



MID-TERM REPORT ON GEORGIA'S SECOND CYCLE OF UPR

Civil Society Participation: Joint report of WISG and ILGA-Europe

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On the situation of LGBTI people in Georgia

Submitting organizations:



This joint stakeholder's mid-term report is submitted by Women's Initiatives Support Group (WISG) and ILGA-Europe, in the framework of the mid-term report of the second Universal Periodic Review of Georgia. WISG is a non-governmental, non-profit-making organization defending the human rights of lesbian, bisexual women, trans and intersex persons in Georgia.¹ ILGA-Europe is the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association.² The report is based on materials collected and documented by the submitting organizations: evidence from victims of human rights violations, analysis of secondary sources from judicial and public administration bodies, interviews and focus groups conducted with LGBTI community members, NGOs working on LGBTI rights and related issues, annual and special reports of The Office of the Public Defender of Georgia (PDO) and other experts and relevant national experts, WISG's 2018 discrimination study "From Prejudice to Equality", WISG's litigation reports of 2016 and 2017 and other analytical reports and submissions of the organization.

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¹ The "Women's Initiatives Supporting Group (WISG)" is a feminist organization working on women's issues. The main goal of the organization is supporting the formation of a harmonious society based on principles of social justice by empowering women, which shall ensure full involvement and equal participation in social, political, cultural and economic life for all women (See more here: <http://women.ge/en/about/>)

² ILGA-Europe are an independent, international non-governmental umbrella organisation bringing together 490 organisations from 45 European countries. We are part of the wider international ILGA organisation, but ILGA-Europe were established as a separate region of ILGA and an independent legal entity in 1996. ILGA itself was created in 1978 (See more here: <https://www.ilga-europe.org/who-we-are/what-ilga-europe>)

1. Introduction:

- 1.1. During the review, Georgia received 203 recommendations. 142 Recommendations enjoyed the support of Georgia and 7 recommendations were noted during the adoption of the Working Group Report on 12 November 2015. 9 recommendations specifically addressed the human rights of LGBTI persons.
- 1.2. Georgia did not adopt the UPR-specific implementation plan but mainstreamed some of the recommendations into its National Human Rights Action Plan.
- 1.3. On the 17th April of 2018, the Government of Georgia adopted the Action Plan of the Government of Georgia on the Protection of Human Rights for 2016-2017.³ The plan does not include the specific actions to improve the human rights situation of LGBTI persons in Georgia.
- 1.4. According to the content of the presented recommendations, responsible State Agencies for the implementation of the recommendations are following: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Ministry of Labor Health and Social Affairs, The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, The Parliament of Georgia.

2. Status of recommendations

All of the recommendations have been given a specific color to describe the progress of implementation. The coloured codes are as follows:

Recommendation fully implemented
Progress perceived (Some progress has been made)
Technically implemented (there is a law that remains unimplemented, no further progress has been made for years)
Not implemented (there is no legal framework or mechanism at national level or Georgia has not signed any international instrument)

No	Recommendation
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)
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 against Women (Rwanda)
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)

³ <https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/4153833>

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)
117.33	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 (Netherlands)
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)
117.39	Take all necessary measures to promote women's rights and fight domestic violence and forced marriages (France)
117.44	Take all necessary measures to effectively fight against discrimination, including against religious minorities and LGBTI persons (France)
117.46	Provide appropriate services with the necessary resources, including to train and raise the awareness of the judiciary and the public, in order to ensure that these new measures adopted to fight racial discrimination or gender/sexual identity discrimination are effective (Belgium)
117.47	Combat social stigmatization, hate speech, discrimination and violence motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity (Argentina);
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)
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);
117.58	Take the necessary measures to fight violence against women and domestic violence (Algeria)
117.63	Redouble its efforts in the fight against domestic violence by ensuring effective investigation into incidents of domestic violence and providing adequate support and assistance to victims (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
117.64	Take steps to address reported allegations of child and early and forced marriages (Ghana)
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 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 (Switzerland)
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)
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)
117.88	Improve the birth registration system to guarantee registration for every child with the issuance of a birth certificate (Turkey)
117.104	Improve access to health services for socially vulnerable persons (Algeria)
117.105	Improve women's access to high quality health care and health-related services (Rwanda)

118.9	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 (Uruguay);
118.10	Establish a specialized police unit for investigating hate crimes, closely collaborating with the LGBT community and organizations in order to create a trusting relationship (Sweden)
118.32	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 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Analysis:

3. Prohibition of discrimination against LGBTI persons (technically implemented, no perceived progress)

117.44	Take all necessary measures to effectively fight against discrimination, including against religious minorities and LGBTI persons (France)
117.46	Provide appropriate services with the necessary resources, including to train and raise the awareness of the judiciary and the public, in order to ensure that these new measures adopted to fight racial discrimination or gender/sexual identity discrimination are effective (Belgium)
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)

- 3.1. The Law on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination adopted in 2014 was an important step taken by the government. However, the law has gaps which hinders its effective implementation. Despite the fact that PDO and the courts have been set as enforcement mechanisms of the law, their recommendations are not legally binding. Unlike administrative bodies, for which a public defender can employ the administrative dispute mechanism if it's duties are not fulfilled, recommendations issued to perpetrators are fully deprived of any legal means to ensure their enforcement and thus entirely depend on the goodwill of the individual.
- 3.2. Due to the legislative gaps and its ineffective implementation, discrimination of LGBT persons remains a challenge. According to a recent study, around two thirds of the LGBT respondents (66%, N=169) have at least once been victims of discrimination over the last two years, although discrimination cases taken before the court or to the PDO remain low. According to the PDO, from 2016 to 2017 it received 201 cases of possible discrimination, from 2015 to 2016 it received 113 applications and only 11% were the cases of the discrimination based on SOGI.⁴ This shows that information concerning discrimination is not disseminated properly, and society does not see the PDO as an effective mechanism to fight against discrimination due to its limited capacities under the abovementioned law.⁵
- 3.3. Discrimination and social exclusion of transgender persons remains a challenge in Georgia, as transgender people are subjected to discrimination and violence in every sphere of their life, which is encouraged by the lack of legal gender recognition in Georgia. Transgender persons are not given the option to change their sex in civil documents or public records in accordance with their gender identity, and the risk of discrimination, ill treatment or violence against them increases when they use documents that do not match their gender identity.⁶ In 2017, two transgender men appealed to the European Court of Human Rights challenging Georgia's refusal to change the gender marker in their official documents.⁷

⁴ The report of the public defender's office of Georgia, Special Report On The Fight Against Discrimination, Its Prevention, And The Situation Of Equality, September, 2017, pg. 7, see: <http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/4/4826.pdf>

⁵ Aghdgomelashvili e. "From Prejudice to Equality". WISG. 2018

⁶ The Report of the Public Defender of Georgia on the Situation of Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia. 2016. Available at: <http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/4/4442.pdf>

⁷ Bakhtadze K., LGBTI persons and Intersectional Discrimination. WISG. 2018.

4. Hate speech against LGBT persons (not implemented)

117.47	Combat social stigmatization, hate speech, discrimination and violence motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity (Argentina);
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);

- 4.1. Hate speech and political homophobia remain a challenge. According to the Media Development Fund, during the 2017 municipal elections over one half (139) of 270 comments made by political parties and the media contained anti-Western content, whilst 47 contained xenophobia against various groups and 32 contained homophobia⁸.
- 4.2. Hate speech against LGBT persons was evident in the process of the constitutional amendment initiated by different politicians which has narrowed the provision of marriage and has specified it as a union between a man and women in the constitution (art.30). The discussion around this amendment has encouraged and increased? political homophobia and hate speech against LGBT people and provoked physical and psychological violence during 2016-2017.⁹
- 4.3. Apart from politicians, representatives of anti-gender far-right groups¹⁰ are using social media actively to spread hate propaganda against LGBT persons. From August 2017, the LGBT activists Koba Bitsadze and Beka Gabadadze. were subjected to violent hate speech and death threats through social media based on their sexual orientation and their work as human rights defenders from different far-right groups. The investigation is still ongoing however possible offenders have not been identified yet¹¹ which means that cyberbullying, hate speech and online threats against LGBT people are not taken serious by the law enforcement.¹²
- 4.4. Despite the prevalence of homo/transphobic hate speech, mainly from politicians in Georgia, Georgian authorities have not taken effective steps to regulate or sanction? violent speech from *inter alia* parliamentarians. Despite the attempt to introduce the code of conduct of parliamentarians in 2017, it has not been adopted.

5. Fight against Social stigmatization and violence against LGBT persons (not implemented)

⁸ Monitoring of Hate Speech and Anti-Western Sentiments in Pre-Election Discourse, elections 2017, pg. 3, see: http://mdfgeorgia.ge/uploads/library/73/file/eng/Monitoring_of_Hate_Speech_and_Anti-Western_Sentimentsin_Pre-Election_Discourse.pdf

⁹ Coalition for Equality, Protection from Discrimination for Various Groups in Georgia, 2016

¹⁰ Neo-Nazi groups the Nationalist Socialist Movement — National Unity of Georgia. See here: <http://oc-media.org/georgian-church-distance-themselves-from-neo-nazi-groups/>

¹¹ The comments posted were not anonymous.

¹² EMC responds to the threats of violence against LGBTQI activists Koba Bitsadze and Beka Gabadadze, See: <https://emc.org.ge/en/products/emc-lgbtqi-aktivistebis-koba-bitsadzisa-da-beka-gabadadzis-mimart-dzaladobaze-mukaris-faktebs-ekhmianeba>

117.33	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 (Netherlands)
118.9	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 (Uruguay);

- 5.1. Even though these recommendations were accepted by the state, the Government has not undertaken steps to implement them. Due to deep-rooted homo/bi/transphobia permeating virtually all segments of society, discriminatory practices and social exclusion are preventing LGBTI persons from fully enjoying their rights and freedoms.¹³
- 5.2. Negative attitudes from society and institutional homophobia results in major human rights violations and violence against LGBT persons. For example, EMC¹⁴ was involved in the criminal proceedings of 8 cases¹⁵ related hate crimes/incidents against LGBT persons during 2016-2017¹⁶. Furthermore, WISG documented 30 cases during 2016 and in 2017 provided legal consultancy in 105 cases.¹⁷ In total during 2017, WISG worked on 48 cases concerning human rights violations of LGBT persons, the majority of which were hate crime cases.¹⁸
- 5.3. According to a recent study,¹⁹ among the LGBT respondents, 96.9% (N=248) have at least been subjected to hate crime since 2015. The most common form of abuse is psychological/emotional violence (verbal insults, swearing, cursing; demeaning comments, ridicule), which has been experienced at least once by 71.4% of respondents, while 40.3% have received hate mail and 19.35% have been survivors of blackmail and threats of forced outing.²⁰ The lack of trust towards law enforcement institutions remains problematic, with only 15.8% victims of violence filling a complaint to the police according to surveys.
- 5.4. Despite the abovementioned violence against LGBT persons, the Government has not taken effective and long-term steps to prevent negative attitudes towards LGBT individuals. By focusing only on institutional reforms without educational and raising awareness activities, work towards social inclusion of LGBT persons and protection of their fundamental rights remains critical. The LGBTI Civil Society organisations, like WISG, have expertise to provide support to the government.

6. Hate motivated crimes against LGBTQI individuals (Perceived progress)

¹³ Jalagania L. "Legal Situation of LGBT persons in Georgia", EMC, 2016

¹⁴ Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC)

¹⁵ EMC is working only on strategic cases.

¹⁶ The preliminary result under the monitoring process of the Government's human rights action plan for 2016-17 years, Gyla, WISG, EMC, 2018, pg. 130

¹⁷ Bakhtadze K. "Intersectional Discrimination and LGBTI people – Litigation Report", WISG, 2018, pg. 33

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Aghdgomelashvili e. "From Prejudice to Equality". WISG. 2018

²⁰ Different forms of violence somewhat correlate with each other, e.g. as a rule, respondents, who have experienced such forms of violence as property damage and/or threats of violence using firearms or armes blanches, are also survivors of physical abuse. In turn, physical violence is frequently accompanied by verbal abuse, and so on.

118.10	Establish a specialized police unit for investigating hate crimes, closely collaborating with the LGBT community and organizations in order to create a trusting relationship (Sweden)
118.32	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 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

6.1. Recommendation no 118.10 was noted by the government. It is worth noting that the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MiA) created the “Human rights Department” within its system on the 12th of January 2018²¹, which would monitor investigation domestic violence, hate crime cases and crimes committed by minors and against them, which should be welcomed.

6.2. However, it has a very much wider remit than the unit proposed under UPR and ECRI²² in its 5th monitoring cycle²³. The Human Rights Department of the MiA was set to monitor not only all forms of hate crime, but also domestic violence, violence against women, human trafficking, and crimes committed by/against minors.²⁴ It is a centralized, coordinating body, giving rise to concerns that it may not of itself be sufficient to address problems at the local level, nor, for example, detailed issues arising in the investigatory process. It lacks a preventive approach which includes intergovernmental work to effectively prevent hate motivated violence to occur.

7. Intersex children and the right to recognition before the law (not implemented)

117.88	Improve the birth registration system to guarantee registration for every child with the issuance of a birth certificate (Turkey)
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7.1. Intersex children have specific needs to amend the sex details on any official documentation to male, female or indeterminate based solely on the individual’s self-identification. Regulation of birth registration in Georgia²⁵ does not allow existence of variations beyond the normative genders: male and female. The way the registration is done is limiting/infringing the rights of intersex persons, and the system should foresee other options.

8. Right to health of Trans and intersex persons (Technically implemented, no perceived progress)

117.104	Improve access to health services for socially vulnerable persons (Algeria)
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²¹ The decree of Minister of Internal Affairs N1 on the approval of the provision of the Human Rights Department under the Ministry of Internal affairs, See: <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/3999709>

²² European Commission against Racism and Intolerance

²³ ECRI REPORT ON GEORGIA (fifth monitoring cycle) Adopted on 8 December 2015 Published on 1 March 2016, Para. 68

²⁴ Order of the Minister of MiA N1 of January 12, 2018, see: <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/3999709>

²⁵ Decree #18 of the Minister of Justice on the Registration of Civil Acts, January 31, 2012.

8.1. Trans specific healthcare: Gender affirming procedures for trans people are not regulated by Georgian healthcare legislation and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Welfare does not have any clinical guidelines of the above-mentioned procedures.²⁶ Transgender people living in Georgia are able to get some gender affirming services by some medical institutions but the costs have to be borne by the patient.²⁷

8.2. Intersex children's right to be protected from medical abuses: Intersex children living in Georgia are not protected from gender 'normalizing' surgeries. State collects data of intersex children by their diagnoses.²⁸ Georgian healthcare legislation does not prohibit genital-normalising treatment, involving both surgery and hormone therapy. However, such medical inventions are often medically unnecessary, not always consistent with the person's gender identity, poses severe risks for sexual and reproductive health and is often performed without free and fully informed consent. The UN Rapporteur on violence has called for all States to end forced or coerced medical interventions²⁹, as has the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the World Health Organization.³⁰

9. Domestic violence against LGBTI persons (Technically implemented, no perceived progress)

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)
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 against Women (Rwanda)
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)
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)
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)
117.58	Take the necessary measures to fight violence against women and domestic violence (Algeria)
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 particular effectively apply

²⁶ Response letter of Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia. №01/65969. 30 August 2016.

²⁷ Natsvlshvili A., Aghdgomelashvili E., Rights of LBT Women in Georgia. Shadow report for CEDAW. Submitted for the 58th Session. WISG. 2014. Available at: <http://women.ge/en/publications/91/>

²⁸ According to the response letter of Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, in 2017, 2 children were born with Hermaphroditism (2018 ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Code Q56.0). № 01/23213. 24/04/2018.

²⁹ Juan E. Mendez, Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, A/HR/22/53, (1 February 2013) 23.

³⁰ World Health Organization, Sexual Health, Human Rights and the Law (2015).

	the ban on early and forced marriages, including through the adjustment of the national legal framework, by paying particular attention to vulnerable groups (Switzerland)
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- 9.1. On May 4 2017, the government amended 30 normative acts under the ratification process of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (2011). While these changes are welcomed, measures taken by the government to eradicate violence against women and domestic violence as well as to assist victims, the supportive system is set on a heteronormative base, focusing mainly on intimate partner violence (IPV) between heterosexual couples. Accordingly, government does not address the human rights violations of LGBT individuals in the domestic sittings. Despite the fact that domestic violence (DV) from family members based on SOGI is most widespread and is an invisible crime against LGBT community, the government does not recognize the need to address this issue as a hate crime. Hate motive has not been documented in any DV cases against LGBT individual.
- 9.2. The government does not address the specific forms of violence against LGBT individuals (minors are at a major risk), such as different forms of coercive therapies³¹, psychological pressure and violence, attempts of forced marriages of lesbian individuals, which takes place within families against LGBT individuals.
- 9.3. It is also worth to note that in most cases LGBT victims of DV do not report to the police because of fear of outing and secondary victimization, which is why they choose to leave the home or are obliged to continue living in the cycle of violence.³² A 2018 study³³ showed that among the LGBT respondents, 84.4% (N=216) have experienced some form of abuse by family members. In terms of frequency of the forms of violence, over one third of the group are victims of permanent psychological violence by family members, while 37.5% have been subjected to physical abuse at least once since 2015. In cases of physical violence, the mother, father and siblings are cited as the perpetrators with almost equal frequency.
- 9.4. It is important to work towards the implementation of the legislation and to use measures to protect LGBT victims against DV and to ensure that victim support services are relevant, sensitive and responds to the specific needs of the victim.

10. Intimate partner violence against LGBTI persons (not implemented)

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)
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- 10.1. The Law of Georgia on Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection and Support of Victims of Domestic Violence³⁴ does not prohibit intimate partner violence, especially among LGBT partners.³⁵ Accordingly, transgender women are not allowed to use the national mechanism of violence against women³⁶,

³¹ Intersectional Discrimination and LGBTI People – Litigation Report, WISG, 2018, 19

³² Intersectional Discrimination and LGBTI People – Litigation Report, WISG, 2018, 17

³³ Aghdgomelashvili e. “From Prejudice to Equality”. WISG. 2018

³⁴ <https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/26422>

³⁵ Bakhtadze K., LGBTI persons and Intersectional Discrimination. WISG. 2018.

³⁶ Tbilisi City Court does not take the claim of transgender woman who requested protective order Case of NGO SAPARI: №3/605-18. 5/02/2018.

because they are unable to amend their gender marker from “male” to “female”. The Law of Georgia on Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection and Support of Victims of Domestic Violence defines “victim” as “a woman or other family member”.³⁷

- 10.2. The preventive measures against IPV and DV, including public campaigns performed by the state,³⁸ do not cover LGBT persons and same-sex couples. Aside from the lack of legal regulation of same-sex partner relationships, the survivors’ choice of such strategy is influenced by the fact that the state has clearly defined policies and legal mechanisms to tackle domestic violence.
- 10.3. The recent study³⁹ showed that IPV is rather common among the LGBT group. 84.4% of respondents have experienced some form of IPV at least once over the past three years, psychological violence being the most widespread form. The frequency of sexual abuse and harassment is also high. It should be noted that in order to maintain control over the victim, the abuser frequently resorts to threats and blackmail related to forced coming-out (19.4%). Similar to heterosexual couples, intimate partner violence has a severe impact on the physical and psychological state of the victim, as well as their social environment.
- 10.4. There is an urgent need for effective work and identification towards the problem of IPV among LGBT partners in Georgia. Government should implement not only a gender approach but a differentiated approach that also includes LGBT people.

11. Legal and medical support for victims (Technically implemented, no perceived progress)

117.63	Redouble its efforts in the fight against domestic violence by ensuring effective investigation into incidents of domestic violence and providing adequate support and assistance to victims (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
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)

- 11.1. The support services to victims of violence against women and domestic violence rarely are accessible for LGBT persons. Unlike heterosexual couples, owing to the extreme homophobic attitudes prevalent in society, only a small fraction of LGBT people enjoys the opportunity to obtain emotional or other type of support from family members, relatives or the social micro environment.
- 11.2. A 2018 study⁴⁰ showed that among domestic violence survivors, only 7.1% reported to the police. Similarly, in cases of IPV, the majority of the respondents did not report to the police (51.6%). Among the respondents, 23.9% deem police action ineffective, 19.1-18.7% indicated the fear of secondary victimization.
- 11.3. Victim support services lacks a sensitive and individual approach and remains insufficient, as there is a lack of relevant trainings and raising awareness programs for social workers, psychologist and lawyers. There is an urgent need for future efforts for the sensitization of the professionals working with victims.

³⁷ The Law of Georgia on Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection and Support of Victims of Domestic Violence, Article 4 (f).

³⁸ E. g. <http://imogmede.ge> and <https://sheachere.ge>

³⁹ Aghdgomelashvili e. “From Prejudice to Equality”. WISG. 2018

⁴⁰ Aghdgomelashvili e. “From Prejudice to Equality”. WISG. 2018

