakrebulo) was established by the Tbilisi Sakrebulo Decree #26-80 of 1 November, 2016. The Action Plan of the Gender Strategy adopted in 2017 was developed by the Gender Council and employees in charge of gender issues.</p> <p>The purpose of the Strategy is to support equal participation of men and women in local governance, equal and effective realization of their rights and opportunities. The Strategy is based on the principles of gender equality in all fields of municipal and public life and determines relevant measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination based on sex.</p> <p><i>For additional information please also see recommendations 117.7, 117.20, 117.43, 117.44, 117.45 and 117.46.</i></p>
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117.33	<p>Include in the implementation of its anti-discrimination legislation effective measures that strengthen religious tolerance, gender equality and equal rights for ethnic minorities, women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, so as to increase tolerance and social inclusion in Georgian society</p>	Netherlands	<p>In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .</p>	<p>Provision of equality, ensuring civic integration, protection of identity and further strengthening of a tolerant environment is one of the top priorities for the Government of Georgia. A whole range of laws within the Georgian legislation and other mechanisms serve precisely to the state's obligation to protect minorities from discrimination and ensure their full-fledged participation in all spheres of public life. One of the main instruments of civic integration policy is the State Strategy for <i>Civic Equality and Integration and Action Plan for 2015-2020</i> which is under implementation.</p> <p>Civic Equality and Integration Strategy targets at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal and full-fledged participation in civic and political life; • Creating equal social and economic conditions and opportunities; • Improving access to quality education and increasing state language knowledge; • Preservation of culture of ethnic minorities and establishment of tolerant environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new strategy builds upon earlier experiences and introduces some new approaches to work efficiently towards its goals; - It foresees more interaction with majority as well, considering that the civil integration is a process that spans the whole society; - It gives special attention to improving access of ethnic minorities to decision making and public services, including by overcoming language barriers; - Programs and projects for improving knowledge of state language will be enhanced; - The Strategy envisages protection of cultural rights of

				<p>smaller ethnic minorities groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender mainstreaming is singled out as an important dimension; - I stresses the concrete steps in the further process of social-economic integration of vulnerable groups, among them Roma. <p>Various programs/projects and activities within the above-mentioned directions are introduced in 2015-2020 Action Plan.</p> <p><i>Also see recommendations 117.103, 117.7, 117.20, 117.30, 117.32, 117.43, 117.44, 117.45 and 117.46 .</i></p>
117.34	Improve the implementation of the anti-discrimination law, including disseminating the information on its provisions to the public as well as the personnel of the justice and law enforcement systems and strengthen the role of the Ombudsperson in this regard	Czech Republic	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.7; 117.20, 117.30, 117.32, 117.43, 117.44, 117.45 and 117.46.</i>
117.35	Strengthen efforts towards promotion of gender equality	Greece	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	In June, 2017 the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence was established by the Government Decree. The mentioned institutional mechanism represents the coordination body foreseen by the Istanbul Convention, it supports the effective implementation of the functions determined for the state agencies in the field of prevention of violence against women,

				<p>including coordination of the their activities.</p> <p>Action Plans for 2018-2020 were developed for women's empowerment and gender equality where the detailed measures to be implemented by the state agencies during three years (2018-2020) have been determined. The Inter-Agency Commission has elaborated Unified National Communication Strategy and Action Plan on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. The mentioned documents will contribute to the coordinated and effective work of the responsible agencies and implementation of integrated state policy for prevention of the violence against women and domestic violence.</p> <p>With the purpose to improve the capacity and competencies of the employees, the qualification raising activities of the relevant state agency employees are being actively carried out on the issues of combating violence against women and domestic violence.</p> <p><i>See also recommendation 117.32.</i></p>
117.36	Undertake further measures to improve the de facto position of women by implementing international commitments from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action, through concrete and	Iceland	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>As a result of 2017 Constitutional reform, new constitutional record has appeared which ensures equal opportunities for men and women. State takes special measures to ensure de facto equality between men an women and to eradicate inequality. (Article 11, The Right of Equality).</p> <p>New Human Rights Action Plan (2018-2020) pays particular attention to the issues of women's rights, gender equality and women empowerment.</p> <p><i>See also recommendations 117.32 and 117.46.</i></p>

	effective policies and programmes			
117.37	Continue to prioritize gender equality and consider the incorporation of international best practices in policies and legislation relating to the employment of women and combating violence against women	Singapore	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>Fight against domestic violence and violence against women is one of the main priorities of the MIA. In order to improve the quality of these activities, the MIA works in different directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention – through raising public awareness and obtaining their trust; • Instant response and prevention of violence – through existing legal mechanisms • Enhancement of qualification – trough regular trainings • Improvement of communication – through meetings with relevant institutions <p>One of the goals of the new Human Rights Protection Action Plan (for years 2018-2020) is the protection of labour right in accordance with the internationally recognized standards.</p> <p><i>For additional information please also see recommendations 117.6, 117.32 and 117.35.</i></p>
117.38	Make further efforts to ensure human rights for women and develop effective mechanisms for the monitoring, investigation and punishment of offenders in cases of	Republic of Korea	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>The MIA has been implementing reforms in the sphere of police activities and human rights (see 117.7). Analytical capacities of the information-analytical department has been enhanced in the process of reforms implementation. The project of the “Community officer” is underway, which provides immediate detection and supervision of cases of violence against women.</p> <p>Furthermore, following strategic directions aiming at effective</p>

	violence against women			<p>application of criminal justice mechanism against domestic crime and prevention thereof were outlined in the Strategy Paper for 2017-2021 and Action Plan of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia adopted in January 2017: existence of legislation corresponding to international standards; to improve mechanisms for identifying cases of domestic crime and violence against women; to increase public awareness about domestic crime and violence against women; to conduct effective investigation of criminal cases; to reduce domestic crime and violence against women; to raise qualification of the employees of the Prosecutor's Office; in addition, to enhance relations with other institutions and engage public in preventive actions.</p> <p>Prosecutor's Office actively works to accomplish the goals set by the Strategy Paper. Recommendation of international organizations was taken into account and in 2017 the Human Rights Division was designated as a unit responsible within the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of Georgia for the matters of domestic violence and violence against women.</p> <p><i>See also 117.6, 117.39 and 117.46 recommendations.</i></p>
117.39	Take all necessary measures to promote women's rights and fight domestic violence and forced marriages	France	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	The Department for Supervision over Prosecutorial Activities and Strategy Development of the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of Georgia, as well as the Human Rights Division constantly monitor the cases of domestic crime and violence against women and carry out annual analysis, within which statistical data is processed. Furthermore, quality of investigation and prosecutorial activities are evaluated. As a result of monitoring, guidelines for prosecutors are planned to be updated, necessities for trainings and preventive actions are determined. Prosecutor's Office maintains strict criminal justice policy against individuals charged with domestic crime. As a result of improving the quality of prosecutorial

				<p>supervision, the index of crime reports from victims of domestic crime significantly increased and, therefore, so did the number of criminal prosecutions.</p> <p>In 2014 criminal prosecution was launched against 550 individuals for domestic crime, while the number reached 1066 in 2015, 1356 - in 2016 and 1986 - in 2017. Prosecutor's Office still maintains strict criminal justice policy against individuals charged with domestic crime. The number of requests of prosecutors on application of detention as a measure of constraint has increased. In 2014 detention was requested against 14% of individuals charged with domestic crime, while the number reached 26% in 2015, 54% - in 2016, and 83% - in 2017. As for the number of granting requests on applying detention as a measure of constraint for domestic crime, it was 83% in 2014, 70% in - 2015, 52% - in 2016, and 58% - in 2017. The index of concluded plea bargains with perpetrators of domestic crime was decreased. In 2014 plea bargains were concluded with 57.4% of individuals charged with domestic crime, when the number was 50.9% in 2015, 50.3% - in 2016 and only 42.1% - in 2017 (while the general index of plea bargains amounted 70.4% in 2017).</p> <p>Diversion is rarely applied towards perpetrators of domestic crime. Namely, diversion was applied towards 19 perpetrators (including seven adults, seven minors, and five - individuals from 18 to 21) of domestic crime in 2016, while it was applied only against 5 individuals (including two adults, one minor, and two - individuals from 18 to 21) in 2017.</p> <p>A conference on the topic of domestic crime was held at the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of Georgia with the support of the UN Women on October 25, 2017. The Prosecutor's Office presented an analysis of domestic crime and femicides. The participants were informed about the criminal justice policy</p>
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				<p>implemented towards abusers as well as regarding activities and preventive measures carried out for effective combatting against violence. The cases were studied into two major directions: the criminology part, within which individuals reporting the offense were identified as well as crime scene, circumstances, relationship between the victim and the defendant and personal characteristics of victims and defendants were established; the efficiency of investigation (part), within which it was revealed how timely the response is, how adequate and effective investigative actions are, what the position of victims on launching criminal prosecution/terminating investigation is, are final decisions on the case made correctly and in a timely manner or not. In 2017, the recommendation for prosecutors regarding carrying out necessary investigative and procedural actions in cases of domestic crime and domestic violence was updated; Goal of the recommendation is to conduct comprehensive investigation into the facts of violence, exercise efficient procedural guidance and ensure making of a well-grounded decision. In the recommendation, a separate chapter was dedicated to outlining the motive for gender discrimination. (See. 117.7 Recommendation).</p> <p><i>See also 117.6, 117.7, 117.10, 117.20, 117.35, 117.38 and 117.46 recommendations.</i></p>
117.40	Continue to implement measures to promote the participation of women in society	Japan	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>In June, 2017, the Statute of the Inter-agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence was approved by the Government Decree (N286) and for the first time the institutional mechanism working on gender equality issues was created within the executive branch of power.</p> <p>The chair of the Inter-Agency Commission is the assistant to the Prime-Minister on human rights and gender equality issues</p>

				<p>and the co-chair of the Commission is the Deputy Minister of Justice. Composition of the Commission is formed by the representatives of state agencies as well as the Public Defender's Office, the Legal Aid Service, the Public Broadcaster, the Gender Equality Council of the Parliament and the Supreme Court.</p> <p>The Inter-Agency Commission is authorized: to prepare and submit to the Government for approval the Action Plans on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence; the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on "women, peace and security" and proposals for the implementation of these documents as well as to carry out within its authority the monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plans, to support the responsible agencies in collection and analysis of gender segregated data. In addition to the development of the policy on gender equality and combatting the violence against women the important objective of the Commission is to carry out the functions of the national monitoring mechanism foreseen by the Istanbul Convention.</p> <p>The Inter-Agency Commission within its mandate is planning to support the implementation of gender mainstreaming and effective policy within the executive branch of power.</p> <p>In April, 2018 the Government of Georgia approved the Action Plan for Human Rights, which includes a separate chapter on gender equality and women's empowerment.</p> <p>During the work on the document the gaps revealed during the implementation of the last action plan were analyzed and the measures to be implemented by the agencies, according to international obligations and recommendations, were determined.</p>
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				Together with other important measures, the document incorporates measures to be implemented in 2018-2020 in order to promote women's engagement and participation in public life.
117.41	Take measures in order to combat hate speech and xenophobia	Namibia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.7, 117.20, 117.43, 117.44, 117.45, 117.46 and 118.3.</i>
117.42	Address proactively issues of racial and all forms of discrimination in Georgia	Nigeria	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	Newly established Human Rights Department in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia (See paragraph 117.7), in its competence, ensures monitoring of investigations of crimes committed on the grounds of discrimination. Furthermore, in accordance with legal amendments and existing challenges, it is planned to elaborate, implement and periodically refine, the methodology handbook of investigation of abovementioned crimes in order to improve quality of investigation. Moreover, it is planned to identify and specialize investigators on the issues regarding investigation of domestic and hate-motivated crimes. In addition, in the MIA Academy, these issues are embodied in basic training, retraining and in promotion programs. Policemen are regularly trained and retrained. <i>See also recommendations 117.6, 117.7, 117.43, 117.44, 117.45 and 117.46.</i>
117.43	Address violence and hate speech against religious minorities	Nigeria	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is	In 2017, similar to the previous year, combating hate crime was still a priority for the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia. In 2017, a special questionnaire prescribing instructions for interviewing/interrogating possible victim, defendant and

			<p>in the process of implementation .</p>	<p>witness of hate crime was created. The purpose of elaborating the questionnaire was to ensure efficient implementation of the hate crime recommendation developed for prosecutors in practice. The questionnaire was forwarded to the employees of the prosecution system, which resulted in improved quality and efficiency of the measures carried out with the aim to outline hate motive in criminal cases. In 2017, hate motive was examined within the scope of 86 criminal cases. Namely, sexual orientation element was examined within 12 criminal cases, gender identity – 37 cases, sex/gender – 25 cases, nationality – 1 case, ethnicity – 1 case and religion – 10 cases.</p> <p>In 2017, criminal prosecution was launched against 44 individuals for committing hate crime. 4 of them were charged with hate crime based on sexual orientation, another 4 – with gender identity-based hate crime, 2 of them – with religion-based hate crime, 25 of them – with sex/gender-based hate crime, 9 of them - with various hate crimes (alleged element - gender identity - 6 individuals, sexual orientation - 1 individual, religion - 2 individuals). It should be noted that, according to 2016 data, the number of persons prosecuted for hate crimes has doubled in 2017. Moreover, if in 2016 prosecutors used to indicate only sexual orientation in indictments as a ground of offense, in 2017 there is a progress in this regard. In particular, aside from the aforementioned basis, various individuals were indicted for intolerance toward gender identity. All of this indicates that the awareness of prosecutors on hate crimes has raised and, in addition, techniques to identify motive in course of investigation has improved.</p> <p>Within the obligations under the Government’s Human Rights Action Plan, the MIA and the MIA Academy in cooperation with the State Agency for Religious Issues planned and conducted training on “Secularism and Religious Neutrality”. The training covered issues such as:</p>
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State policy on religion, concordat, establishment of State Agency on Religious Issues, its functions and activities, funding of religious confessions; • Overview of religions in Georgia; • Right to freedom of religion in national and international legislations; • Inadmissibility of discrimination and investigation of crimes committed on the grounds of religious beliefs; • Review of the European Court decisions; • Positive and negative obligations of state. <p>On 20 April 2017 by the Decree N200 the Government of Georgia approved the ethic and general ruled of conduct in civil service. The Code of Ethics contains relevant regulatory norms about the prohibition of hate speech and sexual harassment. The Code defines prohibition of sexual harassment, as well as its identification and prevention issues in a detailed manner.</p> <p>In addition, State Agency for Religious Issues, in inter-agency consultative format, based on the informations received in this direction, with the engagement of religious minorities, cooperates actively with responsible bodies, prepares proposals and recommendations on the elimination of all forms of discrimination, in order to promote effectively implementation and enforcement of the law.</p> <p><i>See also recommendations 117.44, 117.45, 117.46, 117.49 and 117.94.</i></p>
117.44	Take all necessary measures to effectively fight against discrimination, including against	France	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p><i>See also recommendations 117.43, 117.45, 117.46 and 117.49.</i></p> <p>In addition to fight against discrimination trainings within basic training programs, in close cooperation with local NGOs and international organization, qualification courses for law enforcement officers are permanently underway.</p>

	religious minorities and LGBTI persons			On December 2017, in the framework of EU-supported project “LGBT solidarity network in Georgia and Armenia”, Human Rights and Monitoring Center (EMC) organized training on LGBT rights for the MIA Academy trainers and the MIA employees. The training aimed at increasing effectiveness of investigation of crimes committed on the grounds of hatred and improving prevention methods.
117.45	Development of training programmes for judges, personnel of the judiciary, penitentiaries and police forces, regarding the implementation and interpretation of the laws criminalizing racism-related offences	Chile	In 2015 Georgia stated that it’s already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>In the framework of the High School of Justice In-service Training Program for Judges and other Court Staff a training for judges on the topic – “Prohibition of Discrimination – Domestic Legislation and International Standards”, is conducted annually. The training is carried out on the basis of a training module on the topic of combating discrimination which was elaborated by the High School of Justice in collaboration with Union “Sapari”. In 2016-2017 three trainings were organized on this topic for judges, in which 28 judges participated.</p> <p>Apart from this, in 2017 the High School of Justice with the support of the Council of Europe (CoE) has developed a training module on the topic – “Efficient Review of Hate-crime-related Cases”. After elaborating the module, the foreign experts conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) for Georgian judges, after which the latter conducted a pilot training in which 13 judges participated.</p> <p>Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) signed a Memorandum on implementation of the so-called PAHCT (Prosecutors and Hate Crimes Training) programme in 2016. Based on the Memorandum, 24 prosecutors from various structural units of the Prosecutor’s Office were trained on the topic of identifying and effectively investigating hate crimes in 2017; these prosecutors later conducted cascade trainings for the employees of the Prosecutor’s Office, including intern-prosecutors. Moreover, matters included in the syllabus of the</p>

			<p>programme is a part of mandatory trainings for intern-prosecutors. As for the essence of the programme itself, trainings include the following topics: the concept of hate crime, indicators of partiality and launching investigation on hate crimes, Georgian legislation in terms of hate crime, international and regional standards, factors hindering prosecution, evidence of a motive. The training largely focuses on practical exercises, which help trainees to better comprehend the importance of crimes of the said category and characteristics of criminal justice procedures related thereto. On the topic of European standards of prohibition of all forms of discriminations, a training program is developed in cooperation with the Council of Europe and a team of trainers of the prosecution system are retrained. 12 trainings were organized on the topic of combating discrimination in 2016. 264 representatives, such as intermediary managers, prosecutors, system investigators, interns, and witness and victim coordinators from all territorial bodies and structural units of the prosecution system completed professional training. Among them, 20 prosecutors completed a distance training course on the topic of prohibition of discrimination with the help of the HELP programme. 4 trainings were organized at the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of Georgia on the topic of communication with persons with disabilities, under which prosecutors, investigators from the prosecution system and witness and victim coordinators were trained. In course of the training, the trainees were familiarized with the topic of rights of persons with disabilities, local legislation and international standards. In addition, the training was aimed to improve trainees' skills for communication with persons with disabilities and to build appropriate attitudes. Moreover, in cooperation with the Office of the Public Defender and ODIHR, 2 additional trainings were held for prosecutors and investigators of the prosecution system on the topic of effective investigation and criminal prosecution of hate crimes, in which</p>
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				<p>42 individuals participated in total. In 2017, 13 trainings were organized on the topic of discriminations, under which 257 representatives of all territorial bodies and structural units of the prosecution system were retrained. Among them were intermediary managers, prosecutors, investigators from the Prosecutor's Office. All prosecutors and investigators are gradually being trained in this regard. Additionally, a training course for prosecutors on the topic 'Hate Crimes' was developed in 2016 in cooperation with ODIHR and was introduced in the beginning of 2017. Besides, with the engagement of internal trainers and the Office of the Public Defender, two groups underwent the training. Prosecutors and investigators of the system were trained under the said programme. On top of that, 3 study visits were organized on the topic of hate crimes with the support of the Council of Europe and ODIHR. Among them, practice of the United Kingdom was shared and 2 trainings were organized for trainers. 10 representatives from the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia participated in these activities. Training programs for combating discrimination and 'Hate Crimes' are integrated in the preparatory courses for intern-prosecutors. Two groups of intern-prosecutors were retrained in 2017 and in total 62 individuals attended the trainings. In 2017, a training for prosecutors on the topic of combating hate crimes was held in cooperation with Heinrich Böll Foundation, Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC) and Women's Initiatives Supporting Group (WISG).</p> <p><i>See also recommendation 117.46.</i></p>
117.46	Provide appropriate services with the necessary resources, including to train and raise the awareness of the	Belgium	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation.	<p>On 11-12 February 2017, the training on "European Anti-Discrimination Legal Framework" was held at the Supreme Court of Georgia. The judges and judicial assistants participated in the training.</p> <p>On 25-26 May 2017, the training on "Prohibition of</p>

	<p>judiciary and the public, in order to ensure that these new measures adopted to fight racial discrimination or gender/sexual identity discrimination are effective</p>			<p>discrimination under Article 14 and Article 1 of Protocol No12 of European Convention on Human Rights and Article 14 of the Constitution of Georgia” was conducted at the Supreme Court of Georgia. The judicial assistants as well as representatives of the Analytical Department of the Supreme Court of Georgia participated in the training.</p> <p>Besides that, the High School of Justice in the framework of the In-service Training Program for Sitting Judges and other Court Staff, annually conducts a training on the topic of gender equality. The training is carried out on the basis of a training module, which the High School of Justice has elaborated in cooperation with the East-West Management Institute (EWMI) - Judicial Independence and Legal Empowerment Project (JILEP), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the UN Women. In 2016-2017 three trainings were organized for judges on the topic – “Supporting justice through gender equality” in which 37 sitting judges participated.</p> <p>Since 2015, Ministry of Internal Affairs has been implementing an educational project, namely “Maintenance of Law and Crime Prevention Program for Public Schools”. In the very program, pupils from non-Georgian language public schools participate as well. The project aims to raise awareness among the youth about various types of crime, such as, trafficking, early marriage, cybercrime, being a member of thieves in a law circle etc. Within the frames of the project representatives of Central Criminal Police Department held informational-interactive meetings with 3000 pupils from private and public school around the county.</p> <p>During the reporting academic year, pupils visited administrative buildings of the MIA Academy, Emergency Response Center “112” Forensic-Criminallistics Department and territorial agencies. The MIA representatives introduced</p>
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			<p>pupils to specificities of policing and modern technologies of revealing, investigating and eliminating crime.</p> <p>With beginning of every academic year, “Legal Development Program” is being implemented in 40 public schools. The project envisions teaching of predefined course 'legal culture' for 9th grade pupils from the selected schools.</p> <p>Schoolteachers and law-enforcers are involved in the study process. The lessons are interactive, contains role games and is aimed at awareness raising of the children about their rights and responsibilities in areas like law and justice.</p> <p>The course “Legal Culture” encompasses the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Juvenile and the law; 2. Violence (domestic violence; bullying at schools); 3. Bad habits and preventing negative consequences of them; 4. Organized crime (trafficking, illicit trade of narcotic drugs and arms)' 5. Legal proceedings; <p>For 2017 academic year, aforementioned program has been implemented in public schools of Adjara, Samegrelo, Shida Kartli and Kakheti alongside 32 public schools of Tbilisi with the engagement of 27 police officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duisi – 4 police officers; • Zugdidi – 6 police officers; • Gori – 10 police officers; • Tbilisi – 7 police officers; <p><i>For additional information see also recommendations 117.43, 117.44, 117.45, 117.46 and 117.49.</i></p>
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117.47	Combat social stigmatization, hate speech, discrimination and violence motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity	Argentina	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.7, 117.20, 117.43, 117.44, 117.45, 117.46 and 117.49.</i>
117.48	Improve implementation and enforcement of the Law on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, particularly in its application towards the protection of individuals belonging to sexual and religious minority groups	Canada	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.7, 117.20, 117.43. 117.44, 117.45, 117.46 and 117.94.</i>
117.49	Support public education campaigns to combat hate speech, discrimination and violence related to sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as social stigmatization of LGBT persons	Brazil	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>The Youth Policy Management Department of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia was implementing "Youth Council of Europe Campaign against Hate Speech in Internet Space" in 2016-2017. The campaign was initiated by the Council of Europe in 2012. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness about hate speech and its threats and increase the involvement of young people against any discrimination in the Internet.</p> <p>Within the framework of the campaign, in 2016, information materials were printed such as t-shirts, brochures, badges and others. The products were distributed at various events</p>

				<p>organized by different youth NGOs.</p> <p>Georgian analogue of the campaign official website was also created. As a result of co-operation with the Public Defender's Office, the website has the function to identify the message of hate speech, which is then sent to the Public Defender's Office for analysis. A short video was created to raise awareness about the campaign, which was shared and spread in the social network. The website is intended for young people living in Georgia.</p> <p>The Ministry (in particular, LEPL National Center for Teacher Professional Development) actively cooperates with the Council of Europe in carrying out educational programs. The Center coordinates the activities of the Charter for Democratic Citizenship Education and Human Rights Studies, as well as the introduction of Competences for Democratic Culture in the Georgian educational context. Joint international project of European Union and Council of Europe (2015-2017) within the framework of the project Support for Democratic Citizenship Education and Human Rights In the Eastern Partnership countries, the Council of Europe trainers conducted 100-hour training in two stages. Cooperation has been achieved with almost all higher education institutions of Georgia, which carry out teacher training programs. With the assistance of the Council of Europe trainers, new syllabuses were created; after reviewing the existed curriculum bachelor's and master's degree syllabuses were prepared, more than 10 training modules were developed.</p> <p>In 2017, with the aim of raising awareness about violence against women and domestic violence, the Training Center of Justice of Georgia organized trainings for 92 groups with total of 1071 participants (889 women/182 men).</p> <p><i>For additional information see recommendations 117.20 and</i></p>
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				117.46.
117.50	Strengthen its policy aimed at preventing torture, ill-treatment and other cruel or inhumane treatment by the sentence-execution officers in Georgian penitentiary establishments	Bulgaria	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>In an effort to prevent torture, ill-treatment and other cruel or inhumane treatment, along with the improvement of the internal control mechanism at the Ministry of Corrections, steps were made to expand the authority of the Public Defender; namely as a result of a coordinated work with the Apparatus of the Public Defender of Georgia, the Order №123 of the Minister of Corrections 'On the implementation of the right to take photos inside the penitentiary establishments by the Public Defender and the Special Preventive Team' was enforced as of 1 September 2016.</p> <p>The Ministry of Corrections of Georgia also takes into account the requirements underlying international standards and with the purpose of implementing the requirements of the Istanbul Protocol, the Ministry of Corrections, with active participation of the EU experts, translated the relevant document into Georgian and carried out its complete analysis. Based on the analysis of the mentioned document, on 26 October 2016 the Minister of Corrections of Georgia issued the Order №131 approving the manual on Documentation of the injuries suffered as a result of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment at the penitentiary establishments.</p> <p>Pre-trial/sentenced inmates are guaranteed to exercise their right of filing complaints as prescribed by the Imprisonment Code of Georgia. Pre-trial/sentenced inmates can file complaints to the relevant authorized authorities and the Common Courts. Complaints boxes are available in all penitentiary establishments.</p> <p>The Early Conditional Release Mechanism has been further improved and become more effective as a result of the</p>

				<p>amendments enforced as of 01 June 2017. Namely: the court is authorized to revoke the decision made by the Local Council of the Ministry of Corrections of Georgia and order the Local Council to deliver decision on granting early conditional release or to deliver decision on commutation of the unserved part of the sentence with a more lenient sentence.</p> <p><i>See also recommendation 117.51.</i></p>
117.51	<p>Enhance efforts to ensure compliance with international standards as set out in the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</p>	Hungary	<p>In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .</p>	<p>Based on the Order №55 of the Minister of Correction issued on 25 June 2015, the Systemic Monitoring Unit of the General Inspection of the Ministry was set up to ensure implementation of systemic monitoring of the sphere under the governance of the Ministry, to process information obtained as a result of the monitoring and prepare relevant reports. The Systemic Monitoring Unit is also responsible for analysing the gaps and problems identified during the systemic monitoring, to prepare relevant recommendations for eradicating these problems and presenting them to the Minister.</p> <p>On 23 December 2016, amendments were introduced to the Order №55 of the Minister of Corrections of Georgia 'On the approval of the Statute of the General Inspection of Ministry of Corrections of Georgia'. Based on the amendments, one more structural unit was added to the General Inspection of the Ministry – the Medical Services Quality Control Unit (Healthcare Quality Control Unit). The main function of this Unit is to control the quality of penitentiary healthcare and ensure that adequate medical services are provided in the penitentiary establishments, which will further improve identification of the signs of ill-treatment and relevant response.</p> <p>In 2017 a recommendation was developed for the employees of</p>

				<p>the prosecution system on investigating ill-treatment committed by an official or a person holding an equivalent position with the aim to address the issue of criminal qualification of the facts of ill-treatment properly and to introduce appropriate practice. This document provides an overview on the matters related to distinguishing excess of official powers, torture, threat of torture, degrading or inhuman treatment from each other and key standards established by the European Court of Human Rights.</p> <p>An expert from the Council of Europe studied the recommendation and positively assessed it in general (notes and suggestions of the expert were taken into account). This document played a positive part in the process of appropriate criminal qualification of ill-treatment cases. In 2017 in cooperation with the European Union and the Council of Europe, 39 prosecutors and investigators underwent training on the topic of torture and ill-treatment. The training concerned Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights and its interpretations, the issues related to criminal qualification of ill-treatment, standards of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT).</p> <p>With the aim to strengthen skills and abilities of police officers, the MIA Academy constantly implements awareness-raising policy regarding torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. These issues are embodied in basic training, retraining and in promotion programs. In basic trainings lecturing hours about torture, inhuman and degrading treatment have increased. During the training special attention is given to prohibition of torture in absolute manner and to discussions of precedents in European Court of Justice. The significant topics are talked over, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structure of the norm prohibiting torture;
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The essence of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment and the differences and ambitions between them; • The admissibility of evidence acquired through torture; • The duty of Law Enforcement Agencies on immediate, objective and effective conduct of investigation; • In the case of mistreatment, imposition of the burden of proof to the state; • Negative and positive obligations of the country on the prohibition of torture. The significant role of the Police in fighting against mistreatment; <p>During 2016 January to 2018 May, 67 employees of Temporary Detention Department went through special short-term course established at MIA Academy. The abovementioned course was partly conducted distantly. Until the end of 2018, all employees of Temporary Detention Isolators will be retrained.</p> <p>2017 in Borjomi, with the organization of The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and MIA Academy study visit about prohibition of discrimination, torture and inhuman treatment was conducted. 13 employees of MIA Temporary Detention Department participated in the study visit.</p> <p>In August of 2016, MIA Temporary Detention Isolators new statute and internal regulation came into force. Internal regulation includes detailed instruction for notification of alleged mistreatment by employees. According to the instruction, in those detention facilities where medical unit operates, medical worker is making decision to notify the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia based on the results of relevant examination. As for detention facilities without medical</p>
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				<p>personnel, the head of the isolator has an obligation to inform the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia.</p> <p>In December of 2016, with the order of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia the instruction on the medical treatment of detainees in Temporary Detention Isolators came into force. Additionally, the instruction includes the form about medical treatment of detained person upon admission to Temporary Detention Isolator. Within the framework of the joint project by the European Union and the Council of Europe, the abovementioned form has been elaborated by the international experts and complies with Istanbul Protocol. In those detention facilities where medical unit operates, the primary medical examination of detained persons are in line with the aforementioned form.</p> <p>MIA General Inspection examines all facts of alleged violation (including torture, inhuman treatment or violation of human rights) by the police, notified through hotlines ("126", "112"), along with open source or operational information. On each fact, General Inspection, within its competence, scrutinizes circumstances (including examination of the records of body cameras) and if there are signs of criminal offence, it delivers collected information to the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia. In addition, MIA General Inspection supervises that all the information about body injuries of detained person revealed by Temporary Detention Isolators will be provided to the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia.</p>
117.52 - 117.53	Adopt the necessary measures to improve the living conditions of detainees and avoid prison overcrowding	Andorra Austria	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>The activities implemented by the Ministry of Corrections since 2016:</p> <p>In order to prevent overcrowding of the penitentiary establishments, on 27 August 2015, the Minister of Corrections of Georgia issued Order №106 establishing the capacity of the</p>

			<p>establishments and setting limitations on the population of penitentiary establishments, which is in full compliance with the international legislation.</p> <p>The nutritional standards, as well as hygienic and sanitary norms for accused/convicted persons were determined by a joint order N88-Nº01-34/5 (13 August 2015) of the Minister of Corrections and the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia. These norms comprise the list of food products and caloric value for accused/convicted persons in all types of penitentiary establishments, also list of products and caloric value for persons with certain health conditions and the possibility to replace certain products with other food products. The daily food ratio also takes into account the specificities of ethnic and religious minorities.</p> <p>Prison population decreased from 24,000 to 9,500 due to various legislative measures, effective functioning of the Local Councils for Early Conditional Release and liberalization of the criminal code.</p> <p>A whole range of amendments were introduced in 2017 in an effort to further improve the early conditional release mechanism.</p> <p>An amendment was introduced in an effort to reduce the workload of the Local Councils. Based on this amendment, the decisions on granting early conditional release and commutation of sentence to a more lenient sentence for life-sentenced inmates is made by the court instead of the Local Councils as it was the case in the past.</p> <p>A new form of alternative sanction – house arrest was introduced to the criminal code of Georgia. Since the enactment of this amendment the local council of the MoC granted the</p>
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				<p>right to commute the unserved part of the sentence into house arrest with the consent of inmate, with the exception of inmates placed at the special risk establishments. The house-arrest sentence is generally enforced by means electronic monitoring.</p> <p>In accordance with the Georgian legislation, as the local councils review the cases of juveniles and female inmates, the risks and needs of their family and social environment are also assessed in compliance with the relevant form and manuals for such procedures. As of 01 December 2017, the Ministry launched family and social environment risks and needs assessment for low-risk male inmates that are in the process of preparation for release.</p> <p>MoC works actively to improve the infrastructure of penitentiary establishments, namely: ventilation, draining system, showers and electricity systems, medical units are adequately equipped pursuant to the existing norms and the sports inventory is regularly supplies.</p>
117.54	Develop a high standard of human resource management to avoid administrative infractions and human rights violations in prisons	Bosnia and Herzegovina	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>Activities that had been implemented by the Ministry of Corrections since 2016: The liberal and Human Rights based policy of the Ministry of Corrections is oriented on enhancing the qualifications of the staff employed in the penitentiary establishments and improving institutional mechanisms.</p> <p>With participation of the international experts, working on improving Human Resources Management model is ongoing within the framework of the EU technical support project. At the same time, in order to improve and maintain Human Rights standards, the Ministry regularly conducts trainings and retrainings of the staff working in the penitentiary establishments on relevant issues.</p>

				<p>The aim of the main training programs of the Penitentiary and Probation Training Center, including compulsory special trainings, certification and re-trainings of the special penitentiary service staff (as well as the 1st and 2nd level training programs of the special penitentiary service staff) is to raise awareness of listeners concerning Human Rights, prevention of torture, inhuman treatment and punishment. It will ensure protection of Human Rights, promotion of high standards of human resources management and prevention of cases of power excesses.</p> <p><i>Please, see also recommendation 117.54.</i></p>
117.55	Continue the efforts to strengthen human rights protection in penitentiary establishments	Bulgaria	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>The strategy of the Ministry of Corrections aims to improve and maintain the high standards of Human Rights in the penitentiary establishments.</p> <p>The Ministry of Corrections regularly considers the recommendations of international experts and analyzes the reports of international organizations. The protection of human rights as a priority of the Ministry is considered in all national action plans and strategies.</p>
117.56	Continue improving the conditions in prisons, particularly to focus on conditions around pretrial detention	Australia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>Please, see recommendation 117.55</i>
117.57	Provide female prisoners with long-term visits, especially taking into account the best	Croatia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of	<p>According to the Imprisonment Code of Georgia, a convicted woman can enjoy various types of visits in order to maintain relationship with family members, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term visit – is held for one to two hours. A convicted woman may enjoy 3 short term visits a month, and one

	interest of their children		implementation .	<p>additional short term visit a month as an incentive;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family visit – lasts no longer than 3 hours. A convicted woman may enjoy one family visit a month, and one additional family visit in a month as an incentive. • Video visits – lasts no longer than 15 minutes. A convicted woman may enjoy 1 video visit in 10 calendar days and one additional video visit a month as an incentive. • Long term visit- lasts no longer than 23 hours. A convicted woman may enjoy 3 long term visits a year and 2 additional long term visits a year as an incentive. Based on a written request of a convicted woman, with application of the director of the penitentiary establishment and consent of the director of the department, a long term visit of a convicted woman can be lasted for no longer than 47 hours. • If so requested by a mother, with the permission of guardianship authorities and with the consent of the administration, special conditions may be created for the mother and her child under the age of 3 to live together. Female inmates, whose children leave the facility after reaching legally imposed age limit (3 years) granted with right to leave the penitentiary establishment during official holidays and weekends for the period of one year. This right gives opportunity to a convicted woman to maintain a relationship with family members. <p>An accused woman may enjoy not more than 4 short visits a month. This right may be restricted based on a resolution of the investigator or prosecutor.</p>
117.58	Take the necessary measures to fight violence against women and domestic violence	Algeria	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p><i>For additional information see recommendations 117.6, 117.7, 117.38, 117.39, 117.46, 117.59, 117.60 and 117.63.</i></p> <p>MIA Academy implements the EU funded project “Supporting Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to Fight Domestic Violence”. The abovementioned project envisages fulfilling</p>

				activities according to the predefined schedule for 2016-2017.
117.59	Step up awareness-raising and preventive measures on the issue of domestic violence	Belarus	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>In 2016-2017 a number of events were organized under the projects 'Local Council' and 'Public Prosecutor's Office' in terms of prevention of domestic crime and violence against women and for increasing awareness. 'Local Council' is a coordinating body on the regional level. The Council is comprised on the members of law enforcement authorities, local self-government bodies, executive government, representatives of non-governmental organizations and other members of society. The key function of the Council is to discuss criminal situation in the region, to make decisions on preventive measures necessary for the region, to develop initiatives, to set a coordinated plan in cooperation with other state institutions and non-governmental sector for combating crime. 26 meetings (748 participants) were held under 'Local Council' project, covering the capital and all regions of Georgia.</p> <p>Meetings with representatives of various local state institutions and non-governmental organizations, members of municipal assemblies, representatives of villages, students of various universities, pupils, teachers and principals, local population, including members of ethnic minorities were held under the project 'Public Prosecutor's Office'. Among other matters, the activities included informing the participants about violence against women, domestic crime, sexual intercourse with a minor, early marriage, forced marriage, stalking, and other offenses and presenting statistical data, engaging them in a discourse about the causes of these offenses and measures to prevent them. Trilingual informational booklets (in Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages) 'Domestic Violence, Sexual Intercourse with a Person under 16' were handed out to the participants of the meetings. 151 similar meetings with total participants of 7600 people were held under the project 'Public Prosecutor's Office' in all regions of Georgia in 2017.</p>

				<p>Prosecutors participate in events planned not only by them but by other institutions as well.</p> <p>The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia is implementing a project ‘Supporting the MIA in Combatting Domestic Violence’, financed by the European Union. Aiming to support creating a uniform policy for prevention of domestic violence, the project envisages to organize thematic meetings in various regions of Georgia with participation of representatives from local police, prosecutor’s offices, social services agencies, courts and local municipalities, in order to create network of cooperation and improve coordination between the parties involved. Representatives of the Prosecutor’s Office, prosecutors working on the cases of violence against women and domestic violence participated in 7 meetings of similar format held in Adjara, Samegrelo, Kakheti, and Shida Kartli in 2017.</p> <p>In 2017 video clips contest ‘Teenagers against Violence’ was announced in public schools, in which 307 public schools and 2279 pupils took part. 21 video clips were selected for the final, three of which the jury nominated as the winners. Moreover, 6 meetings with pupils, 10 meetings with students and 6 meetings with population were held on this topic under the ‘Week of Victims’.</p> <p>The MIA Academy implements the EU funded project “Supporting Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to Fight Domestic Violence”. In order to support elaboration of unified policy for prevention domestic violence, along creation of cooperation network and ensure better coordination of parties, the project envisages organization of thematic meetings in Georgia’s regions with engagement of the representatives of the local police, the prosecutor, Social Service Agency, the court and local municipality. In 2017 seven meetings were held in</p>
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			<p>this format in Adjara, Samegrelo, Kakheti and Shida Kartli. The representatives of the office of the prosecutor, prosecutors working on domestic violence and violence against women cases were involved in the abovementioned meetings.</p> <p>Apart from this, the website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia has information on legal mechanisms against domestic violence, along with information on MIA Hotline 112 and consultation hotline for citizens and for the victims of domestic violence.</p> <p>LEPL - State Fund for Protection and Assistance for Victims of Human Trafficking, in November 2017 launched a campaign with the slogan "open your Eyes", which will continue in 2018. The main goal of the campaign is to inform the public about the national DV hotline (116-006).</p> <p>Within the framework of the campaign, the web site www.sheachere.ge was created, which allows users to stop violence based on their own actions. Using a web camera and eye-catching technology, the web site can stop or continues a scene of domestic violence; within the campaign, video clips and as well as external advertising materials were created and distributed.</p> <p>National Communication Strategy and the Action Plan on violence against women and domestic violence were drafted in 2018-2020. These documents will promote coordinated and effective work of the responsible agencies, as well as, the implementation of the unified policy towards prevention of the violence against women and domestic violence.</p> <p>In 2017 the High School of Justice, in cooperation with the Council of Europe (CoE) and the UN Women, has elaborated a training module on the topic – violence against women and</p>
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			<p>domestic violence. In the process of developing the module an expert from the UN Women and the Georgian judge-experts nominated by the High School of Justice were involved. After developing the training module, the expert from the partner organization conducted a training of trainers (ToT) for the judges involved in the process and the latter conducted a pilot training for sitting judges in which 13 judges participated.</p> <p>In order to promote the awareness raising about the issues on violence against women and domestic violence, 92 various target groups, in total 1071 participants, have been retrained by LEPL The Training Center of Justice of Georgia (889 women/182 men), in 2017.</p> <p>As of February 2017, the Ministry of Justice of Georgia launched an awareness-raising campaign 'Act On'. The aim of the social campaign is to raise public awareness about the current legal/institutional mechanisms to combat violence against women and domestic violence. In the framework of the campaign, the Ministry of Justice held trainings (78 groups, 886 participants), made three videos, announced a poster competition and built an online platform against domestic violence - http://imoqmede.ge/. The web-page offers a form for anonymous letter, which enables a victim or witness of violence to notify the Ministry of Justice about existing problem.</p> <p>The LEPL Training Centre of Justice, using the resources of the clinic trainers, prepared a special 3 hours program on the legal instruments to combat violence against women and domestic violence. From 13 February through 17 February 2017, this program was piloted with 9 target groups in the framework of free trainings. Total of 98 persons attended the training (80 women and 18 men). The training were available free of charge for all interested persons above the age of 14.</p>
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			<p>In towns and villages densely populated by ethnic minorities, the trainings were conducted in two languages (Georgian and the respective ethnic minority language), with the participation of Armenian and Azeri trainers. The materials used during the trainings were also translated into relevant languages. Based on same approach/format trainings were conducted in Akhaltsikhe, Kumurdo, Baraleti, Foka, Marneuli, Kabali, Iormughanlo and Sadakhlo (total of 97 participants).</p> <p>Furthermore, it should be noted that in June/July 2017, with the financial support of the UN Women and in cooperation with the Women’s Information Center, the LEPL Training Centre of Justice conducted a 2 days training (13 hours) for Guria and Kvemo Kartli regional municipality representatives (senior officials – governors, chairpersons of the local assemblies, and members of the Gender Equality Councils of the respective municipalities). The trainings were also held for representatives of the law-enforcement and other agencies responsible for providing relevant services. The topic of the training was ‘Issues Related to Gender equality and Violence against Women in self-governments’. The trainings were conducted in Kakheti, village Napareuli and town Kobuleti, Adjara. Total of 4 groups with 66 participants (40 women/26 men).</p> <p>This event covered all ten municipalities in Kvemo Kartli and Guria (Kvemo Kartli – 7; Guria – 3). Total of 66 people were trained.</p> <p>On 29 November 2017, upon the initiative of the Legislative Herald of Georgia, a two hour meeting was held with the members of the Legislative Herald Club (Law Faculty students from various universities). In the framework of this meeting, the LEPL Training Centre of Justice trainer familiarized participants with the legislative novelties implemented with</p>
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				<p>regard to violence against women and domestic violence. The meeting was attended by 21 participants.</p> <p><i>For additional information see recommendations 117.6, 117.10, 117.38, 117.46, 117.59, 117.60 and 117.63 .</i></p>
117.60	<p>Take measures to prevent domestic violence, including by raising awareness, encouraging women to report acts of sexual and domestic violence, protecting the victims and ensuring the effective investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators</p>	Slovenia	<p>In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .</p>	<p>LEPL- State Fund for the Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking (<i>hereinafter the State Fund</i>) held 49 information meetings/public lectures (attendees-1400) to raise public awareness on violence against women and domestic violence in Tbilisi and different regions of Georgia in 2016-2018. In addition, the video/audio clips were prepared and placed in the broadcasting net; 4-lingual informational brochures were prepared with the image of consulting hotline and 7 street actions were held in different cities/towns of Georgia within the project: "Reducing Domestic Violence in Georgia".</p> <p><u>In 2006:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 lingual (Georgian, Russian, Armenian, Azeri) brochures were prepared and five hundred copies were printed; • 300 calendars were printed with the image of consulting hotline (116 006); • Advertising banners were placed on the public transport; • The Facebook Page- "No Violence" was created. <p>Within a 16-day Campaign Against Gender Violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event was held with open door principle in Ilia

				<p>State University. Students, representatives of media, international organizations and other invited guests attended the event. The reporters reviewed the role of international organizations (USAID, UN Women, UNFPA) to overcome gender based violence. Also, report of the State Fund, the new web-site and the video clip (prepared within the campaign) have been shown during the event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informational actions/events were held in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Gori, Signaghi, Batumi and in Akhalkalaki. Informational brochures and other materials were distributed with the image of free consulting hotline number (116 006) within the actions/events. • The employees of the State fund with the students of Art Academy have painted the wall of the Crisis Center-structural unit of the State Fund. <p>In 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-lingual 60.000 copies (Georgian, Russian, Armenian, Azeri) brochures were printed; • 22.750 flyers, 10.000 posters, 200 calendars were printed with the image of the free consulting hotline number (116 006). Also, 200 notebooks, 320 pens and 100 folders were prepared; • The street actions against domestic violence were held in Gori, Batumi, Signaghi. The mentioned street actions aimed at raising sensitivity of public in regions about domestic violence as a problem and popularization of the state services and consulting hotline against violence. Histories of the killed women
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				<p>have been shown on cardboard torsos, balloons with the image of consulting hotline against violence were distributed.</p> <p><u>Within a 16-day Campaign Against Gender Violence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 events were conducted in Tbilisi, in particular: launching a 16-day campaign against gender violence in “Fabrika”; Action-performance was conducted near the metro station “Politeknikuri”; The summary meeting was held in Book-house “Ligamus” (ILIAUNI) about completion training of social workers. Also, 2 million SMS (short message service) were sent with the text: “Open your eyes, stop the violence” throughout Georgia. • Public Awareness Raising Campaign have been implemented throughout the country by using social, TV and print media within the contract signed with LTD “Red Berry”. In particular, the web-site “Open your eyes” was created within the campaign; 3 video clips were prepared; Social video clip was prepared; Support by the social media was implemented; The video clip has been broadcasted on Georgian TV channels for 4 months. <p><u>Within the project of the State Fund: “Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse” (UNWOMEN):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising stickers about consulting hotline against violence were placed on Tbilisi Municipal Transport (buses, metro stations). <p>In 2016, <u>1419 persons</u> (among them: Female-1210, male-209) were provided with the hotline (116 006; 2309309) service.</p>
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				<p>In 2017, 2135 persons (among them: Female-1793, male-342) were provided with the hotline (116 006) service on the issues of domestic violence.</p> <p>Nowadays, the updated web-site of the State Fund - www.atipfund.gov.ge and facebook pages: Atipfund Georgia and “Reducing domestic violence in Georgia” have been functioning. Through the facebook pages, citizens are provided with consultations (in addition to awareness). So, citizens can ask questions by using Facebook Messenger and the e-mail address of the web-site: atipfund@moh.gov.ge</p> <p><i>See recommendations 117.6, 117.20, 117.37, 117.38, 117.39, 117.46, 117.59, 117.60 and 117.63.</i></p>
117.61	Improve protections for victims of domestic violence, including by ensuring timely investigations, prosecuting perpetrators, and training police in risk-based assessments	Canada	In 2015 Georgia stated that it’s already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>Prosecutors working on cases of domestic crimes and representatives of the agencies, foundations and organizations that offer victims legal, psychological, or medical aid and/or shelter participated in a workshop organized with support of UN Women in 2017. Prosecutors were informed about the services available in Eastern Georgia; this information will be used by prosecutors in course of providing full information and aid to victims. Similar meeting is planned to take place in Eastern Georgia in 2018.</p> <p>In 2017, Memorandum of Understanding was signed between MIA and UN Women. Memorandum of Understanding aims to support the Ministry in elaboration and implementation of risk analysis system. Within the cooperation, a draft document was</p>

				<p>prepared which was presented to the respective organizations for commentaries. According to received commentaries, the instrument piloted by Patrol Police Department of MIA. In the final form, the document came into force in 2018.</p> <p><i>See recommendations 117.6, 117.20, 117.37, 117.38, 117.39, 117.46, 117.59, 117.60 and 117.63.</i></p>
117.62	Establish centres supporting women and girl victims of gender violence	Spain	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>The LEPL- State Fund for the Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking (<i>hereinafter the State Fund</i>), provides victims/statutory victims/alleged victims of violence against women and domestic violence with different types of services.</p> <p>In 2016, Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence was opened in Kakheti region and Crisis Center- in Tbilisi; In Addition, in 2017, Crisis Center (including day care component) was opened in Kutaisi and in 2018, Crisis Center was opened in Gori. According to the current situation, 5 (five) State Shelters of Violence in different regions and 3 (three) Crisis Centers are available.</p> <p>Since July, 2017 victims of sexual abuse have been provided with the services of Shelters and Crisis Centers under the State fund.</p> <p>A person who has been granted with the status of the victim of violence, is provided with the services of the State Shelters. The State Crisis Centers have been functioning for alleged victims.</p>
117.63	Redouble its efforts in the fight against domestic violence by ensuring effective investigation into	The Republic of North Macedonia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of	Aiming to engage witness and victim coordinators in cases of domestic crime, a concept was developed with the support of the US Embassy. A workshop was held with participation of managers of the Prosecutor's Office and coordinators, under which 26 individuals were retrained on the topic of domestic

	<p>incidents of domestic violence and providing adequate support and assistance to victims</p>		<p>implementation .</p>	<p>violence, human trafficking and child exploitation; proposals were developed regarding amendments to be made to the Criminal Code and Juvenile Justice Code, which provide for the right of a witness and victim coordinator to be present at investigative and procedural actions that are to be carried out with participation of victims of a domestic crime.</p> <p>8573 individuals used the services of a witness and victim coordinator in 2016, while their number reached 9913 in 2017 (witness, victim, persons reporting a crime). In 2017 coordinators actively engaged in the campaign to raise public awareness. With regard to International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, from November 27 to December 3, 2017, 'Week of Victims' was organized in 7 cities of Georgia by the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of Georgia with the support of the US Embassy. The slogan was 'See It, Report It, Stop It!'. The Week aimed to inform the public about victim rights and the coordinator services, and to prevent crime. 48 actions with active participation of witness and victim coordinators were held within the frameworks of the Week. Among them was marathon dedicated to victim rights held at Lisi Lake. A conference was held about rights, needs and challenges of the victim, in which representatives of the judiciary, Prosecutor's Office, the ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs of Georgia, as well as of all other agencies that have any contact with a victim at any stage took part. A screening of a documentary about domestic violence was organized for pupils. A contest of artworks on the topic of violence was also organized. Pieces submitted for the contest were exhibited in Tbilisi Mall, where the authors of best three works were awarded. Trees decorated with symbolic ribbons of combating violence were planted in 7 cities with participation of coordinators, prosecutors and locals.</p> <p>In 2016-2017, training sessions on the identification,</p>
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			<p>treatment, care provision and referral of victims of physical, psychological and sexual violence were conducted (with a total of 183 healthcare professionals trained). In addition, a project for standard operational procedures (SOPs) for “Healthcare Service Provision as a Part of Multi-sectoral Response to GBV” was elaborated. Based on this, a specific amendment package to normative laws was also elaborated.</p> <p>From February 2017, the hotline 116 006 to provide consultations on human trafficking and sexual abuse in addition to domestic violence-related issues.</p> <p>In 2017, amendment packages to normative laws –Regulations for Documentation for Ambulatory Care (Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA) Ministerial Decree N01-41/n), Regulations for Documentation for Stationary Hospital Care (MoLHSA Ministerial Decree N108/n) – were elaborated and officially presented to the MoHLSA for further consideration and adoption.</p> <p>From 2017 the 24-hour hotline for the victims of domestic violence has been operating at the State Fund which enables consultations not both on domestic violence-related issues as well as violence against women, human trafficking and sexual abuse. From 1 March 2017, besides Georgian language, appropriate counselling became available in seven other languages: in English, Russian, Azerbaijani, Turkish, Armenian, Arabic and Persian.</p> <p>Since 2015, The Government of Georgia is implementing State Program on Vocational Training and Qualification Raising of all Job Seekers aimed at raising the competitiveness of job seekers in demanded professions through education and training to increase their employability. Women who are the victims of domestic violence and trafficking are given preferential rights</p>
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				<p>for participation in the program.</p> <p><i>See recommendations 117.6, 117.20, 117.32, 117.35, 117.37, 117.38, 117.39, 117.46, 117.58, 117.59 and 117.60.</i></p>
117.64	Take steps to address reported allegations of child and early and forced marriages	Ghana	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>With the aim of preventing underage marriage, legal amendments were introduced to the Civil Code of Georgia in 2015, which prohibits marriage of underage persons from 16 to 18 years even if there is a parental consent or a prewritten consent of a guardian, special circumstances (such as pregnancy), or court permission. Based on the legal amendments enforced as of 1 January 2017, only persons over the age of 18 can enter a registered marriage.</p> <p>In regard to forced marriage, as of October 2014, the Criminal Code of Georgia foresees criminal liability for forced marriage (including the unregistered/registered marriages).</p>
117.65	Prevent the practice of child marriage among all ethnic groups	Portugal	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p><i>See recommendation 117.64.</i></p> <p>In 2016-2017 the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality organized information/awareness raising meetings in the regions compactly populated by ethnic minorities on various issues, among them on gender equality and preventing early marriages.</p> <p>In order to prevent early marriages, in the framework of the sub-programme "Parents' Education and Involvement " under the joint campaign "Against the Early Marriages", the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, UNFPA and the Ministry of</p>

			<p>Internal Affairs of Georgia systematically conducted various activities in those regions of Georgia, where early marriages are of higher frequency. Risks related to the early marriages were discussed at public schools during the public meetings for parents. The leaders of religious and local communities participated in the meetings.</p> <p>Since 2016 the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia had been carrying out the sub program “Parents’ Education and Involvement ”. One of the aims of this subprogram was to raise awareness of parents on the risks (related to legal, health and getting continues education issues) related to early marriages. 11 meetings/public lectures were held with parent in the regions, where the facts of early marriages often taking place. Representative of Ministry of Education and Science, psychologist, local law enforcement officer and local social worker attended the meetings.</p> <p>The working group on the prevention of early marriages is created with the initiative of the UN thematic group on gender issues and the interagency commission on gender equality, violence against women and domestic violence. It should be highlighted that the mandate of the group has been broadened since March, 2019 and it includes the prevention of harmful practice of early marriage and female genital mutilation. The main activities were defined by the group after the working meeting on March 7. 2017 and one of the activities is connected to discussing the results of the qualitative study on the harmful practice of early/child marriage and preliminary recommendations, as well as, presenting the package to the government within the framework of the working group.</p> <p>Study on the harmful practice of early/child marriage is implemented with the cooperation of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children’s Fund</p>
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				<p>(UNICEF), National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) and international non-governmental organization – Promundo.</p> <p>Recommendations drafted by the working group in 2016 were respectively reflected in the Governmental Action Plans for 2018-2020.</p> <p>Apart from this, the conference on “The role of religion in combating violence against women and girls” was held on July 11, 2017 with the cooperation of interagency commission, Administration of Muslims of all Georgia, Union “Century 21” and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Representatives of executive and legislative branch, international and national organizations, diplomats, clerics from Administration of Muslims of all Georgia from Tbilisi and other regions of Georgia, members of inter-religious council attended the conference. The statement on the issues of early/child marriage and violence against women was adopted by the Administration of Muslims of all Georgia Within the framework of the conference.</p>
117.66	Implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for better observance of its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in	Switzerland	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.6, 117.11, 117.46, 117.59, 117.64, 117.71 and 117.116.</i>

	particular effectively apply the ban on early and forced marriages, including through the adjustment of the national legal framework, by paying particular attention to vulnerable groups			
117.67	Increase efforts to eliminate early marriages through, implementation of the relevant recommendation made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	The Republic of North Macedonia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.11, 117.46, 117.59, 117.64, 117.65, 117.71 and 117.116.</i>
117.68	Reinforce the capacities of professionals in the identification, referral and protection of victims of gender-based violence and provide legal and medical support to victims	Republic of Moldova	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>According to the legislative amendments made to the Law of Georgia on Legal Aid, from 2018 free legal assistance is available for any victim of domestic violence and violence against women despite his/her insolvency. In the past this service was available only for insolvent individuals.</p> <p>In 2018, it is planned to update the training module on protection of domestic violence and violence against women victims. Moreover, mandatory trainings including on sexual violence issues are to be held for the LAS employees.</p> <p>On April 25, 2018, memorandum between LEPL Legal Aid Service and LEPL State Fund for Protection and Assistance of</p>

			<p>(Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking (ATIP Fund) was renewed. The document regulates referral issues. According to the memorandum, the parties deliver proper assistance to the beneficiaries as a part of the service for protection of violence victims. The victims of domestic violence and/or violence against women and trafficking are redirected considering their needs.</p> <p>Moreover, in 2018, legal aid providers' network was actively launched through its legal aid webportal www.free.mylaw.ge. The aim of the network is to facilitate provision of free legal assistance for the Georgian population and promote cooperation and coordination between legal aid providers. Several citizens have already applied the service and received quality legal assistance according to their needs. It is worth to mention that 11 network member organizations, with LEPL Legal Aid Service in lead, still work on improving quality and accessibility of the network. At the first stage, it is planned to implement the hotline service with the purpose to provide technical support to interested citizens and to redirect them, if needed.</p> <p>In addition to the above, raising qualification of prosecutors regarding the issue of domestic crime was actively pursued in 2017. 6 training activities in total were implemented on the topic of combating violence against women and domestic violence, which was completed by 83 employees of the Prosecutor's Office. A training was organized on the topic of making justice more available for women and combating violence against women and domestic violence, in which 26 prosecutors were engaged. The project was implemented in cooperation with the Council of Europe and it aimed to familiarize prosecutors with women's rights, national and international practice and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. Implementation of the training course was</p>
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				<p>preceded by active cooperation with a regional project of the European Council, under which materials and training programme were prepared. The fact that representatives from six countries – Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine – were engaged in the project, increases its importance.</p> <p>Moreover, a 5-day specialization course on the topic of combatting violence against women and domestic violence was carried out, under which 25 prosecutors were re-trained. The training programme addressed legal and psychological aspects, namely: interviewing a victim and communicating with him/her; obtaining and assessing evidence; international standards and practice; analysis, tendencies and recommendations of domestic crime; difficulties in outlining gender motive; violence against a child in family and other important matters. In 2018, a group of prosecutors, who will be prioritized to be engaged in cases of domestic crime as specialized prosecutors will be defined by an order of the Chief Prosecutor.</p> <p>To improve the health system response to violence against women, the State Fund, with the financial support of UNFPA and in close cooperation with Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA), the Inter-agency Council for the Prevention/Combating of Domestic Violence and local experts, contributed to the development of guidelines on the physical, psychological and sexual abuse of women, treatment principles and referral issues.</p> <p>Documentation forms for both primary and secondary healthcare settings were elaborated to document VAW/sexual violence together with relevant administration and filling regulations.</p>
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				<p>In 2016 - five trainings, in 2017 - nine trainings and in 2018 - two trainings were conducted for the employees of the LEPL-State Fund for the Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking.</p> <p>Trainings conducted for the employees (consulting hotline operators among them) of the State Fund for raising their qualification by years:</p> <p>In 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Legislative issues on the issues of Trafficking and domestic violence”(Number of participants-4, hotline operators, gender-female); • “Child Development Stages, Difficult Behavior, Formation of Violence and Stress Management” by financial support of UNICEF. (Number of participants - 26 employees (female); • “Prevention of Domestic Violence, Protection and Assistance of Victims/Statutory victims of Domestic Violence, Administering of Shelters” and “Issues how to Support the Victim of Sexual Abuse” within the project of the State Fund: “Prevention of domestic violence and Sexual Abuse”(UNWOMEN). (Number of participants - 61, 57 female and 4 male employees among them); • “Domestic violence and Social work” within the project of the State Fund “Reducing Domestic Violence in Georgia” (USAID). (Number of prticipants-5, social workers, female). • “Gender and Orientation” on the issues about sexual orientation and gender identity by Women`s Initiatives Supportive Group (WISG). (Number of participants-18, 16 female and 2 male employees among them).
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				<p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Issues of Service Delivery for Victims of Sexual Abuse” within the project of the State Fund: “Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse” (UNWOMEN). (Number of participants-43); • “A) How to fill the Annual Statistics Forms for the Incoming Calls of the Hotline on the Issues of Domestic Violence, Trafficking and Sexual Abuse; B) Legislative News on the Issues of Domestic Violence, Trafficking and Sexual Abuse”. (Number of participants-4, Operators of the hotline); • “Specifics of Educational Work, Issues of Reproductive Health and Family Planning” by the Information Medical-Psychological Center “Tanadgoma” with financial support of the Swedish Organization (RFSU). (Number of participants-25); • “Services for the Victims of Violence Against Women and Sexual Abuse” within the project “Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse” (UNWOMEN). (Number of participants-46); • “Social work on the issues of Homeless Children” within the project of the State Fund “Reducing Domestic Violence in Georgia (USAID). (Number of participants-5, social workers of Tbilisi, Gori, Sighnaghi,
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				<p>Kutaisi shelters and Crisis Center of Tbilisi);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Psychological Rehabilitation of Beneficiaries”for the Heads and Psychologists of the structural units of the State Fund within the project of the State Fund: “Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse” (UNWOMEN). (Number of participants-12); • “Strengthening the Component of Social Work in Shelters and Crisis Center(s) for victims of Violence” -training for the social workers of the structural units of the State fund within the project: “Let`s Join Against Violence Against Women” by the Georgian Association of Social Workers (GASW). (Number of participants-6); • “Strengthening the Component of Social Work in Shelters and Crisis Center(s) for victims of Violence”-training for the heads, lawyers, psychologists of the structural units of the State Fund and the employees of the Central Office. (Monitoring, Evaluation and Design of the Projects Department) within the project: “Let`s Join Against Violence Against Women” by the Georgian Association of Social Workers (GASW). (Number of participants-18); • “Eliminate Sexual Harassment at a Workplace, online training uploaded on the website of the Office of Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia; (Number of trained employees of the central office, structural and territorial units of the State Fund - 297, female-242, 55 male employees among them).
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				<p>In 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Concept of Social Work, Methods of Social Work and Concept of Monitoring” for the employees of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Design of the Projects Department of the Central Office of the State Fund by the Georgian Association of Social Workers (GASW). (Number of Participants - 5); • “Simulations of Rehabilitation Module” by the Georgian Association of Social Workers (GASW). (Number of Participants - 6). <p><i>For further information, see also recommendations: 117.6, 117.7, 117.38, 117.39, 117.46, 117.58, 117.59, 117.60, 117.62 and 117.63.</i></p>
117.69	Develop prevention strategies on gender-based violence and establish rehabilitation services for victims of violence	Norway	In 2015 Georgia stated that it’s already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>MIA, within its competence, is implementing the prevention of gender violence. The Ministry of Internal Affairs prevents gender violence within its competencies.</p> <p>According to the amendments from June 1, 2017, the law of Georgia on Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection and Support of Victims of Domestic Violence defines the competencies of law enforcers dealing with cases of gender-based violence against women.</p> <p>The law provides preventive measures that has to be taken by the State, such as studying the causes of violence, conducting the relevant statistics and running an information and education campaign as well as providing victims with protective and supportive activities and offender with activities aiming at correction of addictions and behavior.</p>

				<p>In December 2017, the Guidelines about Social Work and Psychological Rehabilitation/Assistance for beneficiaries of the structural units of the LEPL- State Fund for the Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking and their integration into internal regulations and plans for rehabilitation and reintegration (case management) were developed. The mentioned has started to implement since February 1, 2018.</p> <p><i>For further information, see also recommendations 117.6, 117.7, 117.38, 117.39 and 117.62.</i></p>
117.70	Continue to implement the legislation on domestic violence and ensure training of law enforcement officials to identify all forms of domestic violence	Slovakia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p><i>See recommendations 117.6, 117.7, 117.38, 117.39, 117.46, 117.59, 117.60, 117.62, 117.63, 117.68, 117.69 and 117.71.</i></p> <p>The project of National Referral Procedures for Identification, Protection, Assistance and Rehabilitation of Domestic Violence was prepared to revise/approve of the National Referral Mechanism within the project of the State Fund: "Reducing Domestic Violence in Georgia" (USAID). Representatives of the state structures and non-governmental organizations participated in preparing the document. In 2017, the draft document was renewed in compliance to the legislation/legal acts adopted on the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on May 11, 2011 on "Prevention of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence". Its name is "National Reference Procedures for Identification, Protection, Assistance and Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence". The procedures for approving the document are in progress.</p>
117.71	Implement policies for the effective combating of	Chile	Georgia has been observed in 2015 to have	Since 2016, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia has been implementing the "Parent Education and Engagement Subprogram", one of the objectives of the program was to

	<p>domestic violence, including information and awareness-raising programmes to prevent this scourge</p>		<p>implemented or is in the implementation process.</p>	<p>introduce early marriage risks to parents (regarding legal, health and continuous education). 11 meetings/public lectures were conducted with parents in the regions of Georgia, where frequent marriages were reported. Representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, psychologist, local policeman, local social workers participated in the meetings.</p> <p>Since 2016, the training module called "Preventing Bullying in Schools and Promoting Development of Tolerant Culture" has been implemented. 634 civic education teachers attended the training-module since 2016. Teachers got acquainted with the causes and types of violence, the types of domestic violence, the stigma and the influence of stereotypical thinking on violence and bullying.</p> <p>In 2016-2017, information meetings on violence, including domestic violence were held in more than 10 vocational education institutions.</p> <p>In addition, the LEPL Office of Recourse Officers, not only protects public order and safety in the educational institution, but also cares about the psycho-social health of students. In addition, Recourse Officer, is the person responsible for the referral procedure, and the schools that do not have Recourse Officers, the principal or the deputy principal is responsible for referral. The fact of violence/alleged violence is immediately identified and the victim/alleged victim is referred to the LEPL Social Service Agency.</p> <p>In 2015-2017 the program "Violence Against Children - Referral Procedures in Need of Child Protection" was aimed at re-training of recourse officers and public school representatives to prevent child abuse, identify cases of</p>
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				<p>violence and react to them. In total, all the recourse officers (1300) and 1576 representatives of public schools are retrained within the project.</p> <p><i>See recommendations 117.6, 117.7, 117.32, 117.35, 117.38, 117.39, 117.46, 117.59, 117.60. 117.62, 117.63, 117.68 and 117.69.</i></p>
117.72	Ensure that its strategies for addressing domestic violence are effectively implemented, monitored and sustained	Philippines	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.6, 117.7, 117.38, 117.39, 117.40, 117.46, 117.59, 117.60. 117.62, 117.63, 117.68, 117.69 and 117.71.</i>
117.73	Increase training of teaching staff throughout the country, so that they are better prepared to identify situations of abuse or domestic violence against children	Paraguay	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p><i>See recommendation 117.39.</i></p> <p>There were statewide trainings on the Child Protection Referral and Related Acts during the 2017 year.</p> <p>Trainings led by the representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs were held in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, with the help of the Anti-Violence Network of Georgia and with financial support from the Estonian embassy.</p> <p>Trainings include the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childrens's rights and obligations; • Domestic violence, Domestic offences and legal remedies; • State organs's competence in case of violence against child. <p>There were 10 meetings/trainings in regions for a year where 10 law enforcement officers and 10 social workers</p>

				<p>participated. 100 law enforcement officers (50 patrol inspectors and 50 district inspectors) and 100 social workers completed the training.</p> <p>These continuous trainings include conducting the same activities in 2018.</p> <p><i>See recommendations 117.6, 117.7, 117.38, 117.39, 117.46, 117.59, 117.60, 117.62, 117.63, 117.68, 117.69 and 117.71.</i></p>
117.74	Continue efforts in the fight against human trafficking	Greece	<p>In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .</p>	<p>Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) remains one of the key priorities of the Government of Georgia (GOG). In this regard Georgian Anti-Trafficking policy is entirely focused on so called 4 Ps and we are committed to adopt efficient measures in order to enhance Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership.</p> <p>Georgian counter-trafficking policy is coordinated by the Inter-Agency Council on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings chaired by the Minister of Justice of Georgia. The Council is consisted of relevant Governmental Agencies, local NGOs and International Organizations. The Council is the main policy-shaper and coordinating body with regard to Anti-Trafficking policy.</p> <p>Notably, Anti-Trafficking measures taken by the Georgian government was positively assessed by the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) and the US State Department in its annual TIP report according which Georgia is in Tier 1.</p> <p>Since 2015 Government of Georgia has taken relevant</p>

				<p>legislative and institutional measures against Trafficking in Human Beings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to the existing challenges, respective provisions of Criminal Code of Georgia were amended to define exploitation in unambiguous and clear terms. Article 143³ of the Criminal Code of Georgia was added a note making a possibility to release a person from criminal liability if he/she has used the services of a victim of human trafficking however he/she cooperates with the law enforcements and voluntarily reports about the using of services of THB victim before the investigation is started. - In 2018 pimping was criminalized; - 2 Guidelines were adopted respectfully for the law enforcements and border police officers and Customs officials; - The Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for law enforcements was elaborated by Inter-Agency Council and approved by the Minister of Internal Affairs in 2015. - Mobile groups and Task Force are operating in high risk areas for proactive identification of THB cases; - “Memorandum of Mutual Cooperation on promotion of detection of cases of trafficking in human beings” was signed on August 13, 2015 between the Labor Inspectorate Department and Central Criminal Police Department (CCPD) of the Ministry of internal Affairs of Georgia aiming at referring alleged cases of labor exploitation and forced labor to the CCPD. - Capacity development trainings for the key officials, involved in Anti-Trafficking policy are permanently organized.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Particular attention is also paid to prevent and identify human trafficking among those kids who are working/living in the streets. Relevant legislative amendments were introduced in the Georgian legislation based on which the legal definition of homeless child was introduced, improved and simplified legal procedures for providing children in street situations with free of charge identification documents to make the state run services available for them. Furthermore, in response to challenges related to homeless children, within the grant issued by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia a research and awareness raising activities on the harmful effects of relief for children in street situations was conducted. - Intensive, consistent and coordinated public awareness raising activities are conducted within the framework of Information Strategy approved by the Inter-Agency Council in 2014. <p>Fighting against trafficking in persons has been one of the prioritized directions of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia over the last few years. In an annual report published by the US State Department on June 27, 2017, which assesses actions carried out by states to combat trafficking in persons, Georgia, as in 2016, remained in the highest tier 1. Efficient and coordinated activities of law enforcement institutions is one of the basis of the positive assessment. Prosecutor's Office pursues strict policy against human traffickers. Possible victims of trafficking are proactively identified, investigation into every possible act of trafficking is promptly launched and effective prosecutorial supervision is exercised. In 2017, investigation was launched into 21 criminal cases while criminal prosecution was launched against 4 traffickers. In 2017, updated guidelines for investigation, criminal</p>
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				<p>prosecution of human trafficking and treatment of victims of trafficking were approved. In 2017 prosecutors held 33 information meetings concerning human trafficking under the project 'Public Prosecutor's Office' in all regions of Georgia. 5 training activities were carried out, which were completed by 43 representatives of the Prosecutor's Office. Representatives from other investigative bodies also participated in the training activities.</p> <p>On March 7 2016 Resolution №112 of the Government of Georgia "on approving Rule of State Supervision/Labour Inspection of Prevention of and Responding on Forced Labour and Labour Exploitation" was adopted. With the aim of identification of forced labour and labour exploitation in 2016, 99 companies have been inspected out which 91 were scheduled and 8- unscheduled. In 2017, 107 scheduled companies and 8 unscheduled were inspected.</p> <p>Possible signs of forced labour and labour exploitation were identified in one company and case was referred to Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia for further reaction/respond. Based on the information from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia no case of trafficking has been revealed. In the first and second quarter of 2018, 99 companies were inspected (1 unscheduled). According to the inspections no case of abuses has been revealed.</p>
117.75	Ensure justice that is independent and transparent, and that respects the right to defence	France	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.76, 117.77, 118.19, 118.20, 118.21.</i>
117.76	Pursue its policy of reform towards a fully independent	Portugal	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already	In May 2017, the Georgian judiciary shifted to the qualitatively new stage of the reform based on the comprehensive judicial strategy which had been elaborated within the framework of

	<p>judicial system</p>		<p>implemented or is in the process of implementation .</p>	<p>the EU-Georgia Association Agreement. The judicial development strategy incorporates the existing challenges and needs identified through the highly transparent and participatory working process. The representatives of the judiciary, related government agencies, civil society and international organizations had been involved in the process of elaboration of the judicial strategy.</p> <p>The judicial strategy aims at establishing the European standards and best practice. It should be highlighted that the priorities set forth in the document fully respond to the high expectations of the society towards the judicial system.</p> <p>On the basis of the strategy, the High Council of Justice (<i>hereinafter the HCJ</i>) elaborated and approved the Action Plan for 2017-2018 years. The action plan entirely meets the strategic objectives and ensures their effective and timely implementation. The document is divided into five strategic directions (Independence and Impartiality; Accountability; Quality; Efficiency; Access to Justice). In order to ensure the effective coordination of the implementation process, the HCJ established four working groups. Each group is tasked with the implementation of the specific strategic direction.</p> <p>Apart from the implementation of the judicial strategy, the HCJ has been involved in the “Fourth Wave of Judicial Reform” (launched in the middle of 2017). Within the platform which is led by the Chairman of the Parliament, the working group has identified the following reforming areas: improvement of the provisions governing the disciplinary proceedings against judges, refining the norms regulating the activities of the HCJ, reforming the High School of Justice and regulation of backlog of cases in courts.</p>
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117.77	<p>Undertake a comprehensive review of arrangements for the appointment, training and transfer of judges, with a view to ensuring their independence and their full understanding and application of human rights obligations</p>	Ireland	<p>In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .</p>	<p>“The third wave of judicial reform” significantly strengthened the guarantees of independence of individual judges by setting forth in the Organic Law on Common Courts of Georgia (LCCG) the detailed criteria and procedure for selection of judges. Namely, According to the newly adopted Article 35¹ of the LCCG, two basic criteria - integrity and competence - were introduced for the selection of judicial candidates. The amendments defined two distinct regimes to follow while evaluating the candidates with prior judicial experience¹ and candidates without such experience. It should be highlighted that the criteria for the selection of judges (integrity and competence) were later prescribed by the constitution.</p> <p>Another novelty provided by Article 35² of the LCCG concerns the regulation of the procedure for collection of necessary information about a candidate to the office of a judge before selecting him/her for a post of a judge.</p> <p>Furthermore, the legislative amendments granted the candidate the right to appeal the decision on refusal (within 2 weeks from the receipt of the relevant decision of the HCJ) to the Qualification Chamber of the Supreme Court of Georgia.</p> <p>In order to prevent the conflict of interest of the HCJ members during the initial recruitment procedure, Article 35³ was added to the LCCG. Pursuant to the new regulation, during the competition for holding the office of a judge, a candidate may request the withdrawal of a member of the HCJ if there is a conflict of interest, in particular a circumstance that casts doubt on the objectivity, independence and impartiality of the</p>

¹ A candidate to the office of a judge with judicial experience shall be evaluated on the basis of Article 36³ and paras 7 and 8 of Article 36⁴ of the organic Law on Common Courts (the LCC).

			<p>member of the Council.</p> <p>Noteworthy, the constitutional reform of 2017-2018 has created stronger guarantees for the judicial independence by setting forth in the Constitution that the judges of the common courts including the Supreme Court judges shall be appointed for office for a lifetime. Currently the Constitution of Georgia stipulates that after 31 December 2024 each judge shall be appointed for a life tenure.</p> <p>As regards the transfer of a judge, within the framework of the “Third Wave of Judicial Reform”, the new Article 37¹ was added to the LCCG which regulates the transfer of judges in conformity with international standards. The new provision provides safeguards against any arbitrary approach regarding the transfer of a judge to another court. In particular, the procedure of transferring the judge to another court requires preliminary consent of the judge concerned. As an exception, if the HCJ is unable to select the judge based on the rule defined by the law, <u>in case of urgent necessity and in the interest of justice, the HCJ is authorized to make a reasoned decision</u> on transferring the judge without his/her consent. It should be highlighted that the legislative amendments ensured the opportunity of a judge to express his/her opinion on transfer. The mentioned requirement enables members of the HCJ to assess how transferring to another court really reflects the real life of the judge.</p> <p>According to the restrictions envisaged by the law, the HCJ may transfer a judge without his/her consent only once in 10 years.</p> <p>The High School of Justice in the framework of the In-service Training Program, provides annual trainings for sitting judges and other court staff on different topics related to human rights. Namely, in 2016-2017 the following trainings were</p>
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			<p>organized for judges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 trainings on “European Court of Human Rights Precedential Decisions” in which 33 judges participated; • 2 trainings on “European Convention on Human Rights and its application” in which 30 judges participated; • 3 trainings on “Rights of Drug consumers” in which 30 judges participated; • 2 trainings on “Freedom of Expression; <i>inter alia</i> hate crimes-related matters”, in which 29 judges participated; • 3 trainings on “European and International Standards on Human Rights (general course)”, in which 28 judges participated; • 5 trainings on “Prohibition of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment”, in which 63 judges participated; • 2 trainings on “Violence against Women and Domestic Violence”, in which 22 judges participated; • 12 trainings on “Ensuring Effective Availability of Justice for the Persons with Disabilities”, in which 24 judges participated; • 3 trainings on “Rights of Child” in which 34 judges participated; • 2 trainings on “Rights of refugees, asylum seekers and other persons in need of international protection” in which 35 judges participated; • 2 trainings on “Inviolability of Private Life”, in which 28
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				<p>judges participated;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 trainings on “Right to Fair Trial”, in which 25 judges participated. <p>Besides that, in order to ensure sustainability of the trainings on human rights topics, the High School of Justice periodically elaborates training modules on a variety of human rights topics. Namely, in 2016-2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In cooperation with partner organizations - USAID/PROLoG and the Council of Europe (CoE) - a training module on European and International Standards on Human Rights (general course) was elaborated; • With the support of OHCHR a training module on Prohibition of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was elaborated; • With the support of CoE a training module on Efficient Review of Hate Crime-related Cases was elaborated; • With the support of CoE and the UN Women a training module on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence was elaborated; • With the support of CoE a training module on Human Trafficking was elaborated; • With the support of CoE a training module on International Humanitarian Law was developed; <p>Each of the training modules mentioned above were developed by foreign as well as local experts and the judge-experts nominated by the High School of Justice. The process of developing the training modules involved the following stages:</p> <p>a) Evaluation of training needs;</p>
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				<p>b) Preparing training module (relevant materials and presentations);</p> <p>c) Training of Trainers (ToT) for the judges and experts involved in elaboration of the training module;</p> <p>d) Conducting a pilot training by the trained judges for sitting judges.</p>
117.78	Further strengthen its efforts to combat and investigate ill-treatment of prisoners and detainees	Montenegro	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>As soon as a case of ill-treatment is reported, relevant investigation unit of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia immediately begins investigation on the criminal case. All investigative actions, namely, interview of witnesses, identity parade, search and seizure, request of documentation, scheduling and conducting forensic examinations, seizing video surveillance tapes, etc., are carried out within shortest possible terms.</p> <p>According to 2013-2016 data, criminal prosecution was launched against 127 individuals due to the ill-treatments committed by officers of penitentiary facilities or law enforcement authorities, while criminal prosecution was launched against 17 persons in 2017, in particular, against 14 officers of penitentiary facilities and 3 police officers.</p> <p><i>Please, see also recommendations 117.50 and 117.51</i></p>
117.79	Adopt measures providing for independent and effective investigation and prosecution of all cases of alleged ill-treatment of persons in detention facilities as well as for	Czech Republic	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p><i>Please, see recommendations 117.50, 117.51, 117.78 and 117.81</i></p> <p>In addition, an independent investigation mechanism will be created in 2018.</p>

	remedies for victims			
117.80	Ensure that instances of ill-treatment of prisoners and detainees are eliminated and that proper and thorough investigations are conducted in such situations in order to hold perpetrators accountable	Ireland	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.50, 117.51, 117.78 and 117.80.</i>
117.81	Ensure that all allegations of torture and ill-treatment are thoroughly investigated by an independent mechanism	Turkey	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>Under the guidance of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, a draft law on the State Inspector Service was prepared and supported by the Government of Georgia in February 2018. The draft law has already been submitted to the parliament for approval. The draft law envisages created of a new, institutionally independent investigative body. The draft law define the State Inspector Service as an independent state body, also the principle of activity, authority and safeguards of the State Inspector, as well as issues related to the election and termination of authority for the State Inspector.</p> <p>Based on the law, an independent state body – the State Inspector Service is created. The state inspector will be acquiring the rights with personal data protection inspector. The authorities of the State Inspector Service will include the authorities of the Personal Data Protection Inspector – control over the legitimacy of the personal data processing, also control of the covert investigative activities and electronic communication identification data of activities carried out at the central bank. In addition to the mentioned responsibilities, the State Inspector will have a crucial function of conducting an impartial and effective investigation of the</p>

			<p>crimes violating human rights and freedoms committed by the law-enforcement representatives, as well as officials or levelled persons to the servant (excluding the exceptional cases defined by the law). Based on the initiated project, the person elected as state inspector must be a citizen of Georgia with no prior criminal record, should hold a higher education degree in law. S/he should have a work experience of no less than 5 years in any of the following fields: justice, law-enforcement system, and human rights. S/he should have a high moral and professional reputation.</p> <p>The Prime Minister of Georgia will set up a competition commission for selection of the State Inspector. The commission will be comprised of: a member of the Government of Georgian, the chairman of the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, the chairman of the Legal Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, the Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court of Georgia, the first deputy or deputy Prosecutor of Georgia, the Public Defender or representative of the Public Defender of Georgia, a legal non-profit person assigned by the Public Defender of Georgia that has relevant experience and also working experience in the sphere of human rights and/or personal data protection. With the majority of votes, the commission will select no less than 2 and no more than 5 candidates for the position of the State Inspector and introduces them to the Prime Minister, who within the 10 days will introduce 2 chosen candidates to the Parliament for the position of the State Inspector.</p> <p>The draft law determines the legal safeguards to ensure independence of the State Inspector, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Inspector shall exercise his/her authority independently and will not be subordinated to any official or state body. Any type of pressure exercised on the State
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				<p>Inspector or the employ of the State Inspector Service is forbidden and is punished by the law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to ensure independence of the State Inspector, the State is obliged to create appropriate conditions for exercising its activities. • Unless prescribed otherwise by the law, the State Inspector has the authority not to testify around the fact that was confided to him/her in the capacity of the State Inspector. This right is retained by the State Inspector after the termination of his/her authority. • No one has the right to ask the State Inspector to provide report on a specific criminal case investigation or any such information that may interfere with the investigation. <p>The law regulates issues concerning the relations of the State Inspector with the Parliament of Georgia, which are mainly similar to the regulatory norms regarding the relations of the Personal Data Protection Inspector and the Parliament of Georgia. However, these regulations are slightly different. According to the draft law, the State Inspector will practically exercise the same authority and activities that were previously exercised by the Personal Data Protection Inspector based on the Law of Georgia on Personal Data Protection.</p> <p>The most significant novelty envisaged by the draft law is that the State Inspector Service will be empowered with the authority to conduct impartial and effective investigation of crimes against human rights and freedoms committed by the entities/persons defined by the law. The essence of the independent investigative mechanism is manifested through implementation of this function.</p> <p>The investigative functions of the State Inspector Service of</p>
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			<p>Georgia cover the following: Article 144¹-144³ of the Criminal Code of Georgia (torture, threat of torture, degrading or inhuman treatment), Article 332, Part 3, subparagraphs “b” and “c” (Abuse of official powers by an official or by a person equal thereto; Abuse of official powers by a public political official using violence or a weapon, also by offending personal dignity of the victim); Article 333, Part 3, subparagraphs “b” and “c” (Abuse of power by an official or by a person equal thereto, also Abuse of power by a public political official using violence or a weapon); Article 335 (Coercion of a person by deception, blackmail or other unlawful act by an official or by a person equal thereto to provide an explanation or evidence, or coercion of an expert to provide an opinion) and/or the crime based on the Article 378 Section 2 (Coercion of a person placed in a penitentiary facility or liberty restriction facility into changing or refusing to give testimony, as well as coercion of a convicted person in order to interfere with the fulfilment of his /her civil duties), if the crime is committed by representatives of law enforcement agencies, by an official or by a person equal thereto (Article 3 of the bill); other crime committed by a representative of the law enforcement agency, state official or by a person equal thereto (except for the State Inspector, State Inspector Service investigator or employee), which resulted in the death of the victim or the victim was placed in a liberty restriction facility or penitentiary facility, or in other place of detention when the crime was committed; or any other place, he/she was prohibited from leaving the place against his/her will, or the victim was otherwise under the effective control of the state.</p> <p>The Prosecutor’s office of Georgia will be responsible for supervision and procedural management, as prescribed by the law, of the cases investigated by the State Inspector.</p>
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117.82	Ensure the effective investigation of cases of violence against women; prosecute	Estonia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is	<i>See recommendations 117.6, 117.7, 117.38, 117.39 and 117.43.</i>

	and punish perpetrators		in the process of implementation .	
117.83	Ensure the effective investigation of episodes of violence against women and domestic violence, to bring perpetrators to justice and provide victims with adequate compensation, protection and assistance	Italy	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	LEPL- State Fund for the Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking provides victims and/or statutory victims and their dependents of human trafficking and/or victims/statutory victims of violence against women and/or domestic violence and/or sexual abuse with the services. In accordance with the subparagraph "d" of article 17 of the Georgian Law on "Prevention of Domestic Violence, Protection and Support of Victims of Domestic Violence" and according to the rule established by the Georgian legislation: A victim/an alleged victim is authorized to get compensation in the case of the damage inflicted by the violence against women and/or domestic violence is not recovered according to the subparagraph "c" of this Article and/or the other sources of this law and other legislative and normative acts and/or protect and provide the victim with services. The mentioned provision comes into effect on January 1, 2022. <i>Also see the recommendations 117.6, 117.7, 117.38, 117.39, 117.43, 117.46, 117.59, 117.60,117.62, 117.63, 117.68 and 117.69.</i>
117.84	Strengthen its national strategy to reform the prison system, in particular to promote the prompt reintegration of juvenile detainees into society	Morocco	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	Ministry of Corrections of Georgia conducts psycho-rehabilitation programs at the juvenile rehabilitation establishment, including "the Re-Entry" - release preparation program, which helps juvenile convicts to develop skills needed to return into the society. Under the Agreement, within the framework of transitional management, representatives of the National Probation Agency (NPA) and Centre for Crime Prevention (CCP) will be involved in the implementation process of the program, which will lead

				to close and effective cooperation with beneficiaries after release. In the next stage, both agencies will continue to work on reintegration into the society, NPA - in case of probation and CCP - if the beneficiary agrees.
117.85	Undertake effective measures to guarantee access to education for juveniles in the penitentiary system	Croatia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>General education for pre-trial/convicted juveniles is carried out in four penitentiary establishments. Within the framework of the program "Access to education for pre-trial/convicted persons", LEPL No.123 Tbilisi public school is providing service for No.11 Juvenile Rehabilitation and No.5 Women Penitentiary Establishment's semi-open and closed type sections, in compliance with National Curriculum.</p> <p>At N2 and N8 penitentiary establishments provision of access to general education is provided by the teachers employed by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.</p> <p>In all penitentiary establishments pre-trial/convicted juveniles have the right to take school graduation exams and university admission tests (called National Examinations). In case of enrollment in higher education institution, juveniles have opportunity to continue study through distance learning.</p> <p>Moreover, juvenile offenders have opportunity to receive professional education, supervised by state colleges. 47 juveniles participated in short-term professional trainings for 83 times.</p> <p>In 2017: 95 pre-trial/convicted persons were involved in the general education program; 1 juvenile participated in school graduation exams and 4 juveniles in-advance-type school graduation exams. Juveniles did not take university admission tests (called National Examinations), due to the age discrepancy (there were no juvenile being in the 12th grade).</p>

				<p>Provision of General education for pre-trial/convicted juveniles at the penitentiary establishments is regulated by the joint ministerial order of the Minister of Corrections of Georgia and Minister of Education and Science of Georgia №110/5/№124, September 1, 2016 - "Approval of the regulatory rules for provision of general education for pre-trial/convicted juveniles and educational process at the penitentiary establishments of the Ministry of Corrections of Georgia".</p> <p>In addition, as of January 1, 2018, juvenile convicts at juvenile rehabilitation establishment have the right to receive higher education at bachelor's level. The issue is regulated by the Juvenile Justice Code, the Law of Georgia on Higher Education, and by the joint ministerial order of Minister of Corrections and Minister of Education and Science of Georgia - №72/№30/N March 21, 2018 „On determining rules and terms, and specific programs for conducting the first stage higher education (bachelor's level) for convicted persons".</p> <p>As for professional education, the memorandum is signed with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia for the purpose of distribution the above-mentioned right.</p>
117.86	Provide, in accordance with its respective obligations under international human rights law, effective protection to the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society	Egypt	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	In order to reduce /prevent poverty level the program on provision of subsistence allowance is being performed, aiming to improve the social –economic condition of poor families (especially families with children) identified by the evaluation system. Targeted social assistance program is focused on supporting the families. In order to facilitate for demographic situation improvement, the targeted state program is being carried on which includes giving monthly financial assistance to the third and subsequent child in those regions where natural growth is not observed and providing allowance for each newborn child, whose one of the parents

			<p>has the status of being a resident of the high mountainous region.</p> <p>Within the framework of the "Child Care and Social Rehabilitation State Program", in order to strengthen families, a number of sub-programs are defined, which aim to increase social functioning of families and prevent child abandonment: supporting of families with children in crisis situations, early childhood development, day care centers, mother and child shelter provision subprograms.</p> <p>The target groups of sub-program of supporting the families with children in crisis conditions" are the families with children of the following categories in need of primary support: families with reintegrated children; family with one or more child with disabilities; family, where lives children together with one capable adult; family with three or more children; families with children, at the moment of submitting the application are registered at the "unified database of socially vulnerable families" and based on the assessment have been awarded the rating point less than 65001.</p> <p>Subprogram activities includes provision of target groups in need of primary aid with food products; in order to satisfy their basic needs, provision with household goods (purchase and transfer to the beneficiary).</p> <p>1004 families were provided with assistance for the period of July-December of 2017.</p> <p>In addition, within the above sub-program the target groups are: a child of one year old, whose family at the moment of submitting the application on the food voucher is registered at</p>
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				<p>the “unified database of socially vulnerable families” and based on the assessment has been awarded the rating point less than 65001 and also family with reintegration assistance.</p> <p>For this target group is carried out the provision of artificial nutrition based on the requirements of Law of Georgia “On the Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding and Artificial Food Consumption” (approximately 1000 children per month).</p> <p>Also, the availability of services centers has been increased in the last two years in order to strengthen and support families, for example: 43 organizations for 918 beneficiaries are registered in 26 cities and municipalities for children with disabilities under 18 years in the frames of day care centers sub-program. The distribution picture of cities and municipalities of these centers is as follows: In Tbilisi - 10 organizations for 304 beneficiaries, Shida Kartli - 4 organizations for 85 beneficiaries (Gori, Kareli, Kaspi and Khashuri), Kvemo Kartli - 3 organizations for 48 beneficiaries (in Rustavi 2 for 28 beneficiaries and Bolnisi 1 - for 20 beneficiaries). Mtskheta-Tianeti - 3 organizations for 55 beneficiaries (Mtskheta, Tserovani and Saguramo), Kakheti - 5 organizations for 91 beneficiaries, Telavi (2), Gurjaani (2) and Lagodekhi - 1. Adjara 2 organizations are registered for 46 beneficiaries in Batumi. Imereti 8 organizations for 143 beneficiaries: Kutaisi (2), Terjola (2), Samtredia, Zestafoni, Sachkhere, Vani and Khoni, Kharagauli. Samegrelo 4 organizations for 71 beneficiaries (Poti, Senaki and Zugdidi). Guria 1 organization for 25 beneficiaries in Ozurgeti, one organization - 20 beneficiaries in Chokhatauri. Samtskhe-Javakheti - in 2017, one organization started functioning in Borjomi for 30 beneficiaries. Among the organizations listed above were registered 5 organizations in Kharagauli, Borjomi, Telavi, Gurjaani and Zugdidi. In 2018 - 4 day care centers are</p>
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				<p>registered in Khashuri, Bolnisi, Khoni and Lagodekhi.</p> <p>One day center in Tbilisi provides services for 42 children with health problems and one in Kutaisi for 16 beneficiaries. Besides, 17 day care centers are functioning throughout the country for children at risk of abandonment and 22 day care centers are active for adults with disabilities.</p> <p>Based on the Civil Code of Georgia, following the implementation of the "Incapacity" reform, the people who received the support were granted the right and permission to marry and have family.</p>
117.87	Establish a system for birth registration that covers all children without discrimination by reason of race, ethnicity or nationality, sex or religion	Paraguay	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>The LEPL Public Service Development Agency of the Ministry of Justice, with the assistance of the territorial offices, carries out birth registration in Georgia.</p> <p>The Law of Georgia on Civil Status Acts ensures the compulsory nature of birth registration in all cases: the birth of a child of a Georgian citizen, a stateless person having status in Georgia who was born abroad as well as the birth of a child born in Georgia. Birth registration is compulsory for Georgian citizens, including the birth registration with respect to a foreigner illegally residing in Georgia.</p> <p>The territorial units of the LEPL Public Service Development Agency ensure birth registration, which is performed without any discrimination based on gender, race, skin colour, language, religion, political or other affiliation, national or social origin, ethnic minority, property or other status.</p> <p>Birth registration is carried out based on the medical birth certificate submitted to the Agency by the head of a medical institution or his/her authorized representative only in</p>

			<p>electronic form.</p> <p>The law defines the persons that are required to apply to the civil registration authority for birth registration. Violation of this obligation is subject to a fine. The described measures ensure that all facts of birth are registered in every corner of the country, including the high mountainous regions.</p> <p>The current legislation also provides establishment of the legal fact for children whose birth is not confirmed by a medical institution (home birth). In this case, the decision on determining the legal fact of birth is made by the Agency and the birth registration is carried out on the basis of this decision.</p> <p>Birth registration of foundlings is conducted based on the application filed by a guardianship authority for birth registration. Birth registration of stillborn children is conducted by the civil status acts registration authority of the Public Service Development Agency under the procedure prescribed by Law of Georgia on Civil Status Acts.</p> <p>In addition to birth registration and issuance of documents confirming this, upon notification of the guardianship authority, the territorial units of the LEPL Public Service Development Agency ensures issuance of identification documents free of charge for the child victims of violence. The socially vulnerable persons (with rating score less than 70 001 units) are also issued identification documents free of charge.</p> <p>Moreover, based on the legislative amendments implemented in 2016, the Public Service Development Agency on the basis of the request of the Social Service Agency ensures issuance of identification documents for homeless children free of charge, which facilitates improvement of their legal status and makes various state provided services accessible for homeless</p>
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				<p>children.</p> <p>Over the past years, the LEPL Public Service Development Agency under the Ministry of Justice has been actively engaged in building capacity of the local governments. For this purpose, the Public Service Development Agency has developed the concept of a community centre that enables the population to receive over 200 public and private services without leaving their villages, including birth registration. Community Centre users have access to the services of the Public Service Development Agency, the National Agency of Public Registry, the National Archives of Georgia and the Social Service Agency.</p> <p>There are 52 community centres, including the ones located in regions densely populated by ethnic minorities.</p> <p>In 2016-2017, the Ministry of Justice continued the process of registration of Roma population. Relevant procedures were undertaken with the aim to regulate issues regarding birth registration, citizenship and also issuance of identification documents. In 2011-2016, additional 68 Roma were granted relevant legal status. The Roma population have access to free legal consulting.</p>
117.88	Improve the birth registration system to guarantee registration for every child with the issuance of a birth certificate	Turkey	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendation 117.87.</i>
117.89	Adopt and implement all necessary measures to register the birth of children,	Panama	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of	<i>See recommendation 117.87.</i>

	particularly children belonging to minorities, who are born in remote areas of the country and guarantee the issuance of birth certificates and other documents		implementation .	
117.90	Take measures for deinstitutionalization of child-care institutions and development of alternative, family-type services for deprived children	Ukraine	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	Deinstitutionalization process is ongoing. It is worth mentioning, that the sub-program for specialized family type home for children with severe and profound disability or health problems was started in 2016 in the frames of "state program of social rehabilitation and child care". By the end of 2016, 1 specialized family type home for children with severe and profound disability or health problems was opened in Kutaisi. There are 7 children from Tbilisi infant house. In 2018 the second specialized family type home for children with severe and profound disability or health problems will be opened in Tbilisi. In this specialized family type home will be enrolled 7 children of the infant house. During the year of 2016, 22 infants have been displaced from the infant house into foster care, 2 children were adopted, and one has been involved in the reintegration sub-program. In the same year 22 new beneficiaries were enrolled in the infant house. During the year 2017, 6 infants were placed in foster care from Tbilisi Infant house, 1 child moved from the Kojori Disabled Children's home into a specialized family type home in Tbilisi. In the same year, 20 children were enrolled in the Infant House. In 2018, 4 children were placed in foster care, 1 child was adopted and 6 beneficiaries were enrolled in the Tbilisi infant house. The majority of children placed in the infant house are under palliative care. The best interest of child is considered during

				<p>the placement of children in alternate services. Nowadays the number of beneficiaries has been reduced in Tbilisi infant house, because the social workers transfer children with healthcare problems into services close to family environment.</p> <p>In 2016, 386 children were placed in foster care services, while in 2017 - 282 juveniles.</p> <p>Educational Institutions under the Patriarchate of Georgia Batumi and Ninotsminda Boarding School have an Educational license. The children living there are evaluated by social workers who carry out monthly planning and work in the direction of minors' return to the biological family or to provide alternative care.</p> <p>As for the boarding school, who do not have a license for educational activity, the Ministry of Internally Displaced persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, together with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, in the support of UNICEF carries out the inspection of the institutions and identifies the needs of beneficiaries living there for further steps.</p> <p>In 2016, 99 minors were involved in the reintegration sub-program, while in 2017 - 103 children.</p> <p>On May 5, 2017, the Law on Adoption and Foster care was adopted, on the basis of which the certification of parents and foster carer is mandatory, children take precedence over the interests of the adopted child and the adoptive parent determined the age difference, the possibility of direct adoption is canceled. The rule of foster care and adoption procedures was adopted based of the requirements of the law, as well as foster care services standard.</p>
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				<p>The state also contributes to the development of social services, providing a wide range of resident and alternative services, community and family type social services. These services are designed for persons with disabilities, children and elderly people. Services include: rehabilitation services and supportive means for persons with disabilities, day care centers, early intervention programs, and community services.</p> <p>The service is free for that part of the population, whose rating score is below the level officially defined based on socio-economic status. As for other services, the services are available on co-financing basis.</p> <p>The services also include: foster care, small family-type homes for homeless children and others. These services are free for all beneficiaries.</p>
117.91	Protect minorities and ensure the full enjoyment of their freedom of religion or belief in accordance with international human rights law	Ghana	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>For the last period some positive steps were undertaken towards the provision of equality and protection of rights of ethnic minorities in a light of further improvement of legislation. Among them, adoption of the “Law on State Language” in 2015 which brings the “language of national minorities” and defines the use of minority languages in public space in the municipalities compactly populated by ethnic minorities.</p> <p>Within various international instruments Georgia fulfils its obligations with regard to the protection of the rights of ethnic minorities. Georgia remains committed to the responsibilities it has undertaken within Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM), wich implies protection of rights of ethnic minorities and ensuring their dignified participation in the country’s development. The State Report under the 3rd Monitoring Cycle of the FCNM was prepared by the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation</p>

				<p>and Civic Equality and submitted to the Council of Europe in summer 2017. The Report reflects the progress in provision of equality, civic integration, protection of rights of ethnic minorities as well as introduces activity undertaken in 2012-2017.</p> <p>Freedom of religion and belief is protected by the Constitution of Georgia, anti-discrimination law and legislative acts. In addition, State Agency for Religious Issues published publications about the freedom of religion in the Georgian language in order to raise awareness of different agencies on this matter and provide with comprehensive information. Among them are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guideline – Secularism and Religious Neutrality in Civil Service; • Series – Religion and Justice (so far in 3 volumes): I - „Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights on Freedom of Religion”, in relation to the article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights (in total 62 cases); II - „Documents of UN, EU, OSCE, Venice Commission and Oslo Coalition on freedom of religion”; III - „Legislation of Romania, Bulgaria, Austria, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia and Belarus on the freedom of religion”. <p><i>In addition see also recommendation 117.92.</i></p>
117.92	Promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue and cooperation, as a way of strengthening its non-discrimination programmes and	Phillipines	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>The State Agency for Religious Issues cooperates intensively with all existing religious organization and promotes dialogue among them. Since the establishment of the Agency, the international day of tolerance is celebrated at the state level.</p> <p>The State Agency for Religious Issues established the tradition – one of the existing religious communities hosting another religious leaders and parish on the International Tolerance</p>

	<p>supporting its awareness-raising campaigns against discrimination</p>			<p>Day.</p> <p>In the first year of the reporting period, the Georgian Orthodox Church and Patriarchate hosted the existing religious communities in Georgia. On November 16, 2017 host was the Georgian-Jewish Community –in the David Baazov Museum of History of Jews of Georgia and Georgian-Jewish Relations.</p> <p>At the same time, the State Agency for Religious Issues conducts conferences annually within the framework of interreligious dialogue.</p> <p>In 2016, by the initiative of the State Agency for Religious Issues the first conference with the title “Interreligious Dialogue for Peace” conducted, which aimed to express the positions of existing religious representatives in Georgia on the actual issues that exist in the society and to summarize opinions for peaceful coexistence of the different religious confession and strengthen cooperation. The conference adopted the joint declaration, by which religious organizations existing in Georgia supported the values of peace, friendship and mutual respect.</p> <p>On 15 November, 2017 representatives of religious organizations existing in Georgia, representatives of Parliament of Georgia, members of the Government of Georgia, representatives of diplomatic corp and representatives of partner higher education institutions of the Agency gathered within the framework of the “Interreligious Dialogue for Peace” – II conference with the title “Religious Tolerance in Georgia”. The conference “Interreligious Dialogue for Peace” will be conducted every following year.</p> <p>Awareness raising trainings on the issue of “Secularism and Religious Neutrality” was conducted and continues to be</p>
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				<p>conducted for civil servants and Ministry of Internal Affairs.</p> <p><i>See also recommendation 117.91.</i></p>
117.93	Implement a national strategy to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance	Ghana	<p>In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .</p>	<p>In 2014 the Parliament of Georgia approved "The Human Rights Strategy" (2014-2020) and its respective Governmental Action Plan on Human Rights, which is renewed every two years.</p> <p>In addition, Action Plan on Human Rights for 2018-2020 envisages different activities, among them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen religious freedom, tolerance, equality, and neutrality; • Conduct qualified analyse by international and local organisations concerning the situation of human rights protection and possible actions incited by religious intolerance • Strengthen principles of religious neutrality at public schools; • More effective detection and criminal prosecution of discriminatory and hate crimes; • Raise public awareness of incidents of discrimination and hate crimes ; • Eradicate discriminatory notes existing in legislation; • Ensure opportunity that their own activities are being unrestrictedly realised by religious integrations , etc. <p>The State Agency for Religious Issues conducts activities systematically to support tolerance and nondiscriminatory environment, to provide freedom of religious and belief, in compliance with international standards and national legislation.</p> <p>In addition, the State Agency for Religious Issues studied international and other states' practice concerning elaboration of religious neutrality protection standards in civil service, as</p>

			<p>well as its reflection forms in the relevant documents. Also, the State Agency for Religious Issues actively cooperates with Civil Service Bureau.</p> <p>On 20 April 2017 by the Decree N200 the Government of Georgia approved the ethic and general ruled of conduct in civil service. The Code of Ethics contains article 7 (religious neutrality).</p> <p>In addition, protection of cultural identity of the ethnic minorities and strengthening of the tolerance environment represent one of the priorities of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration of Georgia. Action Plan for 2015-2020 contains many projects and activities aiming at protecting/developing and popularizing culture of ethnic minorities and intercultural dialogue. To promote the activities of the museums and theaters of ethnic minorities through providing financial support is very important in this direction. The Ministry of Culture and Sport continues to promote exhibitions, publications, performances, events and other cultural activities of the representatives of ethnic minorities acting in the field of culture within the framework of priority "Support of Ethnic Minorities". During 2016-2017, special attention was paid to the issue of protection of cultural heritage, tangible and intangible cultural values of ethnic minorities.</p> <p>Awareness raising of public servants for establishment of secularism and religious neutrality takes place systematically. The project "Religious Tolerance and Secularism" was implemented by the State Agency for Religious Issues with the support of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung South Caucasus. Over 200 public servants participated in the training in Georgia. The training covered 10 regions throughout Georgia (Adjara, Guria, Imereti, Kakheti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Racha-Lechkhumi and</p>
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				<p>Lower Svaneti, Samegrelo-Upper Svaneti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli).</p> <p>Number of activities are carried out on the issue of religious tolerance for awareness raising of the society: State Agency for Religious Issues published interreligious calendar. This project envisages collection of religious holidays of all different religious communities in one calendar format. Religious maps were prepared by the cooperation of State Agency for Religious Issues and National Statistics Office, based on the results of 2014 universal description, which demonstrates Georgia's religious diversity and its regional dimensions.</p> <p>In addition, the electronic map of religious buildings, which reflects religious buildings in 3D format. Within the framework of the Governmental Action Plan on Human Rights State Agency for Religious Issues prepared social video clip on religious tolerance, which was broadcasted by TV. For the purposes of protection religious neutrality in civil service, the State Agency for Religious Issues prepared practical guidelines for civil servants – "Secularism and Religious Neutrality in Civil Service", which creates strong base in this direction.</p> <p>For the purposes of preventing the criminal offences committed by religious intolerance and monitoring response on it, relevant investigative units of Ministry of Internal Affairs study and analyse criminal offence motivated by religious intolerance, taking into account its location, social background, ethnic and cultural diversity.</p> <p><i>In addition, see the recommendation 117.92.</i></p>
117.94	Ensure the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion by everyone,	Botswana	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is	Positive steps taken in relation to investigating the offenses committed on the grounds of religious intolerance are noteworthy. In particular, with the aim to support prosecutorial activities in such cases, the Human Rights Unit

	<p>including persons belonging to religious minorities, by punishing those who harass or incite hate speech against religious minorities</p>		<p>in the process of implementation .</p>	<p>developed a recommendation that provides for interpretation of the provisions of the Georgian criminal legislation on religious intolerance, incidents of damaging religious buildings and structures, legal characterisation of verbal abuse and other pressing issues. An expert from the Council of Europe studied the recommendation. It should be noted that within the scope of a meeting at the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of Georgia held in October 2017, representatives of the Council of Religions under the Public Defender’s Office were familiarized with the said recommendation. Representatives of religious confessions were provided with statistical data of criminal prosecution of the crimes committed out of religious intolerance in 2013-2017. Information about the training activities regarding hate crimes, including the crimes committed out of religious intolerance, carried out for employees of the Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia was presented to the attendants of the meeting. The meeting aimed to familiarize representatives of various religious confessions in Georgia with actions carried out by the Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia, to discuss current challenges and outline the paths for future cooperation.</p> <p>With aim to proactively inform the general public about the incidents of hate crimes and increase awareness, information concerning prosecutions and convictions on the crimes committed against members of sexual and religious minorities were actively published on the website and the social media page of the Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia throughout 2017.</p> <p>In 2016-2017, the Ministry of Internal Affairs launched investigation according to the Article 142 (right to equality) on 1 case, according to the Article 155 (illegal prevention of execution of religious rule) on 5 cases, according to the Article 156 (persecution) on 17 cases.</p>
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				<i>See recommendations 117.43, 117.44, 117.45, 117.46 and 117.49.</i>
117.95	Fully respect freedom of expression and media pluralism	Portugal	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>In 2013, at the Open Governance Partnership annual summit in London, the Government of Georgia officially declared undertaking a new commitment to adopt a Law on Freedom of Information in compliance with the international standards and best practices. On 13 February 2014, the Ministry of Justice presented its draft law at the meeting of the Anti-Corruption Council.</p> <p>The initiator of the draft law is the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. At the first stage, the Ministry of Justice carried out identification of the problems in the current regulation. This information was submitted to the Anti-Corruption Council. The Ministry of Justice carried out numerous studies in order to examine the relevant international legislation and best practices. The studies revealed the necessity for the improvement of the existing practice. The Ministry of Justice decided to work of the draft law with direct participation of the non-governmental sector. Consequently, in the framework of the Anti-corruption Council activities and with the support of the OGP Georgia, the Ministry of Justice lead the process for development of the Freedom of Information Law.</p> <p>A special working group comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Justice and independent experts hired by the OGP was set up. The working group was tasked to develop the concept of amendments and prepare the draft law.</p> <p>Any visions prepared by the thematic working group regarding potential amendments in the sphere of freedom of information were submitted to the Anti-Corruption Council. With the purpose of ensuring a more large-scale working process in response to the existing challenges, three thematic working</p>

			<p>groups were set up: one thematic group was tasked to work on the definitions, the other group was tasked to work on restrictions on issuance of information, and the third group was tasked to work on the supervisory body. The thematic groups worked on specific topics and at the same type provided information and support to the smaller working group.</p> <p>Due to the fact that the current coordination mechanism (the Anti-corruption Council) is based on the decisions that are made as a result of participation and consensus, the entire process of preparing the draft law relied on broad participation of the representatives of state and non-governmental sectors, the media, the courts, the academia and experts.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice elaborated the final version of the law in 2016 and already in Spring 2017, the final version of the draft law was sent to the members of anti-corruption council for wider consultations. The draft law is scheduled to be submitted to the parliament for the upcoming Spring session this year.</p> <p>Amendments to the existing regulation on access to information:</p> <p>The concept of public information – the ambiguity (vagueness) of some of the terms that are used in the definition of public information was reflected in the approached to public information in general. Namely, the meaning of the term ‘processed’ was interpreted in various ways. Some practitioners define it as the obligation of the state to create information based on the applicant’s request, while others exclude the obligation of a state agency to create a new document/information. The opinion of the court regarding this issue is rather ambiguous and up to the present time the judges have not reached a consensus regarding this issue.</p> <p>Furthermore, the definition of the form of public information</p>
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				<p>lacks clarity, because it corresponds to the concept of ‘an official document’. All of these factors combined lead to the erroneous interpretation of the accessibility of information, which is often used by state agencies as a basis for the restriction of access to information.</p> <p>The draft law provides a very clear explanation of the term ‘processed’ (processing of information available from various sources without the obligation to create new information) and ‘document’ inter alia implies one of the forms, which may contain information.</p> <p>The current legislation ensures that public information must be provided immediately or no later than within 10 days of application if additional time is required to obtain and process the information. During the meetings significant number of people responsible for access to information noted that the wording could be read as it allows public authorities to provide accessibility on public information within 10 days. The term ‘immediately’ is often overlooked in practice due to the vagueness of the wording of the provision. The draft law determines different dates (deadlines) for issuance of different categories of information and within a 10-day period (including a 3-day and 48-hour deadline)</p> <p>Public Institutions – the current legislation defines a public institution as an administrative body, a legal entity of private law which is financed through state or local funds. This definition does not include a number of institutions that exercises public authority within their sphere of activities, therefore the definition does not meet international standards. The public institution as defined by the draft law shall additionally cover all legal entities of private law established by the state, autonomous republic or local self-government bodies; In which the state, autonomous republic or local self-</p>
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			<p>government is owned by 50% or more of shares (shares); Or whose activities are directly or indirectly controlled by a state or local self-government body or a legal entity founded by him. In which the state, autonomous republic or local self-government owns by 50% or more of shares; Or the activities of which are directly or indirectly controlled by the state or local self-government body or a legal entity founded by him. Or whose activities are directly or indirectly controlled by a state or local self-government body or a legal entity founded by the local self-government body.</p> <p>Proactive publication and public information registry – at the present moment proactive publication of public information is regulated by the government decree, which does not cover the public institutions of the local self-governments. Therefore, each local-self-government must ensure proactive publication of public information within its territory on the basis of a governmental decree. Such provision offers a broad discretion, which resulted in no systemic and inconsistent approval of the lists for proactive publication of public information based on various municipalities.</p> <p>The Law on Freedom of Information covers both state and local self-government institutions, which serves to prevent the existence of different standards at the central and local level. The draft law provides precise definition of the requirements for registry of public information aimed to streamline document management system in public institutions and also in terms of information issuance.</p> <p>Restriction of access to public information – one of the following can serve as the legal basis for restriction of access to public information: personal data, state and commercial secret. The existing regulation does not provide exact definition as to how information is classified as secret and what interests</p>
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			<p>should be taken into account for this.</p> <p>Moreover, the current regulation does not have relevant provision to ensure balance between public interest and the legitimate aim of restriction. of public interest and restriction. In contrast, information can be classified as a general rule, and the law does not indicate the uncertainty of this information. In contrast, information can be classified based on a general rule, and the current law does not provide any explanation as to how it can be unclassified.</p> <p>The draft law defines criteria and rules for both classifying and declassifying information. It is important that the draft law also provides public interest tests to weigh the possible damage resulting from the disclosure of information that is exempt from publication against the benefits of such disclosure. These tests, provided that relevant preconditions are in place, represent guiding principles for deciding which information must be regarded as classified or which information must be declassified.</p> <p>An oversight body – the most important novelty in the proposed law is that the public defender’s office will act as the oversight body. The best practices around the world foresee the existence of a specific mechanism/body to ensure oversight of the freedom of information right.</p> <p>Based on the draft law, the Public Defender will oversee accessibility of public information in Georgia. Public institutions and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to consult the Public Defender and receive recommendations, suggestions, etc. The public defender will promote establishment of a unified standard for registry of public information, which in its turn is of vital importance for recording public information.</p>
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				<p>completed through a simple authorization process and it is no longer required to obtain a license.</p> <p>Simplified procedures and liberal policies promoted significant increase of the broadcasting companies and the Georgian media is much more diverse today.</p> <p>For comparison, before 2012, there were only 4 national broadcasters in Georgia (including the Public Broadcaster). While today there are 21 national over-the-air/wireless broadcasters. As of 1st March 2018, there are total of 98 broadcasters, while before 2012 there were only 54 broadcasters (including regional and cable broadcasters).</p> <p>As of th 5th March 2018, a new law on broadcasting entered into force, which envisages creation of favourable environment for the media through transparency of funding, political independence of broadcasting companies and democratic composition of the public broadcaster board.</p> <p>In 2015, Georgia made a full transition to digital terrestrial television broadcasting. In 2014, based on the strategy approved by the Government of Georgia, relevant infrastructure was built to ensure transmission of digital broadcasting (multiplex platforms).</p> <p>With the purpose of promoting national broadcaster and ensuring formation of national multiplex platforms, local broadcasters / local broadcasters have been envisaged to grant radiofrequency resource free of charge for the formation of a local digital terrestrial broadcasting network / multiplex platform. As of today, there are three digital multiplex platforms across Georgia, the Tbilisi Multiplex platform that covers Tbilisi, there are also 25 regional multiplexes, including those located in regions densely populated by ethnic and religious minorities.</p>
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				In order to protect the interests of broadcasters and consumers, in 2016, an amendment was introduced to the Law of Georgia on Electronic Communications, which defines the obligation of the owner of the multiplex platforms and states that in compliance with the law of Georgia on Broadcasting: authorized broadcasters must be granted over-the air broadcasting based on non-discriminatory, equal conditions and cost-oriented rates, and must be provided with equal quality of service. This represents the highest European standard in the sphere of electronic communications, which is applied in all spheres of electronic communications.
117.96	Institute measures that guarantee a free and independent media environment	Ghana	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendation 117.95.</i>
117.97	Continue to prioritize safeguarding media freedom	Australia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendation 117.95.</i>
117.98	Bolster respect for pluralism and open debate by fostering a non-violent environment tolerant of dissenting voices, including those of the opposition, and avoiding politically	United States of America	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendation 117.95.</i>

	motivated actions against critical media outlets			
117.99	Refrain from interfering in the activities of human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations and ensure a safe and enabling environment for their work	Estonia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	Human Rights Defenders and Non-governmental organizations carry out their professional activities without delay and freely without intervention from the Government. Non-governmental sector is active in Georgia and secured environment is ensured for them. Human Rights Defenders and Non-governmental organizations are actively involved in the process of drafting policy documents, as well as in the process of monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy and related Governmental Action Plan.
117.100	Develop a strategy to increase the participation of women in decision-making positions in all branches of the Government	Austria	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.25, 117.32 and 117.102.</i>
117.101	Continue working to boost the participation of women in political and executive positions under principles of equality without discrimination, particularly guaranteeing the participation of rural women	Colombia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.25, 117.32 and 117.102.</i>
117.102	Increase efforts and allocation of	Costa Rica	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's	The issue of adopting a law on mandatory gender quotas is actively discussed at the national level.

	necessary resources to guarantee greater participation of women in political and leadership positions		already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	In June 2017, legislative initiative with over 30 000 signatures was registered at the Parliament, which implied imposing mandatory gender quotas. The Parliament of Georgia supported this draft law on the very first committee hearing. In case of approval of the draft law, political parties would have 50% mandatory gender quotas for proportional lists for parliamentary and local elections. As a result, women's political participation in Georgia would have been close to 30%. Despite the fact that the draft law was not adopted, the Council continues its work in this direction.
117.10 3	Undertake further measures for the integration of minorities and the promotion of their representation in Georgian political and public life	Albania	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>Political and Civic Integration</p> <p>To ensure ethnic minority engagement in electoral processes, the Central Election Commission of Georgia carries out its activities in accordance with the approved Strategic Plan of Election Administration 2015-2019 and Annual Action Plan. During 2016 Parliamentary Elections of Georgia and 2017 Municipal Elections of Georgia, ethnic minorities enjoyed the opportunity of equal participation namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electoral documentation including ballot paper, unified list of voters, materials intended to inform voters and informational video footage are being translated into ethnic minority languages (Armenian and Azerbaijani); • Ethnic minority members of Precinct Election Commissions undergone intensive training courses and relevant guideline to fulfill their functions were printed for them in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages; <p>Voters were able via modern technologies (CEC Website - voters.cec.gov.ge, Android and iOS operating systems, quick payment terminals, tablets) to verify their data in the unified list of voters in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages.</p>

			<p>In 2015-2017 Election Administration carried out important targeted educational projects for senior students of public school, students and generally for young people, as well as for voters of any age in regions densely populated with ethnic minorities.</p> <p>Grants were issued to local NGOs for informing ethnic minorities and engaging them in the election process.</p> <p>Ethnic minorities are represented in the Parliament of Georgia. In regions compactly populated with ethnic minorities, such as Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli, local councils of municipalities (where ethnic minorities constitute majority) the representation of ethnic Armenians and Azerbaijanis is proportional to the percentage of the population in those regions.</p> <p>The Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality has supported Public Advisory Councils that function at local self-governments in Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions. This format of communication/consultancy implies active involvement of ethnic minority representatives in decision making processes.</p> <p>Increased participation in civic processes implies ensuring of access of ethnic minority representatives to the public administration. Therefore, in summer 2017 Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality initiated an internship pilot program for ethnic minority students, beneficiaries of “1+4” program which implied recruitment of ethnic minority students for enhancing their knowledge and skills. Therefore, 65 ethnic minority students undergo internship at 20 state agencies and local self-government bodies for 3 months period and one of them was even employed.</p>
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				<p>Miistry of Corrections of Georgia.</p> <p>Education.</p> <p>Ethnic minorities have access to all levels of education (preschool, general, higher, vocational), also in their native languages.</p> <p>There are 211 non-Georgian language public schools and 76 non-Georgian language sectors in Georgia, including 82 Azerbaijani, 118 Armenian, and 11 Russian-language schools, along with 32 Georgian-Azerbaijani sectors, 29 Georgian-Russian sectors, 10 Georgian-Armenian sectors, one Georgian-Azerbaijani-Russian sector, and one Georgian-Russian-Armenian sector.</p> <p>For the last period the following main measures were undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National standards for early and preschool education were developed to include in educational resources ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity, to spur Georgian language teaching by teachers in the regions populated by ethnic minorities, to encourage in each student respect for the different; • The standards of native language instruction (Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian) for VII-IX grades has been prepared; • Annual curricula for the elementary level (1st-4th grades) is being developed together with experts in the native languages of ethnic minorities; • Special attention has been paid to enhancing the qualification of pedagogues in non-Georgian language schools;
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of smaller minority groups' languages (Ossetian, Avar, Udi, Assyrian and Kurdish languages, Chechen) were introduced at public school upon request; • Since 2017 the Abkhazian language instruction is introduced at 2 public schools in Adjara region. <p>Implementation of programs and projects at every level of education which aim at improving knowledge of state language was continued. In this regard Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration continued to provide ethnic minorities public servants (employed at the central and local governments and self-governments) with short and long-term professional and educational programs for professional growth and development. Also, programs which target at improving state (Georgian) language were implemented through the School's 10 Regional Centers and mobile groups. The Georgian language courses were delivered by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and the Ministry of Corrections of Georgia, also the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Georgia. Georgian language learning course was launched in the Akhalkalaki Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church.</p> <p><u>Gender mainstreaming.</u> Information/awareness raising campaign is regularly conducted on human rights, ethnic minorities' rights, anti-discrimination, domestic violence and early marriages, social programs and services, educational programs, Georgia's European integration process, etc. for ethnic minority women in the regions of their compact settlement.</p> <p><u>Social and regional mobility.</u> Information campaign is conducted for ethnic minority representatives on healthcare programs and services. Information materials were prepared and delivered, also in minority languages.</p>
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				<p>Diverse <u>infrastructure rehabilitation</u> and other wide-scope economic projects are implemented in the regions compactly populated by ethnic minorities in the areas of energy infrastructure rehabilitation, rural gasification, and restoration/creation of irrigation and drinking water canals, water reservoir recovery, and rehabilitation of local roads, restoration of exterior lighting and the building of bridges, school infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Preservation of culture.</u> The state continued to support ethnic minorities theaters, museums and cultural centers. Various cultural programs were realized which aimed at supporting and promotion of culture of ethnic minorities and its popularization.</p> <p>Awareness raising campaign is carried out on regular basis for ethnic minority population in their native languages. The campaign covers organization of meetings, discussions and delivery of information and materials on human rights, civic integration policy, education, social benefits and services, programs in agriculture, women's rights, domestic violence as well as European integration and other issues.</p> <p><i>Also, see recommendation 117.33.</i></p>
117.10 4	Improve access to health services for socially vulnerable persons	Algeria	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	From July 1, 2017, persons suffering from chronic conditions, who are registered in the unified database of "socially vulnerable families" with the rating score not exceeding 100,000, are eligible for the state program providing drugs for chronic conditions.
117.10 5	Improve women's access to high quality health care and	Rwanda	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already	In 2017 National Maternal and Newborn health improvement Strategy 2017-2030 was approved with the aim to provide long-term guidance and coherent plan of action for the

	health-related services		implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>improvement of maternal and newborn health as well as family planning, sexual and reproductive health over the next 14 years in Georgia.</p> <p>Perinatal care services regionalization project to improve the health outcomes and decrease maternal and infant morbidity and mortality through provision of risk-appropriate care started in 2015 and finished in 2017. As a result, in 2016 the lowest mortality rate of maternal mortality was observed in recent years – 22,9/100,000 people.</p> <p>The program of eliminations of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis is implemented since 2017.</p>
117.10 6	Consider improving and promoting education at all levels of public education	Oman	Georgia has been observed in 2015 to have implemented or is in the implementation process	<p>The Government of Georgia approved the Strategy of Education and Science of Georgia 2017-2021 by Decree N533 of December 7, 2017. Strategy Action Plans have been developed. These documents cover all areas of education and science: early/pre-school education, general, vocational and higher education, adult education, science and research. The Strategy of the Ministry fully envisages the requirements of the Association Agreement between the UN and the European Union, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe recommendations and are in compliance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The strategic objectives of the Ministry of Education and Science serve to provide access to education at all levels and access to quality education.</p> <p>Complete general education is free at public education institutions.</p> <p>In 2015, the scheme for professional development and career advancement of teacher was approved, it is aimed at raising the quality of teaching and learning at all general education institutions through the systematic professional development</p>

				<p>of teachers. The scheme identifies four levels of teachers: practitioner teachers, senior teachers, leading teachers, and mentor teachers. The status determined by the scheme is based on the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Professional Standards of the teacher.</p> <p>The goal of the scheme is to introduce an integrated system of teacher training, professional development and career advancement, that will increase the prestige of the profession, attracting the best new staff and enhancing the qualification and motivation of existing teachers. Providing a wide variety of programs and services for professional development: projects, programs, trainings, conferences, seminars, workshops, methodical and educational resources, etc.</p> <p>According to data for the 2017-2018 academic year there are: Mentor teachers - 9; Senior teachers - 19097; Leading teachers - 277; Practitioner teachers - 44057.</p> <p>In addition, in order to increase geographical access to schools, the Ministry of Education and Science is improving transportation services. In the program mentioned, in the first semester of 2016-2017 - 1188 Public Schools and 65559 students were engaged, in the second semester of 2016-2017 - 1212 schools and 66 971 students, and in the first semester of 2017-2018 - 1234 schools and 70 687 students.</p> <p>Also, the program "Providing Students with Textbooks" is being carried out annually. The program envisages transfer of school textbooks for beneficiaries defined by the program. According to the same program, each year textbooks are provided to Georgian public schools as well as non-Georgian public school students.</p>
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				<p>Non-Georgian school students are given bilingual language textbooks and supporting literature in the relevant language.</p> <p>Within the framework of the program "My First Computer", a portable computer ("Buki") is awarded annually to the first grade pupils and their tutors. Within the framework of the same program, computers are awarded to successful graduates of high school. Public schools are supported with (according to their request) different types of inventory.</p> <p>Special educational service - "Transit Educational Program" is being implemented for vulnerable children. In 2017, 101 vulnerable children were involved in the program, and in 2018 - 150 (so-called children living and working in streets), 12 were enrolled in schools, 3 beneficiaries were enrolled in the vocational school and for the remaining students, preventive measures for drop outs were taken for full integration in schools.</p> <p>In order to support universal access to basic education, a sub-program called "Providing Access to General Education to Asylum Seekers in Georgia and Refugee or Humanitarian Status Persons", is carried out, which provides asylum seekers and refugee or humanitarian status persons and also the juveniles placed in the Department of Migration at MIA, with access to general education. In particular, teaching of Georgian language at certain level, so that beneficiaries are able to continue getting general education smoothly. In January 2017, 8 students were involved in the sub-program. 17 students enrolled in September are taking the classes. Currently a total of 25 students are studying in the program.</p> <p>"Access to Education for Convicts and Accused" program is</p>
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				<p>carried out within the scope of which the convicted/accused persons have access to general education.</p> <p>Within the framework of the Vocational Education Reform Strategy for 2013-2020, in order to improve the quality of vocational education and enhance compliance with the labor market requirements, through engaging employers, educational program reform was launched. Within the framework of the reform, educational, flexible, competence-based program modules are gradually implemented. Together with the introduction of module educational programs, the improvement of teaching and assessment quality as well as development of teachers' capacities arose. Study in state vocational education institutions is fully funded by the state.</p> <p>In addition, within the framework of the reforms the work on improving geographical access to vocational education actively started - new colleges were established, college buildings/residential buildings and infrastructure were renovated. Taking into consideration the principles of inclusive education, adequate learning materials for students with special needs, as well as vocational education institutions were adapted. 4 Professional Educational Institutions were organized according to the Universal Design Principles (Norwegian Standard). Alternate procedures have been introduced for engaging students with disabilities and students with special needs. Various services (gesture language translators, assisting staff, inclusive education specialists) have been introduced in the state colleges, special trainings were planned and implemented for teachers. As a result, in 2013-2018, about 1000 persons with disabilities/seniors were enrolled in professional education for alternative professional testing.</p> <p>In 2013-2018, professional education of students with special</p>
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				<p>needs, was provided by 29 state educational institutions implementing professional programs in 16 municipalities in Tbilisi and regions. (All of the vocational educational institutions are adapted for students with disabilities/students with special needs. To support professional education of students, audio guide of 52 textbooks were created. 12 vocational training centers received portable video-enlargers for students with visual impairment, provide access to education, in order to to support receiving education for students using sign language in professional programs Georgian electronic bank SignWiki was created which brings together more than 1500 gesture.</p> <p>A successful graduate guide for Vocational institutions was also created. With the support of vocational education institution, 90 graduates, with disabilities/special needs, were employed. National minorities have the opportunity to pass a proficiency test in their native language, the implementation of short-term courses were launched for job seekers, prisoners and ex-prisoners for the purpose of professional education.</p> <p>Within the framework of the reforms, authorization standards of higher education institutions and accreditation standards and procedures of higher education institutions have been changed. Particular attention is paid to assessing the results achieved by student-centered approach and outcomes achieved by higher education institutions. In 2017, renewed standards and procedures for authorization of higher education institutions were approved.</p> <p>In addition to provide access to higher education, the Ministry is implementing the students' social support program, within the framework of which the representatives of different groups are funded: students living in high mountainous and ecological</p>
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				<p>migration regions; students from occupied territories, students who have received a document certifying getting complete general education in Azerbaijani language general education institutions; students who have received a document certifying full general education in Armenian language general education institutions; Students who are children of those killed in the fighting for the territorial integrity of Georgia and children of missing people; students who have obtained repatriate status; students who are orphans (parents have died); students who are members of a large family (four and more children); students who are sharply/significantly/moderately expressed persons with disabilities; Students who are under state care (in the caretaker or foster carers) or are out of state care; Students who are registered in the unified database of socially vulnerable families.</p>
117.10 7	Further improve the accessibility and quality of education, and increase the enrolment rate of vulnerable children, including girl children and children of ethnic minorities	China	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.106 and 117.108.</i>
117.10 8	Consider promoting access to education for girls from ethnic minorities and remove barriers that impede access to education by Roma children	Nigeria	Georgia has been observed in 2015 to have implemented or is in the implementation process	<p>In order to improve access to education, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia implements "social inclusion" and "second chance of education" programs aimed at creating an appropriate environment for inclusive learning. Within the framework of the programs, in 2016-2017, 200 Roma children were integrated in schools. Roma children are engaged in peer interest activities (reading and theater clubs).</p> <p>During the 2016-2017 period, special attention was given to</p>

			<p>the protection of linguistic rights of small ethnic minorities. According to the decree No.1255 of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, schools/classes were identified to teach the following languages of ethnic minorities: Ossetian, Khurshi, Udi, Assyrian, Kurdish, Chechen.</p> <p>Within the revision of the National Curriculum, standards for elementary level of ethnic minority languages and annual programs have been developed. Elementary school level standards were translated into Armenian and Azeri languages. Also, the basic level standard of the native language has been developed, and the work on the annual cycle of programs is underway.</p> <p>LEPL Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration is implementing the state language teaching program for foreign citizens living in Georgia officially. Within the framework of the state language program, 143 citizens of foreign country, have acquired state language at A1, A2 and B1 levels. These include citizens of Armenia, Syria, Egypt, Ukraine, Iraq, Tajikistan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Russia and Yemen.</p> <p>The LEPL Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration is implementing the national language teaching program for national minorities that facilitates their integration in Georgian society and career advancement. In 2016-2017, 6440 national minority representatives from Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions have benefited from the state language program.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia was implementing "Program of Supporting the Integration of Ethnic Minorities in Georgia" in 2016-2017, which aimed to promote the development of young people in ethnic minorities in the</p>
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			<p>country.</p> <p>To raise proficiency of the state language for ethnic minority groups and also to support integration process in the society the program "Ethnic Minority Teachers' Professional Development" is carried out aiming at promoting professional development and of teachers from ethnic minority regions and supporting teaching and learning process by strengthening the state language teaching.</p> <p>Within the framework of the "Distance Learning of Georgian Language", the goal of which is to teach Georgian language to Georgian students abroad and share Georgian culture using distance learning method, 225 students from 35 countries were engaged in the program. In 2017, 35 teachers conducted 1300 lessons of Georgian language.</p> <p>Since 2016, ethnic minority groups in Georgia have the opportunity to undertake professional testing in their native language (in Russian, Azeri and Armenian) and enroll in state vocational education institutions through full state funding. While taking the vocational education program students are acquiring Georgian language module at the first stage.</p> <p>In order to promote higher education for ethnic minorities, a specialized, Georgian language training program has been carried out since 2010, which is an accredited special education program, enrollment is carried out only by based on the results of one exam (only professional skills tests in Azeri Armenian, Ossetian and Abkhazian) and in which the skills and knowledge (writing, reading, listening, speaking) in Georgian language are available at the level to be able to continue higher education programs.</p> <p><i>See recommendations 117.33 and 118.48.</i></p>
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117.10 9	Continue to pursue policies that will expand opportunities for all children of school-going age to access high quality education, in particular those with special-education needs	Singapore	Georgia has been observed in 2015 to have implemented or is in the implementation process	<p>In 2017, the Strategy and Action Plan for the Development of Inclusive Education 2018-2024 was developed. Approval of the document developed, is planned in 2018. The package of amendments to the Law on General Education was prepared in order to harmonize the Georgian Law on General Education with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that will be reflected in the law in 2018.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the Ministry of Education and Science provided educational services (integrated classes) for students with hearing problems, average, severe intellectual and multiple infections, autistic spectrum and long-term hospitalized chronic diseases. At present, 12 integrated classes are functioning.</p> <p>On the level of general education, the academic resources, teacher's guidebooks in Georgian language and mathematics and news posters have been created for students with special needs. The teacher's guide provides a detailed explanation of how to plan and conduct a lesson with the universal design principles, in order to increase the involvement of all students</p> <p>Construction of 4 large-scale (more than 60 children) schools and 3 (20 children) small-scale schools have been fully completed and adapted. The construction of 9 high schools (more than 60 children) and 15 (20 children) small contingent schools has started, schools will be fully adapted.</p> <p>Ramps were arranged at 13 public schools, out of which works for 11 public schools were undertaken with the electronic tender announced by the Agency and 2 public schools received project and finances for the implementation of the works. Based on the information received from schools today, 35% of school buildings are partially or/and fully adapted.</p>
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				<p>Within the framework of "Inclusive Education" program, whose beneficiaries are the general education teachers and special teachers, training modules for specialists, teachers working with students with special educational needs, parents, was developed and carried out. More than 3000 beneficiaries have been trained since 2016.</p> <p>More than 400 teachers of vocational colleges were trained in the framework of the "Professional Development of Vocational Education teachers state program" at the vocational education level, through the training module "Individual Approaches, Professional Testing to Students with Special Educational Needs at Vocational Education" .</p> <p>The students with special educational needs and students with disabilities taking tests to enroll in the professional programs, the main part of the vocational educational institutions is adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities and special educational needs. Students with special educational needs enrolled in vocational education receive support, individual approach to acquire teaching material by inclusive education specialists. Students with hearing impairment receive gesture language translators. An electronic version of Georgian gesture language was created; Audio versions of textbooks were created for blind students. Additional services provide assistance in transportation whenever needed for the students with disabilities and students with special educational needs.</p> <p>In 2016-2017 the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia implemented the activities related to informal education, special training and promotion of employment for persons with disabilities in the framework of Inclusive Program of Persons with Disabilities. Job Coacher service for students with special educational needs and persons with disabilities was</p>
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				designed that was handed over to the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs.
117.110	Take further steps for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Myanmar	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	110 International Expert on Human Rights was invited to Georgia in order to examine the institutional framework regarding the implementation of the convention and to share the best practices within the EU-UN joint project "Human Rights for all". The expert visited Georgia twice during 2016, in June and in October. During his first visit, he met with the stakeholders and examined in a detailed manner existing mechanism in Georgia. As for his second visit, the expert presented his recommendations and initiatives to the stakeholders. Based on their comments the report by the expert was re-drafted in November 2016 and final report was ready in December. The government of Georgia is planning to develop the institutional mechanism responsible for the implementation of the UN Convention based on the recommendations of the international expert. <i>See also 117.109 recommendation.</i>
117.111	Advance the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by improving the inclusion of children and persons with disabilities in education and employment	Austria	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendation 117.109.</i>
117.112	Take further steps to ensure the protection of persons	Greece	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already	<i>See recommendations 117.21, 117.30, 117.90, 117.109 and 117.110.</i>

	with disabilities		implemented or is in the process of implementation .	
117.11 3	Carry on making efforts to promote the rights of people with disabilities	Oman	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.21, 117.30, 117.90, 117.109 and 117.110.</i>
117.11 4	Adopt the necessary measures to protect ethnic and religious minorities from all forms of violence and discrimination	Costa Rica	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>In 2016-2017 a large scale information/awareness raising campaign was conducted for ethnic minority representatives on human (ethnic minorities) rights, antidiscrimination, women's rights, international mechanisms of the protection of ethnic minorities' rights.</p> <p>In 2017 the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality in cooperation with the State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking and the Ministry of Justice of Georgia implemented the project "Youth for Gender Equality, which aimed at delivery of information on women's rights, gender based violence, early marriages. At first stage of the project implementation volunteers - educators held about 103 meetings in 61 villages of Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti regions, on the second stage in 33 villages 66 meetings were held. The relevant materials were prepared and disseminated in the languages of ethnic minorities.</p> <p><i>See recommendations 117.7, 117.30 and 117.43.</i></p>
117.11 5	Improve the education of persons belonging to minority groups	The Republic of North Macedonia	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is	<i>See recommendations 117.108.</i>

			in the process of implementation .	
117.11 6	Ensure teaching and preservation of minority languages, by providing adequate general education to students in their native language	Austria	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<i>See recommendations 117.108.</i>
117.11 7	Take the necessary steps to address concerns over the rights of vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants, and carry forward measures to integrate them effectively into the broader social and political systems	Republic of Korea	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia (MRA) had the budget allocation of approximately 75,000,000 GEL annually for the IDP accommodation programs. More than 38,000 IDP families (42%) are provided with durable housing as of 2018. In addition to various housing programs, IDPs receive monthly allowance (45 GEL) if their monthly income is less than 1,250 GEL. In order to protect the property rights of IDPs, the description of their real estate on the occupied territories is underway in order to provide them with the appropriate documents confirming property rights. With the support of international community, Georgia is working towards creating conditions for IDPs for safe, voluntary and dignified return to their homes. Getting IDP status is voluntary, they are not discriminated against and they enjoy the same rights as Georgian citizens. They actively participate in the country's political and social life.</p> <p>The MRA was also responsible for the resettlement of eco-migrants (The affected by and displaced as a result of natural disasters (eco-migrant) is the family, whose house, or part of it</p>

				<p>is affected (unsuitable for living) and restoration of the house is impossible or/and the house is not destroyed, but the natural disasters, such as: landslide, mudslides, stone falls, rock-falls, river erosion, snow avalanches, except earthquakes and volcanoes pose a threat to the people's lives, health and property.)</p> <p>In order to transfer housing into eco-migrant's private property, in 2015, the Ministry renewed the registration of the living spaces and land plots purchased in the timeframe of 2004-2009. From 2016, the procedures commenced to transfer them into private property.</p> <p>Towards eco- migrants the Ministry carries out a program, under which, the Ministry offers to purchase a house to the persons who were affected by the natural disasters on the basis of Minister's Decree №779 13/11/2013. Eco-migrants can apply to the Ministry for the "allocation of housing". After the confirmation of the application by appropriate municipality, the application is reviewed and scored based on the criteria set out in the Minister's decree. After going through these procedures, the commission, consisting of different international and non-governmental organizations and Office of Public Defender, makes a decision on the resettlement. The procedure is open and transparent.</p> <p>Recently, the policy on eco-migrants had changed and as a result eco-migrants can choose their homes in any territory of Georgia that will be tailored to their needs.</p> <p>Moreover, LEPL Livelihood Agency was created. Its priority is</p>
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			<p>to increase IDP awareness on various state programs, support their involvement and offer grants/subsidy programs tailored to the IDP needs. In 2016-2017 nearly 3,000 IDPs participated in various livelihood programs (small enterprises grants program, vocational education program, agro-insurance program, etc.).</p> <p>It should be noted that in 2017 the name, as well as the scope of action of the LEPL Livelihood Agency has changed. The law on grants was also amended and as a result, the Agency has the opportunity to obtain a grant and implement programs for IDPs, as well as eco-migrants and their integration and employment.</p> <p>Since 2015, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia is carrying out the program “The reintegration assistance to returned Georgian migrants”, which is financed by the state budget.</p> <p>The program foresees providing medicine and health care services, financing social projects, providing temporary accommodation and professional training and re-training for job-seekers. Since 2017, the program covers the whole territory of Georgia (except the occupied territories). Therefore, the regional availability of the aforementioned services is ensured.</p> <p>In 2017, in order to support integration of international protection holders, the Ministry has initiated state program “Integration of international protection holders”. In addition, integration center has started operating in 2017. The center offers Georgian language courses, social-cultural awareness-raising courses, civil orientation courses, involvement of</p>
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				<p>beneficiaries in the activities of the National Youth Palace and consulting service to international protection holders, which provides them with necessary information depending on their status. Moreover, beneficiaries are informed about various state programs available to them. One of the most important directions of the integration center is to support involvement of international protection holders in economic activities. In order to provide them with a source of income and promote their employment / self-employment, projects that are adopted to meet their needs are financed.</p> <p>-</p>
117.11 8	Continue to keep the principle of non-refoulement and limit the use and duration of detention for asylum seekers	Republic of Korea	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>Georgian legislation guarantees the protection of international protection holders and refugees from refoulement. The Principle of Non-Refoulement is well guaranteed in the following legislative documents: the Law of Georgia on International Protection and the Law of Georgia on the legal Status of Aliens and Stateless Persons. Article 8 of the Law of Georgia on International Protection defines the principle of non-refoulement in line with Georgian legislation and international law. Under Article 8: <i>"Asylum-seeker or person under international protection shall not be returned or expelled in any manner whatsoever to the border of the country where their life or freedom would be threatened on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion"</i>.</p> <p>Georgian legislation guarantees the exemption from the criminal responsibility of the alien if s/he has claimed asylum in Georgia. Under Article 7 of the Law of Georgia on International Protection, alien or stateless person is exempted from criminal responsibility for the illegal entry to the territory of Georgia, violating the rules of Law of Georgia on Occupied Territories, or for illegal crossing of the state border, or preparation, use or purchasing of forged identity card or other official documents, seal, stamp or blank, for keeping such documents for later use (except for the acts related to sale of</p>

				<p>forged official documents, seal, stamp or blank forms) if he/she has fled to Georgia from the country where he/she was threatened in accordance with Article 1 of 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, Articles 21(1) and 32(3) of this Law and illegally stays on the territory of Georgia and asks state authorities of Georgia for international protection, if there are no other offences in his/her actions. Alien or stateless person is exempted from criminal responsibility only if she/he addresses the state agencies of Georgia without delay and provides reasonable explanation on the reasons for committing this act.</p>
117.119	Strengthen measures to protect displaced persons and include them in public social development policies	Chile	In 2015 Georgia stated that it's already implemented or is in the process of implementation .	<p>The IDPs are actively involved in national, as well as municipal developmental programs. The MRA was coordinating development of the programs, where in order to increase IDP participation, they are provided with favorable conditions.</p> <p>The LEPL livelihood Agency is carrying out multiple livelihood programs in order to increase economic opportunities for IDPs and provide them with various services. State budget allocated to creating dignified living conditions for IDPs is gradually increasing.</p> <p>The IDPs are regularly informed about the existing state programs in the framework of the information campaign. Based on different studies, IDPs are not discriminated against because of their IDP status and they are actively involved in the community programs.</p>
118.2	Amend the Law on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination to include a mechanism of fines and other	Sweden		<i>See recommendations 117.6, 117.32, 117.36 and 117.35.</i>

	sanctions for use by the Public Defender's Office in the event of discriminatory actions			
118.3	Amend the criminal code by incorporating the category of racist remarks to clearly define direct and indirect discrimination and recognize that racial, religious, national or ethnic grounds constitute an aggravating circumstance	Djibouti	Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: According to the paragraph 31 of the Article 53 (General principles of imposition of punishment) of the Criminal Code of Georgia (CCG), commission of a crime on the grounds of race, colour, language, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, political or other beliefs, disability, citizenship, national, ethnic or social origin,	Article 239 ¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia states that public incitement, to acts of violence orally, in writing or using other means of expression in order to cause discord between certain groups based on their racial or other affiliation, provided that this poses clear, direct and substantial risk of violent acts, is an offense that leads to criminal liability. This article was added to the Criminal Code on 12 June 2015. <i>See also recommendation 117.13.</i>

			<p>material status or rank, place of residence or other discriminatory grounds shall constitute an aggravating circumstance for all the relevant crimes provided for by this Code.</p> <p>In addition, the draft amendments to the CCG have been prepared which include revision of Article 1421 (Racial Discrimination) of CCG to establish criminal liability for public incitement of acts against equality or those triggering violence or hostility due to one's affiliation to any of the aforementioned groups, which could have caused substantial damage.</p>	
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118.4- 118.5	<p>Prevent child marriage by having a minimum age restriction of marriage at 18 without any exception</p>	Botswana Sierra Leone	<p>On 1 January, 2016, legislative amendments entered into force restricting minimum age of marriage at 18 without any exception.</p>	<p>With the aim of preventing underage marriage, legal amendments were introduced to the Civil Code of Georgia in 2015, which prohibit marriage of underage persons from 16 to 18 years of age even if there is a parental consent or a prewritten consent of a guardian, special circumstances (such as pregnancy), or court permission. These legal amendmenst were enacted on 1 January 2017 and henceforthonly persons over the age of 18 can enter a registered marriage.</p> <p>Additionally, in an effort to ensure full harmonization of the national legislation with the Istanbul Convention, relevant amendments were made to the Criminal Code of Georgia, according to which a forced marriage (including an unregistered marriage) is a criminal offence.</p>
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118.6	<p>Establish a mechanism that monitors the implementation of the 2014 anti-discrimination legislation and action-oriented strategies</p>	Iceland		<p>In order to fulfil the obligations imposed by the anti-discrimination law, a structural unit – Department of Equality was established under the Office of the Public Defender of Georgia. The Public Defender of Georgia receives and examines the applications and complaints filed by physical or legal persons or group of persons who consider themselves to be a victims of discrimination – upon addressing the Public Defender, the applicant only needs to indicate the facts which provide the basis for the assumption of discriminatory action and provide relevant materials, after which the alleged perpetrator of the discriminatory action must prove that discrimination has not occurred. In case of adequate material evidence of discrimination, the Public Defender may apply to the relevant institution or physical person with a recommendation to restore the rights of victims of discrimination. In case there is sufficient material to prove that discrimination occurred, the Public Defender can address the relevant institution or physical person with recommendation to restore the rights of the victim of discrimination.</p>
118.7	<p>Strengthen the mechanisms set up by the “Commission of Human Rights and Integration”, to ensure the best possible monitoring and evaluation of the human rights situation in the country</p>	Morocco	<p>Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: Although, Georgia supports the recommendation, the definition of the “Commission of</p>	<p>Human Rights and civil integration committee of the Parliament of Georgia ensures effective observation and assessment of Human Rights Protection situation in the country through the hearing of reports presented by Public Defender of Georgia, the Government of Georgia, Personal Data Protection Inspector, Legal Aid Service, State Security Service and other institutions. Later on the committee checks the state of implementation of the given recommendations</p> <p>After the hearing of Public Defenders report relevant recommendations to the Government and other institutions which were passed by the parliament are reflected in the resolution. Recommendations reflected in the parliaments resolution are mandatory to be fulfilled.</p>

			<p>Human Rights and Integration” needs clarification. We suppose that it might be the Inter-Agency Commission for the implementation of the Civic Integration State Strategy.</p> <p>The Civic Equality and Integration State Strategy and respective Action Plan for 2015-2020 defines specific mechanisms and timelines for monitoring and evaluation. The State Inter-Agency Commission will be created to monitor and report on the implementation of strategy goals and activities, which will be coordinated by the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality. Members of the</p>	<p>The supervision on fulfillment of these recommendations is conducted by the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee which upon completion of the calendar year, with the participation of Public Defender, conducts the committee hearing of the institutions to which the recommendations have been issued. The reports presented by the relevant institutions cover the state of fulfillment of recommendations. Afterwards the committee elaborated a conclusion which evaluates the performance of each institution, analysis the state of fulfillment of recommendations and indicates remaining problems and challenges. The hearing on the fulfillment of the recommendations enshrined in Public Defender’s Report is public with participation and direct involvement of respective non-governmental organizations and other interested stakeholders.</p> <p>According to Article 173 the Government of Georgia submits to the Parliament the draft and final recommendations prepared by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council in the framework of UN UPR process. Government of Georgia also submits to the Parliament a final and interim draft report on implementation of recommendations committed during UN UPR process (in case it exists) at least 2 months prior to submission of this report to UN Human Rights Council.</p> <p>According to Articles 174 and 175 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament the Government of Georgia submits to the Parliament:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on status of implementation of decisions of the relevant UN committee concerning individual complaints against Georgia; • Report on implementation of decisions/judgments of the
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			<p>Commission will include all major state institutions which have assumed relevant responsibilities according to the Strategy and Action Plan. Thematically relevant working groups will continue to operate within the Inter-Agency Commission. Quantitative and qualitative assessment of the implementation of the policy document is envisaged. Monitoring will be provided by the Council of National Minorities functioning at Public Defender's Office. Financial support of the activities planned in the Action Plan will be provided by the state agencies within their profile</p>	<p>European Court of Human Rights regarding the cases on which the Council of Europe (CoE) Committee of Ministers adopted the final resolution in previous year;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An action plan on implementation of decisions/judgments of the European Court of Human Rights concerning ongoing cases, as well as decisions and interim resolutions of the CoE Committee of Ministers concerning these cases (if available); <p>The Committee conducts the hearing of the interim report on the fulfillment of the Government action plan for the Human rights protection which is periodically submitted to parliament by the Government.</p> <p>The Committee also conducts the hearing of annual reports submitted by the Personal Data Protection Inspector, The Legal Aid Service, State Security Service and other institutions. The Committee elaborates respective recommendations and throughout the year conducts periodic monitoring of the fulfillment of the above mentioned recommendations. The Committee entirely evaluates the state of fulfillment of recommendations issued in the past year while discussing the plan of the upcoming year. The Committee ensures the observation and evaluation of the state of protection of Human Rights throughout the country by reacting on the individual claims/applications submitted by the citizens.</p>
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			and competence.	
118.8	Amend the legislation to ensure an effective follow-up instrument for the public defenders and the members of the national preventive mechanism	Andorra	Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: Partially Implemented. The legislation was amended in 2015 to grant Public Defender and the members of National Preventive Mechanism the right to take photos in the penitentiary establishments during their unrestricted monitoring visits. A Ministerial Order regulating the rules and procedures is being developed in close cooperation with the office of the Public Defender and shall be	<i>See recommendation 117.26.</i>

			<p>adopted in the second quarter of 2016 in order to ensure implementation of this right by September 1, 2016. At the same time close cooperation with PDO continues to ensure solid follow-up and implementation of its recommendations through practical measures.</p>	
118.9	<p>Redouble its efforts to ensure the rights of LGBTI persons and, in line with the Human Rights Committee’s recommendations, combat all forms of social stigmatization of homosexuality, bisexuality and transsexuality, and hate speech, discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity</p>	Uruguay		<p>By approving Governmental Action Plan on Human Rights on April 17, 2018, the Government of Georgia is responsible to draft and finalize the equality chapter until the end of the year. This chapter will focus on prevention and effective investigation of hate crimes and combating all forms of discrimination on the grounds of gender identity and sexual orientation. The chapter will also include activities towards retraining public officials, who are responsible for protection of LGBT persons’ rights.</p> <p><i>Please, see recommendations 117.7, 117.43, 117.44 and 117.45.</i></p>

118.11	Take steps to limit the application and length of pretrial detention	Denmark	<p>Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following:</p> <p>In 2014, the Prosecution Service of Georgia elaborated and disseminated to prosecutors the Handbook containing the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights on the use of detentions; the document serves as a guideline for prosecutors on the application of custodial measure of constraint.</p> <p>In July 2015, the Parliament passed amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code to introduce periodic automatic</p>	<p>According to the statistics produced by the Supreme Court of Georgia, the application of pre-trial detention during 2013-2017 varies between 26% and 34%. The bail or other alternative measures of restraint are used in majority of cases.</p> <p>On 15 September 2015, the Constitutional Court of Georgia delivered the decision on the case “Citizen of Georgia Giorgi Ugulava v. the Parliament of Georgia”.</p> <p>Pursuant to the decision, the court declared unconstitutional the normative meaning of section 2 of Article 205 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia which allowed the detention of an accused on a certain criminal case, if after the accusation or emergence of sufficient grounds for presenting an accusation on this criminal case he/she has in unity had spent 9 months under the detention on any criminal case conducted against him/her.</p> <p>Consequently, the Court ruled that in case of several accusations, the term of imprisonment used as a preventive measure should not be determined for each case individually and should not exceed 9 months specified by the constitution.</p>
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			<p>judicial review of pre-trial detention. A presiding judge has to review the necessity of pre-trial detention at least once in two months and should order release of a defendant if no compelling reason for continued detention is found.</p> <p>In 2015 the Prosecution Service of Georgia in association with the Council of Europe and the European Union carried out extensive trainings of all prosecutors in reasoning of the requests for pre-trial detentions in line with ECHR and national legislation.</p>	
118.12	Increase the budget allocated to social workers responsible for assisting victims of domestic violence, by including the costs of travel to	Paraguay		<p>LEPL Social Service Agency social workers periodically go through preparatory training, a variety of issues, including domestic and sexual violence issues.</p> <p>Taking into consideration the human and financial resources, it is planned to increase the social workers' resources to provide better service to beneficiaries.</p>

	visits to assess victims and by increasing human Resources			The Parliament of Georgia adopted the Law on Social Work, on the basis of which the social workers will be strengthened.
118.13	Take concrete steps to streamline and ensure efficiency of judicial procedures concerning gender violence	Spain		<p>The Analytical Department of the Supreme Court of Georgia prepared the research paper on “Application of International Standards on the Prohibition of Discrimination in National Judicial Practice”. The document analyzes the application of the international treaties and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights by the common courts of Georgia. According to the study, the common courts had examined five cases of gender discrimination, including three cases in which the court had found the fact of discriminatory treatment. Discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity were discussed in three cases, including two cases in which the court had found the fact of discriminatory treatment.</p> <p>In 2016-2017, the motive of sexual intolerance as the aggravating circumstance for the criminal liability (Article 53¹ of Criminal Code) was applied in eight cases. Four out of eight cases concerned the gender-biased discrimination.</p> <p>According to the statistical data of the court, the rates of domestic violence crimes (Article 11¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia) have been increased. Namely, in 2015 - 773 persons were sentenced, in 2016 - 993 persons were sentenced on 981 cases, in 2017 - 1228 persons were sentenced on 1210 cases. The imprisonment rates for such categories of offenses have been also increased. In particular, in 2015 - imprisonment had been applied with respect to 105 accused persons out of 773. In 2016 -153 out of 993 accused persons had been imprisoned, in 2017 - 344 out of 1228 accused persons were imprisoned.</p> <p>The Analytical Department of the Supreme Court of Georgia prepared the research paper on “Application of International</p>

				<p>Standards on the Prohibition of Discrimination in National Judicial Practice”. The document analyzes the application of the international treaties and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights by the common courts of Georgia. According to the study, the common courts had examined five cases of gender discrimination, including three cases in which the court had found the fact of discriminatory treatment. Discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity were discussed in three cases, including two cases in which the court had found the fact of discriminatory treatment.</p> <p>In 2016-2017, the motive of sexual intolerance as the aggravating circumstance for the criminal liability (Article 53¹ of Criminal Code) was applied in eight cases. Four out of eight cases concerned the gender-biased discrimination.</p> <p>According to the statistical data of the court, the rates of domestic violence crimes (Article 11¹ of the Criminal Code of Georgia) have been increased. Namely, in 2015 - 773 persons were sentenced, in 2016 - 993 persons were sentenced on 981 cases, in 2017 - 1228 persons were sentenced on 1210 cases. The imprisonment rates for such categories of offenses have been also increased. In particular, in 2015 - imprisonment had been applied with respect to 105 accused persons out of 773. In 2016 -153 out of 993 accused persons had been imprisoned, in 2017 - 344 out of 1228 accused persons were imprisoned.</p> <p><i>For further information refer to recommendation 117.46.</i></p>
118.14	Progress in the implementation of the laws against domestic violence by establishing, in the	Honduras		<p>In 2016, the LEPL- State Fund for the Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking has developed the Guidelines how to provide the victims of sexual abuse with services. Based on it, in spring, 2017 the State Fund has identified service to the victims of violence of sexual nature</p>

	short term, the centres to support women against sexual abuse, harassment and domestic violence provided for in the new law)			<p>and taking into account their providing with services in the shelters and crisis centers.</p> <p>Since February 2017, getting consultations on the hotline – 116006 within the State fund, besides the issues of domestic violence are also available on the issues of violence against women, human trafficking and sexual abuse. And, since March 01, 2017, the availability of the hotline (116 006) is provided in 7 foreign languages (English, Russian, Turkish, Azeri, Armenian, Arabic and Persian languages), besides the Georgian Language.</p> <p>The LEPL- State Fund for the Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking (<i>hereinafter the State Fund</i>), provides victims/statutory victims/alleged victims of violence against women and domestic violence with different types of services. According to the current situation, 5 State Shelters of violence and 3 Crisis Centers are available.</p> <p><i>See the recommendations 117.6, 117.7, 117.20, 117.37, 117.38, 117.39, 117.46, 117.59, 117.60, 117.62 and 117.63.</i></p>
118.15 - 118.16	Strengthen ongoing efforts against domestic violence by establishing adequate monitoring and investigative mechanisms	Turkey Sweden	Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: Already implemented. In order to strengthen existing monitoring mechanism, the	<p>The Human Rights Protection Department has been widely mandated to prevent and effectively react to domestic violence under the Ministry of Internal Affairs in January 2018. This new Department replaced Commission whose functions has been integrated in the Regulation of the Human Rights Protection Department.</p> <p><i>See also recommendations 117.6, 117.7, 117.20, 117.37, 117.38, 117.39, 117.46, 117.59, 117.60, 117.62 and 117.63.</i></p>

			<p>Ministry of Internal Affairs has established a special commission to supervise and enhance police responses on DV cases. It is envisaged in the relevant legislation as well.</p> <p>In order to strengthen existing monitoring mechanism, the Ministry of Internal Affairs runs separate statistics and analytics for DV and special commission to supervise and enhance police responses on DV cases has been established. Along this, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has identified and trained number of police officers throughout country working on gender based violence cases including</p>	
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			domestic violence.	
118.17	Establish effective regulatory mechanisms for promoting development of legal migration and preventing irregular migration and trafficking in human beings	Ukraine	Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: The Migration Strategy for 2016-2020 and its Action Plan for 2016-2017 adopted in December 2015 ensure the precise actions to promote prevention of illegal migration. Common Information Strategy on Combating Human Trafficking determines the target groups and means of preventive activities. Interagency Council on Combating Trafficking in	Mobility Center run by the MRA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) held more than 50 informational meetings, in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi and Telavi, where citizens interested with migration issues received information on the topics such as: legal grounds to travel abroad, employment opportunities, visa-free travel to EU member states, the risks associated with illegal immigration, and their prevention. In 2014, the Migration Department was established in the MIA for prevention illegal migration. The department is responsible for detection, identification and ensuring expulsion procedures for the persons living without legal grounds in the country. The department manages the Temporary Accommodation Center for the persons living without legal grounds in the country. Under the order of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia, the rule of detection and subsequent reaction (Standard Operations Procedures) for aliens without legal grounds was approved. Under the order of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia a coordination group working on fighting against illegal migration was created. The coordination groups is aimed to elaborate a unified policy on migration issues within the competence of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and support the improvement of migration process management system. Memorandums of mutual understanding have been signed with relevant state agencies and international organizations for prevention and the effective fight against illegal migration in the country.

			<p>Persons monitors the implementation of the Strategy. Within the framework of the Strategy information meetings are permanently organized, multi-lingual leaflets are produced and widely disseminated, etc. Implementation of the Strategy is monitored and promoted by the Interagency Council on Combating Human Trafficking. Furthermore, in 2015 the Law on Labor Migration was enacted to promote the legal labor migration and prevent illegal migration, including human trafficking. Apart from this, the Law on the Legal Status of</p>	<p>For the effective management of migration, draft agreements on the readmission of the persons without residence permits have been initiated with number of countries. Moreover, negotiations on signing of readmission agreements are also underway with a number of countries.</p> <p>In the reporting period (2016-2017) for prevention of illegal migration the following measures have been implemented or are already implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of State border protection standards with infrastructure development and equipment renewal (8 new border sectors were built; construction of 4 sectors is in progress; electronic surveillance systems were arranged at 5 border sectors); • Since 2015, the active work has been conducted to implement the Unified System of Risk Analysis on the state border of Georgia. The Unified System aims to identify risks in the sphere of border management, react to them and develop the effective mechanisms to conduct the preventive measures. For this reason, the Concept, the Action Plan, the Catalog of analytical products of the system have already been elaborated. At this stage, work on the methodology of risk analysis is underway; • Strengthening the capabilities of inspection of traveling documents at the border checkpoints: in the end of 2016, 10 border checkpoints were equipped with relevant equipment (Foster&Freman), which ensures detailed study of traveled documents. • Creation of cynological groups at Kutaisi and Batumi international airports. • Development of cynological service of the Border Police. • The Government of Georgia decided to establish API-PNR system. PNR system aims at prevention and elimination of terrorism related crimes and other heavy crimes, whereas API system serves to the fight against illegal migration.
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			<p>Foreigners and Stateless Persons adopted in 2014 promotes the prevention of illegal migration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process of implementation of Migration Risk Analysis System is in progress. Relevant authorities such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Security Service, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees are involved in the process. The system aims to analyze migration related data, to reveal tendencies, to evaluate defined risks, to elaborate preventive measures and recommendations in order to adequately respond to the expected processes. As of today, majority of the institutions involved in the process have already elaborated the Interagency Methodology of Risk Analysis and the elaboration of the Unified Methodology of Risk Analysis is in progress. <p>During 2017, the secretariat of the State Commission on Migration held 15 information meetings with the local population. The mentioned information meetings were held at various community centres of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. The participants of the meetings were offered information regarding legal migration opportunities (including the rules and conditions of enjoying visa-free regime with the EU) and also the risks of illegal migration. In addition to issuing Georgian citizen passports and ID cards, the Community Centres, the branch offices of the House of Justice and the Territorial Units of the Public Service Development Agency will issue Georgian citizens information brochures about the terms and conditions of visa-free travel to the EU countries. As of today, 900,000 such brochures have been issued.</p> <p>The 2nd updated version of the Guideline on Legal Immigration and Emigration was published. The guideline is available on the web-pages of the State Commission on Migration Issues and its affiliate organizations. The guideline offers practical information regarding the documents required by immigrants,</p>
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			<p>legal ways for temporary or permanent departure from the country and returning back, as well as documents required by foreigners for obtaining relevant status and permission to travel legally.</p> <p>Additionally, on 4 December 2017, in the framework of the 19th session of the State Commission on Migration Issues, the SCMI approved the Visualized Migration Profile of Georgia 2017 and the Migration Strategy Action Plan 2018 of the Migration Strategy of Georgia 2016-2020.</p> <p>In cooperation with the NGO Civil Development Agency (CIDA), a handbook ‘The First Steps of Migrants’ was prepared. This handbook offers Georgian citizen’s detailed information regarding migration to the EU states, also employment procedures and opportunities for integration into the local communities. The publication is available for all interested persons on the web-pages of the State Commission on Migration Issues and the NGO CIDA.</p> <p>With regard to human trafficking, in 2014 the Interagency Coordinating Council on Combating Trafficking in Persons developed the Unified Information Strategy. The main purpose of this strategy is to ensure that the activities and issues envisaged by the action plan are presented to the specific target groups through appropriate means.</p> <p>In an effort to raise awareness on the subject of trafficking, members of the Council along with NGOs and international organizations regularly conduct various activities, such as: information meetings with different target groups (school students, university students, teachers, employers and employees, homeless children, refugees, local population and others), discussions, public lectures, conferences, moot court competition for students, preparing and disseminating information brochures and video ads, etc.</p>
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				<p>Human trafficking is taught as a separate subject at schools (IX-X grade) and universities (bachelor's and master's programs).</p> <p>At the same time, every year the Ministry of Justice of Georgia announces grant competition for raising public awareness on human trafficking and also to build the capacity of the NGOs working on this issue. The aim is to enable NGOs to continue working on the subject of human trafficking independently. In 2014-2017, the Ministry of Georgia announced 4 grant competitions for NGOs working to combat human trafficking. In the framework of these grant competitions, total of 93,000 lairs was granted to the winner NGOs.</p> <p><i>See recommendation 117.74.</i></p>
118.19	Strengthen the independence of the judiciary and transparency of judicial proceedings and adopt measures preventing political interference in the work of judges	Czech Republic	<p>Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following:</p> <p>The third wave of legislative initiatives to reform judiciary, which are being considered by the Parliament, is focused on creating greater guarantees for independence</p>	<p>In order to create the stronger guarantees of independence and prevent political interference in the work of the judiciary, the rule for the composition of the HCJ was prescribed by the Constitution in the course of the constitutional reform of 2017-2018. Additionally, the constitutional amendments created guarantees for irremovability of judges. The constitution repudiates the restructuring and liquidation of a court as grounds for dismissal of a judge appointed for a lifetime.</p> <p>In respect of strengthening the transparency of judicial proceedings, the HCJ established the procedure for publication of decisions delivered by common courts. According to the new regulation, the unified registry of court decisions should be created to let the society have free access to court decisions. Within the framework of the Judicial Strategy of 2017-2021, the HCJ is actively working on ensuring access to court rulings by improving the electronic program for automatic publication of the judicial decisions.</p>

			of judges and ensuring transparency of judicial proceedings	<p>In addition, significant measures were taken for ensuring transparency of the disciplinary proceedings against judges. The new webpage of the Independent Inspector disposes all the relevant statistics of disciplinary proceedings conducted by the Inspector (see http://independent-inspector.ge). Noteworthy, the publication of decisions made in the course of disciplinary proceedings is also envisaged by the law.</p> <p><i>Refer to recommendations 117.76, 117.77 and 118.2.</i></p>
118.20	Eliminate existing gaps in the legislation governing the work of the High Council of Justice in order to make sure that its powers are balanced by adequate guarantees of transparency and accountability	Sweden	<p>Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: The third wave of judicial reform includes legislative amendments to ensure and enhance transparency of the High Council of Justice by obliging it to publish at the Council's website information about its decisions, the dates and agenda of its sittings, and any other relevant</p>	<p>In the course of the Constitutional Reform of 2017, the constitution prescribed the accountability of the HCJ to the self-governing body of judges of the common courts – the Conference of Judges (the provision will enter into force after taking an oath for office by the President of Georgia in the succeeding elections). The amendment strengthened the role of the self-governing body and ensured the involvement of every individual judge in the operation of the common courts system.</p> <p>The level of publicity of the HCJ activities was increased significantly in 2017. It should be highlighted that the sessions of the HCoJ are open to the civil society representatives and they are even entitled to participate in the extended meetings of the HCJ.</p> <p>The legislative amendments made in the course of the “Third Wave of Judicial Reform” introduced the obligation of the HCJ to publish its decisions - the information about the change of the HCJ members and any other information in respect with the HCJ's activities as well as information on the competition and the outcomes of the competition on the judge's position - on the official webpage of the council. Pursuant to the amended Article 49 of the LCCG, the information with regard to the date and the agenda of the meetings of the HCJ shall be</p>

			<p>information related to its activities.</p>	<p>published on the official webpage no later than 7 days before the meeting. In order to ensure the timely access to the information, the HCJ specified the terms for publishing the decisions of the council as well.</p> <p>As regards the improvement of the provisions governing the activities of the HCJ, the issue has been put on the agenda of the “Fourth Wave of Judicial Reform”.</p> <p><i>For further information refer to recommendation 118.19.</i></p>
118.21	<p>Continue strengthening the independence and impartiality of the judiciary to ensure the right to a fair trial, including by increasing the transparency of the working methods within the High Council of Justice, the appointment of prosecutors and the allocation of court cases</p>	Switzerland	<p>Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: The third wave of judicial reform includes provisions to introduce principle of computer-based random assignment of cases to judges.</p>	<p>One of the innovations of the “Third Wave of Judicial Reform” has been the establishment of the system of electronic assignment of cases which further ensures the independence of judges and the efficiency of the judiciary.</p> <p>With the decision adopted on 1 May 2017 the HCJ approved the detailed procedure for automatic electronic distribution of cases. Since 31 December 2017, the system of random electronic assignment of cases has been fully applied within the entire judiciary.</p> <p>Noteworthy, the new mechanism of the distribution of cases has wholly detached the court chairpersons from the process of assignment of cases to judges. Responding to the challenges identified by the local and international organizations, the random allocation of cases now protects the process from any kind of interference as well as fair division of labor among judges which ultimately improves the effective execution of justice.</p> <p><i>For further information refer to recommendation 118.19 and 118.20.</i></p>

118.22	Strengthen respect for the rule of law by promoting judicial independence and transparency through the depoliticization of the judiciary and law enforcement authorities, and by strengthening mechanisms to investigate human rights abuses or violations	United States of America	Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: See paras.118.19 to 118.21	<i>See recommendations 117.75 -117.77, 117.81, 118.19 - 118.21.</i>
118.23	Take measures to support and strengthen prosecutions for human rights violations by the judiciary, with reference to the recommendations made by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, including with respect to the strengthening of the independence and effectiveness of the Prosecutor's Office	Belgium	Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: On September 18, 2015, the Parliament passed amendments to the law on Prosecution Service which were appraised by the Venice Commission and other international institutions as step	Collegial body - prosecutorial Council headed by the Minister of Justice of Georgia has been operating since 2015, aiming to ensure independence and transparency of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, as well as its effective operation. Chief Prosecutor of Georgia reports to the Prosecutorial Council in every 6 months. By the order of the Chief Prosecutor of Georgia dated January 31, 2017, evaluation criteria for district and regional prosecutors was approved, according to which prosecutors are currently evaluated. In the end of 2017, by the order of the Chief Prosecutor of Georgia, the criteria for evaluation of investigators of the Prosecutor's Office and prosecutors of the departments of the Office of the Chief Prosecutor were approved as well. Consultation Council is created within the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, which discusses the matters related to granting incentives and promotions to the employees of the Prosecutor's Office or imposing disciplinary liability on them. In 2017 Consultation Council held 7 sessions and discussed the matters of 243 the employees of the Prosecutor's Office. In

			<p>in the right direction. Three brand new institutes were introduced to ensure depoliticization, independence and accountability of the prosecution service, including the Prosecutorial Council, the Conference of Prosecutors and the special (<i>ad hoc</i>) prosecutor to investigate crime allegedly committed by the chief prosecutor. The Prosecutorial Council consists of the prosecutors elected by their peers, as well as representatives of all the three branches of the government and civil society. The procedures for the appointment of and removal from office of the Chief</p>	<p>2017 General Inspection submitted before the Consultation Council the report of official inspection for 21 employees. Consultation Council found it appropriate to impose disciplinary liability on 17 of them and gave recommendations to 4 servants. 148 servants were nominated to the Consultation Council for granting incentives and the Council found it reasonable to grant it to 74 servants. In 2017, the Council discussed the matter of promotion of 74 servants and found it reasonable to promote 18 of them.</p>
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			Prosecutor were fundamentally improved to make the process open and transparent to the public. In particular, the chief prosecutor will be proposed by the Prosecutorial Council and will be elected by the Parliament. Further steps to reform the prosecution service are being contemplated.	
118.24	Strengthen mechanisms to guarantee independence and impartiality of the judiciary and law enforcement institutions by implementing precise rules on judicial appointments and police oversight	Canada	Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: Within the third stage of the reform of judiciary the rules on judicial appointments will be improved – the criteria for the appointment of	<i>See recommendations 117.75 - 117.77, 117.81, 118.19 - 118.21.</i>

			judges will be determined on legislative level and the principle of open competition for every candidate will be introduced. Also please refer to paras. 118.19 to 118.21.	
118.25	Further improve the justice system by fully implementing international fair trial standards such as ensuring adequate access of lawyers to their detained clients and that confidentiality of communication between them is protected, to ensure access to justice to all persons, including women and minorities	Lithuania	Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: The Criminal Procedure Code ensures a fundamental right of every defendant to see his/her lawyer without any restriction. In 2013, the Parliament lifted a ban upon a defence lawyer to	Based on Imprisonment Code of Georgia and ministerial order of the Minister of Corrections of Georgia N157, November 2, 2015 - "Implementation of the right of pre-trial/convicted persons to meet the defender/lawyer" - it is guaranteed by the law to conduct meetings without any restriction and intervention.

			<p>appeal the court's decision on pretrial detention without his/her client's approval, which ban used to compel the lawyers to get signatures from their clients in 48 hours available for appealing pretrial detention.</p> <p>In addition, Georgia has established a strong, professional and independent system of free legal aid and any defendant that cannot afford a lawyer by contract is able to use their services.</p>	
118.26	<p>Introduce as soon as possible the right to silence without restrictions when testifying, in accordance with its human rights international</p>	Switzerland	<p>Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the</p>	<p>Based on the Criminal Procedure Law of Georgia, the accused may use the right to silence at any time. If the accused prefers to remain silent, this may not be considered as evidence proving his/her culpability. One of the core principles of the criminal proceedings is the right not to give testimony, which means that no one is obliged to give incriminating testimony against himself/herself or other persons within the circle defined by the Law on Criminal Procedure Code.</p>

	<p>obligations</p>	<p>following: Right of a defendant to silence and not to incriminate himself-herself and his/her close relatives is an established right under the Constitution and the Criminal Procedure Code. Similarly, no witness may be compelled to testify against himself/herself and his/her close relatives. Moreover, in December 2015, the Parliament passed amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code whereby it abolished a compulsory witness testimony to investigator or prosecutor. Instead, a voluntary witness</p>	<p>The Rule of Witness Interrogation was enforced in 2016, which states that interrogation of any person who may hold important information relating to the case must be carried out on voluntary basis. It is not permissible to force a witness to present evidence or provide information. In order to exclude the possibility of law-enforcement representatives exerting influence on the witnesses, sharing of information with the investigation is carried out on voluntary basis. If the witness refuses to provide information on voluntary bases, he/she will be interrogated by the magister judge, instead of the investigative authority.</p>
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			interview was introduced as a basic rule. In exceptional cases, a witness may be examined before a magistrate judge at the investigative stage.	
118.27 - 118.28 - 118.29 - 118.30 - 118.31	Establish an independent investigation mechanism with the mandate to investigate alleged human rights violations committed by law enforcement officials	Norway Poland Spain United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Belgium	Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: The Georgian legal framework ensures independent and effective investigation of the facts of torture and ill-treatment. All facts of alleged torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment is subject to immediate and	<i>See recommendation 117.81.</i>

			<p>thorough investigation conducted by the competent law enforcement authorities. The commitment to establish thorough, transparent, independent and effective investigative mechanism is manifested in the EU-Georgia Association Agenda, the National Human Rights Strategy and the Action Plan, and reaffirmed in the newly adopted anti-torture action plan. At the meeting (held on 18 May 2015) the council decided that the line ministries will thoroughly analyze the principles upon which the</p>	
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			<p>investigation mechanism can be based on. The comments of the relevant agencies were collected by the secretariat and the follow up meeting was held on 23 October 2015 to progress in reaching common ground and chart the way ahead.</p>	
118.32	<p>Develop and implement a strategy to monitor, investigate, and prosecute hate crimes, giving the Public Defender relevant powers and resources to take action against instigators of hate crime</p>	<p>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</p>		<p><i>See recommendation 117.7, 117.45, 117.46 and 117.49.</i></p>
118.33	<p>Ensure the issuance of birth certificates and citizenship documents to the Roma minority</p>	<p>Nigeria</p>	<p>Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the</p>	<p><i>See recommendation 117.87.</i></p>

		<p>following: Since 2011 the Public Service Development Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia has been implementing activities to promote registration of Roma population and ensure legal support to respective Roma people. The Government of Georgia affirms that the State Strategy on Civic Equality and Integration and its respective Action Plan for 2015-2020 includes the activity such as undertaking appropriate measures for the documentation of persons without birth certificates and identity</p>	
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			cards.	
118.34 - 118.35	Strengthen efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief and to protect the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including by adopting measures both to address episodes of intolerance and hate speech against religious minorities and to solve outstanding issues related to the ownership and maintenance of places of worship and properties belonging to religious minority groups	Italy Armenia	Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: Having Accepted these recommendations , Georgia emphasizes that the Georgian State is not a legal successor of the Soviet Totalitarian regime and does not bear any legal obligation to retribute any damages caused by such and also, in the Georgian legislation there are no legal provisions or any base for retribution, accordingly the policy of the state	State Agency for Religious Issues, within the framework of interreligious consultative format, for the protection of religious minorities and with their active engagement, actively cooperates with responsible authorities, prepares proposals and recommendations about the elimination of all forms of discrimination, in order to effectively promote implementation and enforcement of law. Notwithstanding the fact that Georgia is not a successor to the Soviet Regime, and therefore, it is not bound to retribute the confiscated property, Georgia returns in good faith those religious facilities to religious unions which were transferred into state property after the restoration of independence. There is a commission on studying the financial and material needs of the religious unions in the system of the agency. According to decision of the commission, 182 mosques were returned to Muslim communities since 2014, both Sunni and Shia Muslims; 20 Synagogues – to Judaist communities; 2 Churches to Evangelist-Protestant communities. Evangelist-Lutheran, Yazidis and other communities were returned into possession of their worship facilities. The process of returning worship facilities is still underway. <i>See also recommendations 117.7, 117.45, 117.46 and 117.49.</i>

			will be implemented under its discretion and in accordance with the standards recognized by international Human Rights Law.	
118.36	Further develop measures to protect freedom of religion, expression and peaceful assembly and continue to build on the progress begun with the establishment of the State Agency for Religious Issues and the amendments to the Law on Broadcasting	Republic of Korea		<p>In order to protect the freedom of religion, additional measures were taken after the establishment of the religion agency:</p> <p>a) notwithstanding the fact that Georgia is not a successor to the Soviet Regime, and therefore, it is not accountable for the damages caused to the religious practices by the Soviet Totalitarian Regime, based on the governmental decree N117 of 27 January 2014, four religious groups – Islamic, Judaism, Roman-Catholic and Armenian Apostolic Church, are paid reparations for those damages inflicted, which is for the purpose of religious development, reunion and peaceful coexistence.</p> <p>Apart from this, religious unions receive financial and material assistance from the local funds for the sake of meeting the needs of religious community.</p> <p>b) Notwithstanding the fact that Georgia is not a successor to the Soviet Regime, and therefore, it is not bound to restitute the confiscated property, Georgia returns in good faith those religious facilities to religious unions which were transferred into state property after the restoration of independence. There is a commission on studying the financial and material needs of the religious unions in the system of the agency.</p>

			<p>According to decision of the commission, 182 mosques were returned to Muslim communities since 2014, both Sunni and Shia Muslims; 20 Synagogues – to Judaist communities; 2 Churches to Evangelist-Protestant communities. Evangelist-Lutheran, Yazidis and other communities were returned into possession of their worship facilities. The process of returning worship facilities is still underway.</p> <p>There are local digital transmission platforms (multiple platforms) in the regions settled by religious and ethnic minorities, which can be summed up into an infrastructure capable of operating one’s own broadcasting transmission.</p> <p>In order to facilitate the access to information by the ethnic minorities, awareness-raising and multicultural dialogues and integration processes, since 3 May 2018, public broadcasting commenced the project “Diverse Georgia”. The project ensures the integration of all ethnic minorities in Georgia into TV programmes in Georgian language. Moreover, documentaries on ethnic minorities residing in Georgia are being prepared in various languages. Media products of public broadcasting are translated into languages of ethnic minorities. News programme “Moambe” is aired in Azeri and Armenian languages.</p> <p>Within the web-portal 1tv.ge of the public broadcasting and the “Diverse Georgia” project, 10 hour live TV-Radio transmissions are aired in Azeri and Armenian languages.</p> <p>Upgraded, multidimensional, mobile and desktop adapted, seven language information platform 1tv.ge is functioning since 6 November 2017. Its languages include Azeri, Armenian, Abkhazian, Ossetian, Russian, English and Georgian transmissions. Platform is designed for diverse customers and for the sake of meeting their needs – it has reading, listening,</p>
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				watching and analyzing options. Platform has aggregated various information, hitherto located on different web-pages. Web-portal is adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities. TTS (Text-to-speech) model ensures the generation of words into audio format, which renders the content available for persons with short-sighted vision
118.37	Ensure the right to freedom of expression, in particular through ensuring plurality and independence of the media as well as protection of media outlets critical to the Government from harassment and attacks	Czech Republic		<i>See recommendation 117.95.</i>
118.38	Adopt concrete measures to encourage stronger participation by women and ethnic minorities in political decision-making processes	Germany	Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: Georgia will take efforts to encourage a stronger participation of women and ethnic minorities in	The Central Election Commission (CEC) of Georgia is guided by “Gender Equality Policy” adopted on October 2, 2016 and carries out its policies and activities by supporting gender mainstreaming. The budget is allocated for Gender Equality Policy which is reflected in defining “Promoting Women’s Empowerment and Participation” (2016-2017) as one of the directions of the grant competition’s funding. Since 2014, the CEC regularly processes and publishes statistical information related to elections by including gender disaggregated statistics which is available on the CEC website and is accessible for any interested person in Georgian and English languages. Module on Gender Equality in Elections is integrated into all types of educational programs of the Election Administration.

			<p>political decision-making processes. The Working Group on Ethnic Minority Issues within the Central Election Commission of Georgia ensures equal and active participation of ethnic minorities in the elections processes. Currently, 8 ethnic minority persons are represented in the Georgian Parliament. The representation of ethnic Armenians in Samtskhe-Javakheti region and of ethnic Azerbaijanis in Kvemo Kartli region councils is proportional to the percentage of the population in those regions. The new Civic Integration Strategy</p>	<p>Special training courses on Gender Equality issues were held for officials of District Election Commissions (chairperson, secretary) and discussions were conducted on gender issues in regions.</p> <p>The CEC conducted special training courses on electoral procedures for empowering potential women candidates before Municipal (2014, 2017) and Parliamentary (2016) elections.</p> <p>In 2015, the CEC in cooperation with the the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe held a two-day international conference “Gender Equality in Electoral Processes”.</p> <p>Information about the participation of ethnic minorities in the political decision-making processes is reflected in the recommendation 117.103.</p> <p>Promotion of women's rights and studying their needs is one of the important directions of the State Strategy for Civic Equity and Integration. In the framework of the Action Plan, various programs and activities are being held aiming enhancing women participation in all aspects of public life including in civic and political processes.</p> <p>Eleven ethnic minority members are represented in 2016 convocation parliament. The awareness raising activities of the Gender Equality Council and public meetings are regularly held in the regions populated by ethnic minorities.</p> <p><i>Please see also recommendations 117.37 and 117.100.</i></p>
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		<p>envisages specific activities in the area of improving participation of ethnic minorities in political decision making. They include: creation of a special working group on ethnic minorities' political participation within the State Inter-agency Commission; consultations with international organizations and experts on best practices on minorities' political participation in the European countries; active interaction/cooperation with the political parties (experience sharing), awareness-raising campaign on political</p>	
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			participation of ethnic minorities in the society.	
118.39	Continue efforts to enhance social dialogue, as well as to ensure adequate protection and promotion of economic rights of the labour force, e.g. through the establishment of an efficient labour inspection mechanism with executive powers)	Germany		<p>4 meetings of Tripartite Social Partnership Commission (TSPC) were held and a working group under TSPC was established (9 meetings were held). On 2 November 2017 the Parliament of Georgia adopted Resolution N1331-Ilb on the Ratification of the Convention №144 Concerning Tripartite Consultations to Promote the Implementation of International Labour Standards adopted by the International Labour Conference at its Sixty-first Session, on 21 June 1976, in Geneva.</p> <p>The Government of Autonomous Republic of Adjara adopted a statute of Tripartite Social Partnership Commission of Adjarian region (April 24, 2018).</p> <p>Labour Conditions Inspecting Department inspected 585 objects of 334 companies in 2015-2017.</p> <p>40 companies were inspected in the first and second quarter of 2018. 6460 written recommendations were elaborated for the companies inspected during 2015-2017. Despite the voluntary character of recommendations, 67% of companies considered them partially, while 14% fully considered them.</p> <p>Component of inspection of labour rights in a pilot regime has been added to the “Labour Conditions Inspecting State Program 2018”.</p> <p>On March 21, 2018 the Law on “Occupational Safety” was signed and came into force. The law regulates rights and obligations of employers, employees and other persons in the work place related to safe working conditions. The law envisages inspection of enterprises by the enforcement institution and sets relevant sanctions.</p>

118.40	Continue taking steps to ensure the full realization of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all, including through adequate investment in the relevant services infrastructure	Egypt		United Water Supply Company of Georgia under the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, within its competence, continues to carry out infrastructural works in order to provide safe drinking water and sewerage in municipalities.
118.41	Allocate the resources necessary for the successful realization of the Strategy of the Health Protection System 2014-2020, which is aimed at strengthening maternal and child health	Belarus	Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: Strengthening material and child health is one of the main priorities of the Social-Economic Development Strategy of Georgia "Georgia 2020" adopted on 17 June 2014 by the Georgian Government	One of the priorities of the State Concept of Health System of Georgia is the promotion of maternal and child health. The 2017-2030 National Strategy for Promotion of Maternal and Newborn Health was approved in 2017. In the next 14 years, it defines the country's policy of maternal and newborn health as well as family planning, sexual and reproductive health. In order to improve the quality of service, In 2015 the process of regionalization of perinatal services providers started, which ended in 2017. In order to facilitate the proper planning of rservices and improve accountability, in 2016 "birth registration" was launched.

118.42 - 118.43	Take steps to ensure that sexual and reproductive health services, including abortion and contraception services and information, are available, accessible and affordable to all women and girls, especially in rural areas and among vulnerable groups)	Denmark Brazil		<p>National Maternal and Newborn health improvement Strategy 2017-2030 was approved with the aim to provide long-term guidance and coherent plan of action for the improvement of maternal and newborn health as well as family planning, sexual and reproductive health over the next 14 years in Georgia.</p> <p>An updated package of abortion regulatory mechanisms has been created, which includes the following documents: Rules for the artificial termination of pregnancy (Minister of LHS order №01-74/n, 7.10.2014); "Abortion procedure" - the patient version of the protocol. The cases of abortion complications are financed from the universal health care program.</p> <p>Since 2012, there has been a decrease in the number of abortions. In the total amount of abortions increases the share of medication abortions.</p> <p>With the financial and technical assistance of the United Nations Population Fund, 6 cycles of retraining for healthcare professionals in Tbilisi and eastern Georgia were conducted in 2016-2017 by the Fund of State Fund for Protection and Assistance of Victims of Human Trafficking. 138 doctors and nurses completed a full course on reproductive health, modern methods of family planning, abortion, care, treatment and referral during physical, psychological and sexual violence against women.</p>
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118.44	Put in place and implement national standards and mechanisms to monitor the quality of education	Oman		<p>In 2017, the concept of elaboration of external quality mechanisms for general education institutions was created, based on which upgrading standards for authorization of general education institutions will be developed engaging the stakeholders. The authentication standard of the general educational institutions envisages the adapted environment for students with special educational needs.</p> <p>In 2017, a project of renewed standards of authorization of professional educational institutions was created, which envisages the adaptive environment for persons with disabilities. In particular, persons with disabilities can freely orientate and move around in the building (e.g ramps, elevators, etc.) at least access to educational resources envisaged by the program or individual curriculum, adapted to the needs of students with disabilities.</p> <p>In 2016, new standards of authorization of higher education institutions were started, resulting in new standards and procedures for authorization of higher education institutions approved in May 2017.</p> <p>In 2017, the development of new standards for accreditation of higher education programs was launched, resulting in new standards and procedures for accreditation of higher education programs approved in January 2018. According to the renewed authorization standard, higher education institutions are obliged to develop an individual curriculum for individuals with special educational needs and to provide infrastructure adaptation to their needs. Also encourage student-oriented teaching-learning process and support environmental development.</p>

				<i>See also recommendations 117.106 and 117.107.</i>
118.45	Ensure full-time school attendance at all levels to children belonging to disadvantaged and marginalized groups	Portugal		<p>"The Second Opportunity of Education for Children beyond the Learning Process in Georgia", within the sub-program, the majority of 80 students engaged in formal education under the care of Social Service Agency, are still continuing to go to school and the cases of dropouts have decreased (students mentioned above, have been involved in formal education in 2016).</p> <p>To improve access to education, within the sub-program "Inclusive Education at General Level" and "Second Opportunity of Education for Children beyond the Learning Process in Georgia", the monitoring of educational transit programs was carried out at the day care centers under the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs in 2017. The monitoring results and recommendations will be available at the end of 2017.</p> <p>To promote vocational education for vulnerable groups (as well as improvement of attendance) the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia is offering transportation services for people with disabilities. In addition, transportation costs will be reimbursed for IDP vocational students. In addition, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia is actively working towards development of student housing (dormitories).</p>

118.46	Encourage school attendance of girls and remove all obstacles to their access to education including the citizenship requirement beyond the ninth grade	Djibouti	Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: Implemented. According to the Georgian legislation, general education is accessible for all regardless of citizenship. The Ministry also undertakes all necessary steps to encourage school attendance of girls.	The procedure for enrollment in general education and receiving general education is regulated by the Georgian law on “General Education”, with the “Approval of List of Necessary Documents to Enroll at General Education in Georgia” by the Decree N675, of August 16, 2007 and “The approval of Rules to Enroll in General Education and the Termination of Student Status in Georgia” by the decree N04 / N of the Ministry of Education and Science of January 11, 2017. These legislative and sub-legislative acts do not envisage citizenship requirements for continuing education after the ninth grade.
118.47	Adopt measures that are considered relevant to promote learning support for girl children from ethnic minorities in order to reduce the dropout rate	Colombia		To support pre-school education personnel training in minority regions, at the regions, densely populated by minority groups (Ninotsminda, Akhaltsikhe, Marneuli and Telavi (village. Karajala) municipalities) pre-school education teachers and administration representatives, can take advantage of the free language training program. In 2014 the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, conducted a survey to reveal the circumstances that prevent various vulnerable groups enroll in vocational education. Representatives of ethnic minorities, living in Georgia, were

				<p>among the target groups of research. The study revealed that one of the factors hindering the enrollment together with the language barrier, was family norms, rules and attitudes (especially towards the education of girls/women), which negatively impacts their attendance rate. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia intends to develop new locations for vocational educational institutions in regions compactly populated by ethnic minorities.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia is implementing a transit educational program “Second Opportunity for Education” for all homeless children throughout the country (children living and working in the street) since 2016.</p>
118.48	Promote the inclusion on all fronts of cultural and religious minorities and guarantee their access to development	Mexico	<p>Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following:</p> <p>The main strategic goals of civic equality and integration state strategy are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives of ethnic minorities participate equally and fully in the civic and 	<p>In 2016 the Government of Georgia approved "Culture Strategy 2025". The process of development of the strategy was observed to be carried out in full transparency and with large scale involvement of the society, meetings were also held with ethnic minority groups and their recommendations were taken into consideration. For the first time, the strategy document defined a state policy in the sphere of culture, whose action plan includes priority tasks for the field of culture of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Georgia as well as other Ministries’.</p> <p>The second objective of the strategy fully supports the state in order to allow culture to be accessible to all members of the society and to ensure the diversity of cultural expression. In accordance with the objective, the competition announced by the Ministry in 2018 will give priority to the needs of the vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The activities of the Ministry include measures to identify, preserve, rehabilitate and protect cultural heritage of ethnic groups, as well as promote their cultural-creative activities.</p>

		<p>political life;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal social and economic conditions and opportunities are created for ethnic minority representatives; • Representatives of ethnic minorities have access to high quality education at all levels and the level of the state language knowledge is improved; • Culture of ethnic minorities is preserved and tolerant environment is encouraged. <p>Various programs, projects and activities are planned and implemented in order to accomplish the abovementioned goals.</p>	<p>The Ministry has been organizing the support for activities of three theaters and three museums throughout the year, where creative activities are being conducted in their own languages and the thematic projects are financed. These projects include promotion of translation and publications, as well as participation in local, regional and international activities.</p> <p>With the initiative of the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality and the engagement of the Ministry of Culture and Sport of Georgia, the multicultural music festival "Under One Sky" is being held twice a year, in which young Georgian and ethnic minorities are involved.</p> <p>Protecting the rights of small groups and vulnerable ethnic minorities and promoting their full integration is a crucial task of civic integration policy. In order to enhance their engagement, the Working Group, studying problems of small and vulnerable ethnic groups, has been created within the State Inter-Agency Commission, which will draw up specific recommendations and measures.</p> <p>In the framework of <i>the sub-program of social inclusion</i> in 2016-2017, a number of activities were implemented aimed at raising the level of knowledge of the state language in the Roma population, promoting the involvement of Roma in the educational space, and as a result, about 300 Roma teenagers studying in the general education institution of Georgia. Within the framework of the sub-program, meetings were planned and conference presentations were prepared. A number of projects have been implemented in order to raise awareness and socialization, to facilitate Roma involvement in educational environments through informal education. In 2017, the Ministry of Justice continued the process of Roma registration. The relevant procedures were carried out for the birth registration, citizenship and the issues related to issuing IDs.</p>
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				<p>The teaching of native languages of ethnic minorities continued (Ossetian, Chechen, Khundz, Udi, Assyrian). Information on the implementation of this recommendation is also reflected in the recommendation 117.103.</p> <p>Inter-religious council is functioning in the system of the agency in order to ensure the dialogue and inclusion of various religious organizations. Joint Declaration - "Women – Envoy of Peace" has been signed by different religious communities in order to combat the violence against women. "Inter-religious dialogue for Peace" has been conducted on the day of tolerance. Conference adopted declaration by which the religious organizations support peace, friendship and mutual respect for shared values. All forms of violence were condemned and religious organizations pledged to observe universal obligation to foster peaceful coexistence of various religions in the Caucasus region and thus contribute to the diversity of the world.</p>
118.49	Ensure the availability of textbooks in their mother tongue for the national minorities	Armenia		<p>At the end of the completion of the textbook approval process for I-VI grades ongoing currently, the approved textbooks will be identified.</p> <p>From the 2018-2019 academic year, new curriculum and textbooks will be introduced, initially in I-VI grades.</p> <p>Relevant textbooks for non-Georgian schools/sectors students/teachers will be translated.</p>
118.51	Adopt a comprehensive action plan to accelerate the	Turkey	Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in	<p>Georgia has completely fulfilled its accession commitment to the Council of Europe regarding repatriation of persons exiled by former USSR from the SSR of Georgia in 1940ies. On 6th January, 2017, the report on the progress of the Assembly's</p>

<p>repatriation process of Meskhetian Turks, including measures to facilitate their integration and taking into account the educational needs of their children</p>		<p>2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: Georgia cannot accept the term “Meskhetian Turks” mentioned in Recommendation s 118.51 and 118.52. The commitments undertaken by the Government with the accession to the Council of Europe, indicates the term Meskhetian population, since the majority of people who were forcefully sent into exile from Samtskhe-Javakheti, Georgia by the USSR in 1944 were Georgians by ethnicity, among whom there were Muslim Meskhetians,</p>	<p>monitoring procedure was introduced (Doc. 14213 Part1), where PACE of Council of Europe welcomes the positive developments and the progress made the in the country, as well as positively evaluates the efforts made to settle the issue of the repatriation of the exiled Meskhetian population.</p> <p>In June, 2017, Information note by the co-rapporteurs was prepared on their fact-finding visit to Tbilisi, Georgia. The work carried out by the Government of Georgia to fulfill the accession commitment is positively considered in the report. In particular, it is highlighted that the relevant legal framework for repatriation has been put in place, which has been reviewed a number of times and respective amendments have been made to simplify the process of repatriation (to extend the deadlines for the provision of application for granting repatriate status, as well as for the provision of official document proving revocation of his or her original citizenship for the process of obtaining Georgian citizenship). There is also mentioned, that some existing practical barriers hindering de facto repatriation are beyond the Georgian authorities` competence (such as problems in rescinding Azeri nationality). Hence, it is underlined in the document that, it is reasonable not to wait for each single successful applicant to have repatriated to Georgia before the Assembly could consider that Georgia fully honored this accession commitment.</p> <p>Another information note was prepared by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Tbilisi, Georgia in November (published on 26th of January, 2018), which emphasizes that over the last decade Georgia has made considerable and consistent progress in honoring its accession commitments and membership obligations and has done so in excellent co-operation with the Council of Europe.</p> <p><i>Current situation:</i></p>
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			<p>Turks, Khemshils, Kurds, Kharapapakhs, Tarakans, Roma People, as well as Muslim Georgians settled from Adjara, Georgia to Meskheti, Georgia in 1930s. Hence, it is not appropriate to use the term “Meskhetian Turks”.</p> <p>The drafting process of the Action Plan of the adopted “State strategy of Repatriation of Persons forcefully sent into exile from the SSRG by the Former USSR in the 40’s of the 20th Century” has been completed, going inter-institutional processes and will be presented to the Government for the approval in near future.</p>	<p>5841 applications totaling for 8900 individuals (including adolescents) have been submitted to the former Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia. The process of granting the status has already completed by the Ministry. Each and every application was considered and 1998 adults (for the moment of submitting applications) were granted Repatriate Status. Despite the fact that 494 persons with Repatriate Status were granted conditional citizenship, within 2 years none of them rescinded their foreign citizenship. Having taken above-mentioned into account, on 23 August 2016, according to the amendment in the legislation, date for submitting official document proving the abandonment of foreign citizenship was fixed for 5 years instead of 2. Accordingly, the date also prolonged for above-mentioned 494 persons. The process of granting Georgian citizenship is open for those who are eligible.</p> <p>Nowadays 27 persons (23 adults and 4 adolescents) with Repatriate Status have settled to Georgia out of which 9 adults are granted Georgian Conditional Citizenship.</p>
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118.53	<p>Ensure greater participation of internally displaced persons in decision-making related to projects affecting them, particularly those concerning access to adequate housing</p>	Spain	<p>Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following:</p> <p>Implemented. The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia closely cooperates with international and local non-governmental organizations working on IDP issues, as well as the Public Defender's Office. With their active involvement, the commission established within the Ministry makes the decisions on the DHS for IDPs</p>	<p>IDPs and eco-migrants have the opportunity to choose specific houses or location where they want to be settled. The IDPs and eco-migrants receive the living spaces from the Ministry into their private property. Also, the steering committee in the Ministry is comprised of different organizations working on IDP issues.</p> <p>Minister, Deputy Ministers and the staff of the appropriate departments constantly hold meetings with IDPs and representatives of civil sector in different regions. In addition, representatives of the Ministry at the territorial bodies are working in the respective areas and are daily engaging in discussion with local IDPs.</p> <p>The Ministry closely cooperates with a wide range of international and local non-governmental organizations working on IDP issues. Prior to the initiation of a project or decision-making process in the Ministry, the consultations are held with international and local NGOs and initiative groups of IDPs in different regions of Georgia. In addition, the MRA regularly conduct surveys among and their interests are taken into consideration in the decision-making process.</p> <p>The right of IDPs to make an informed decision is protected in the process of resettlement and during the program development phase for IDPs, their involvement is emphasized. For example, in the framework of the housing procurement program, IDPs choose the house themselves and the MRA purchases selected houses.</p> <p>In regard to the eco-migrants, all the non-governmental organizations working towards protecting the rights of eco-migrants, as well as Office of the Public Defender of Georgia are the members of the "Regulatory commission of resettlement of families affected by and displaced as a result of natural disasters" in the Ministry.</p>
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			<p>and elaborates on legal regulations. Every major decision or a launch of a project is preceded by consultations with initiative groups of IDPs in different regions.</p>	<p>The unified electronic database for eco-migrants was developed and integrated into the Ministry of Justice and its database. The goal was to provide eco-migrants, especially eco-migrants living in the mountainous regions with access to existing services. As a result, they can get the aforementioned services in the Public Service Halls and the Public Centers.</p> <p>This year, similar service is planned to be open for IDPs as well. The unified electronic database of applications filled by the IDP families in accordance with the durable housing programs will be developed. It will improve the management quality of the aforementioned programs; IDPs will be provided with the opportunity to check their application status and evaluation results at any stage of the procedure after indicating their ID number on the Ministry's web page. This will enable delivering timely information, raising awareness of IDPs and making Ministry's services more available in the regions.</p>
118.54	<p>Strengthen protection of the economic and social rights of internally displaced persons, including by protecting against unlawful evictions and resolving issues related to legal ownership of living spaces currently inhabited by internally displaced persons</p>	Canada	<p>Concerning the implementation of the recommendation in 2016 Georgia informed the Human Rights Council the following: Implemented. Unlawful and forced eviction of IDPs is prohibited and protected by the Georgian legislation. All</p>	<p>The IDPs are protected from forceful eviction. In addition, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia (MRA) is actively working towards IDP resettlement. Georgia is one of the few countries that have a practice of providing IDPs with private ownership. The Ministry has implemented a privatization program to transfer properties where IDPs lived lawfully into their private property. The privatization process is still ongoing. It should be noted that like IDPs, eco-migrants receive housing into their private property. Resettlement takes place where they are integrated and the accommodation process is based on specially developed procedures and criteria.</p> <p>In addition to accommodation, the Ministry provides financial assistance to vulnerable groups of IDPs. The assistance entails</p>

			<p>evictions carried out in 2013-2015 are voluntary and all IDP families concerned are maximally informed and all evicted families are provided with alternative housing solutions.</p>	<p>issuing one-time grants and covering the rent costs. Also, in regard to the self-realization of IDPs in society, the Ministry has developed a Livelihood Strategy and Action Plan, which envisages involvement of IDPs in various state programs such as vocational education and small business support programs.</p> <p>At present, 28,032 IDP families have received living spaces into their private property.</p> <p>As for eco-migrants, in the timeframe of 2016-2017, in total 474 eco-migrant families received their living spaces into their private property and 396 families were settled in alternative housing units. Additionally, in the framework of the governmental program of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, 249 families were resettled in the alternative housing units.</p> <p><i>See also reconemdatons 117.117 and 117.119.</i></p>
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Attachement 1.

	2014 year	2015 year	2016 year	2017 year	Total
Muslim Community	1 100 000	2 200 000	2 750 000	2 750 000	8 800 000
Roman Catholic Community	200 000	400 000	550 000	550 000	1 700 000
Armenian Apostolic Community	300 000	600 000	800 000	800 000	2 500 000
Jewish Community	150 000	300 000	400 000	400 000	1 250 000
Total	1 750 000	3 500 000	4 500 000	4 500 000	14 250 000

*The amount of funds are given in GEL